Guide to the Paul Alexander Baran Papers SC1234

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Department of Special Collections and University Archives
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Abstract: Correspondence, writings and audio recordings of Paul A. Baran.

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Biographical / Historical
Paul Alexander Baran was a professor of economics at Stanford from 1949 until his death of a heart attack in 1964. His most important works were *The Political Economy of Growth* (1957), and *Monopoly Capital* (1965), co-authored with Paul M. Sweezy. Paul Baran was an expert in comparative economic systems (capitalism and socialism), and considered himself a Marxist.

Born in Nikolaev, Russia, in 1909, Baran received his education in Germany, obtaining a Ph. D. in economics from the University of Berlin in 1931. Having to leave Germany with the rise of Hitler, Baran spent a brief time in the Soviet Union, and then some years in France, Poland, and Britain, working for his family's timber business. He then emigrated to the United States in 1938, and served in the U.S. Army during the second world war as an expert on Russian and German economics. After the war, Baran worked as an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank, and after being invited to Stanford as a visiting lecturer in the summer of 1948, was hired as an associate professor, and granted tenure in 1951. Baran became quite a controversial figure at Stanford after expressing his support for the Cuban Revolution in 1959. He remained one of the economics department's most popular professors until his death in 1964.

1909-08-25 Paul Alexander Baran (PAB) is born in Nikolaev, Ukraine. On all official documents, PAB's birthday is the above date, but he maintained that this was an error, and that his real birthday was December 8, 1910, which is the date he and his family celebrated.

1926 Baran graduates from German Gymnasium in Dresden, to where he had moved with his parents in 1921, and returns to USSR, where he enrolls in the Plekhanov (Karl Marx) Institute of Economics at the University of Moscow.

1928-1932 Baran returns to Germany, completes his graduate studies in Berlin, Breslau, and Frankfurt's Institute for Social Research, writes for Rudolf Hilferding's "Die Gesellschaft" under the pen name "Alexander Gabriel." Earns Diplom Volkswirt (Master's Degree in Political Economy) and Dr. Phil. from Friedrich Wilhelm University in Berlin.

1934-1935 Baran returns to USSR to visit his parents, but after several months, leaves for Vilna, Poland, where he has relatives, due to political situation in USSR.

1935-1938 Baran works for his uncles' timber business in Vilna, and eventually moves to London as the company's representative.

1939 Baran moves to the U.S., with the intention of pursuing an academic career in economics, as Germany occupies Poland. Meets Paul Sweezy in Cambridge. Enrolls at Harvard as graduate student in economics.
1941  Baran receives an M.A. in economics from Harvard. He had obtained a Ph.D. (Dr. Phil.) at the University of Berlin, but felt he needed to update and augment both his education and his credentials with a degree from Harvard.

1941-1942  Baran accepts research fellowship working on problems of price controls at the Brookings Institution.

1942-1945  After working briefly at the Office of Price Administration, Baran joins the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), working under E.S. Mason, and is drafted into the Army and reassigned to the OSS. His final rank was Technical Sergeant.

1945  PAB works for the United States Strategic Bombing Survey (USSBS) under direction of J.K. Galbraith. (For an entertaining account of PAB's stint with the USSBS while on assignment in Germany, see J.K. Galbraith's memoir, A Life in Our Times, 1981.)

1946-1949  Baran works briefly at Department of Commerce and then about 3 years at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York. First saved letters of correspondence between PMS and PAB are from 1949 when he lived in New York.

1949  After having taught a seminar during summer quarter at Stanford as a visiting scholar in 1948, Stanford hires Baran as an associate professor.

1951  Stanford promotes Baran to full professor with tenure.

1952  "National Economic Planning" published (see bibliography)

1953  Baran spends fall semester at Oxford University, where he delivered a series of lectures forming the basis of his book, Political Economy of Growth.

1955  Baran is visiting scholar at the Indian Institute of Statistics in Calcutta.

1957  Political Economy of Growth is published.


1962  Baran makes major trip to Europe, the Soviet Union and Iran.

1963  Baran travels to Latin America, with lectures in Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil

1964-03-27  Baran dies of massive heart attack while visiting his friend Leo Lowenthal for dinner in San Francisco.

1964-04  Monopoly Capital is published.

Scope and Contents
The materials consist of correspondence, writings and audio recordings of Paul A. Baran.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Economics -- Study and teaching.
Economics -- United States -- Studying and Teaching.
Philosophy, Marxist.
Economics
Marxism
Sweezy, Paul M. (Paul Marlor)
Baran, Paul A.
Thompson, Elsa Knight
Landau, Saul
Marcuse, Herbert
Brody, Richard A.

Audio recordings 1958-1963

box 1, folder 22  What sort of revolution? 1960-11-25
Physical Description: 2 optical disc(s) (cd)

box 1, folder 23  On the Cuban invasion 1960-04-20
Physical Description: 1 optical disc(s) (cd)
Audio recordings 1958-1963

box 1, folder 24  U.S. policy towards China 1958-10-18
  Physical Description: 1 optical disc(s) (cd)
  Subjects and Indexing Terms
  McWilliams, Chan
  Parsons, Clandes Mok
  Baran, Paul A.

box 1, folder 25  Paul A. Baran in Los Angeles 1961-03-09
  Physical Description: 1 optical disc(s) (cd)

box 1, folder 26  The work of Paul Baran undated
  Physical Description: 1 optical disc(s) (cd)
  Subjects and Indexing Terms
  Marcuse, Herbert
  Abramovitz, Moses

box 1, folder 27  In the last analysis; Talk on affairs in Cuba after the Bay of Pigs invasion 1961-05-04
  Physical Description: 1 optical disc(s) (cd)

box 1, folder 28  In the last analysis; Analysis of American foreign policy under John Foster Dulles 1963-05-24
  Physical Description: 1 optical disc(s) (cd)

box 1, folder 29  Panel discussion on Cuba 1962-10-24
  Physical Description: 1 optical disc(s) (cd)
  Scope and Contents
  Panel discussion on the political and economic developments in Cuba following the revolution. They also discuss the implications for the Cuban Missile Crisis.
  Subjects and Indexing Terms
  Landau, Saul
  Thompson, Elsa Knight
  Baran, Paul A.
  Brody, Richard A.

Biographical

Correspondence 1949-1964

box 1, folder 21  Huberman, Leo 1952-1964
  Various

Photographs
  Physical Description: 3 computer file(s)

Writing circa 1930-1964

German writing translations 1930-1933

Additional Papers Accession ARCH_2017_292

Box 1, Folder 1  General Correspondence 1950-1964
Box 1, Folder 2  Correspondence with publishers 1950-1964
Box 1, Folder 3  Correspondence with Maurice Dobb 1953-1959
Box 1, Folder 4  Notes on "Festschrift" (Commemorative volume) for Maurice Dobb 1964
PAB's critique of Abe Bergson 1950-1951
Correspondence with copy editor Jack Rackliffe, mainly re: Political Economy of Growth (PEoG) 1956
Correspondence with Herbert Marcuse 1948-1963
Correspondence with Andre Gunder Frank 1963
Correspondence with Oscar Lange 1951-1952
Correspondence with The Nation 1951-1953
Oxford trip 1953
Notes and articles 1942-1964
Correspondence with RAND Corporation 1950
Correspondence with Model, Roland, Stone 1950-1954
Notes from Federal Reserve Bank 1947-1948
Transcript of MR Associates lecture by PAB re: Soviet Party Congress 1961
Book review of "A Charter for World Trade," by Claire Wilcox, NYTines 1949
Book review of "Saving U.S. Capitalism," by Seymour Harris, NYTines 1949
Copies of book reviews in s 17 and 18
Draft of article either by Paul Sweezy or PAB
Dobbs, Sweezy, and J. Rackliffe comments on PEoG circa 1956
Paul Sweezy and Joan Robinson on PEoG
Reviews of PEoG
Clippings (for research)
Miscellaneous clippings
Business Week article on PAB, PMS, Huberman: "Viewing U.S. Economy with a Marxist Glass" 1963 Apr 13
Lecture notes on history of economic thought 1960
Notes for Econ 120 1958-1964
Back Examinations 1951-1952
Unpublished interview with PAB October 1961
Notes and Lecture Transcript on Marxism and Psychoanalysis 1959
Transcript of Stanford Lecture 1951
Undated article on Nazi Economy, written in German, probably circa 1940
Articles published in German circa 1932
Unpublished German manuscripts prior to 1933, German Radio broadcast transcripts
Unknown letter to PAB re: manuscript entitled "Dennoch Marxismus," Polish writings
Bibliography and proposed collection
Biographical material circa 1951
Intellectual and personal development, personal statement, biographical material circa 1951
Guggenheim application 1955
Personal statement, USSBS certificate 1946
USSBS German occupation reports, interviews with German personnel 1945
PAB Will, disposition of his library 1964
Manuscript re Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)
Unpublished manuscript circa 1948
Economic Progress and the Economic Surplus, manuscript plus commentary and letters 1953
Review by PAB and E.J. Hobsbawm of Rostow's "Stages of Economic Growth," manuscript and notes 1960
Miscellaneous correspondence incl. letter to Prime Minister Nehru 1956
Miscellaneous writings (drafts for his proposed journal "American Economist." ) circa 1948-1950
Miscellaneous writings/correspondence, incl. transcript of panel discussion re Cuba on KPFA 1962 1948-1963
Academic credential documents 1926-1941
Civil Service, OSS, OPA Documents, UNRRA Appointment to Poland (PAB could not take job, no passport) 1942-1948
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