The Hungarian Explorers of Daqing, China’s Largest Oil Field

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Abstract  Advanced geophysical techniques developed in Hungary contributed immensely to the success of geological surveys carried out in the PRC between 1956 and 1959. A group of Hungarian geophysicists played a pivotal role in exploring and discovering oil deposits in the Songliao Basin, which later became known as Daqing, the largest oil field in the PRC. Taking the Hungarian geophysicists’ expedition as an example, this talk aims to highlight the significant contributions made by Hungarian geophysical techniques to the oil exploration and development in China.
example, the aim of this talk is to explore the historical setting of early exchanges as well as the daily practice of scientific and technological interactions between the PRC and Hungary, one of the closest East European allies of the Soviet Union during the second half of the 1950s. Ironically, as the Sino-Soviet split escalated into an open conflict by the mid-1960s Daqing became a model industrial city in Mao Zedong’s economic development strategy but also an eminent example of self-reliance and the eschewal of foreign knowledge systems.