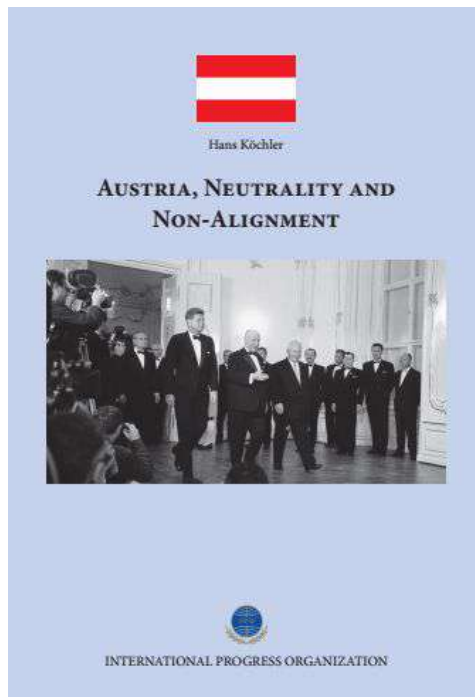


Hans Köchler, *AUSTRIA, NEUTRALITY AND NON-ALIGNMENT*, Vienna, International Progress Organization, 2021, ISBN 978-3-900704-28-5



The present text, published as no. 36 of the series "Studies in International Relations," is an expanded version of a lecture delivered by the President of the International Progress Organization at the conference, "The Rise of Asia in Global History and Perspective: 60 Years after Belgrade – What Non-alignment in a Multipolar World and for a Global Future?" at the University Le Havre Normandy, France, on February 11, 2021.

The publication briefly documents and analyzes Austria's relationship, in the mid-1950s, with countries that later became founders of the Non-aligned Movement. In the decade after World War II, Austrian diplomacy was focused on the conclusion of a "State Treaty" with the Allied occupying powers, to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign troops. Köchler's analysis uncovers a largely hidden aspect of the history of modern Austria, namely the role of Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the reemergence – amidst the superpower rivalry of the Cold War – of Austria as a sovereign state.

In Chapter I – "Neutrality as non-alignment" – the author describes the intensive and constructive cooperation of the founding fathers of Austria's second Republic with leading figures of the Bandung Conference (1955), in particular President Sukarno of Indonesia and Prime Minister Nehru of India. He explains the structural connection, well appreciated by Austrian politicians at the time, between the principles of non-alignment and a strict definition of neutrality in the sense of non-participation in any military alliance. Reference is also made to the importance given to "neutrality" in the 19th century concert of European Powers, after the Napoleonic wars, when the Vienna Congress (1815) declared that it was "in the general interest" that Switzerland should enjoy the "benefit of perpetual neutrality." The analysis of the historical part is based on contemporary reports and comments as well as archival documents, including confidential diplomatic memoranda from Austria and the United States. Köchler underlines the special importance of the "Moscow Memorandum" of 1955, signed by Austria and the Soviet Union, for the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty with the Allied Powers after World War II. The Memorandum set down Austria's commitment to adopt, once the withdrawal of all foreign troops had been achieved, a status of permanent neutrality according to the model of Switzerland.

Chapter II – "Redefining neutrality" – juxtaposes the country's early commitment to a strictly non-aligned foreign policy with today's ever closer integration into the North Atlantic security architecture, a development that has undermined Austria's status of permanent neutrality. The author refers to the close cooperation of Austrian Chancellor (Prime Minister) Bruno Kreisky (during the 1970s and early 1980s) with Asian, African and Latin American countries in support of a North-South Dialogue, and a New International Economic Order in particular. He further describes the paradigmatic change of Austrian foreign policy in the post-Kreisky era when Austria decided to join the European Union as full member, which led to a redefinition of the concept of neutrality, a process that brought about the country's regular participation in military activities within the framework of the European Union and NATO.

The publication is complemented by a detailed bibliography, including historical documents, and the reproduction of several rare historical photographs. The Annex contains a reprint of the text of a message of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to the delegates of the International Progress Organization's conference on "The Principles of Non-alignment," which the author of the present book convened in 1982 in Baghdad.■