Course Overview

This course compares and contrasts the paths to modernity of four societies: China, Germany, Japan, and Italy. By adopting a comparative approach, and looking closely at the way that international contexts influenced domestic developments, this course will give students the chance to view history from outside the nation-state focus that tended to dominate history in the past. In this sense, while students are expected to expand their familiarity with the basic history of these countries, more important will be the capacity to think about the world from multiple perspectives. Key topics include national consolidation, the growth of nationalist sentiment, imperialism and fascism, the impact of World War II and the Cold War, and historical memory. Based largely on primary sources, the course presents modernity both as understood by each of these societies and also in its global interconnectedness, an interconnectedness that shapes our world today.

Prerequisites

None

Requirements

1. Weekly postings, attendance, presentation, and participation 30%

2. Three comparative response papers 30%
   • In these papers (3-4 pages) students reflect on a theme of the course by comparing two or more countries
   • At least one paper must focus on a European and Asian country
   • Papers due WK5, WK8, WK11

3. Take-home exam: reflective essay 40%
   • A critical reflection on the course as a whole (12-15 pages). “To what extent did the elites in China, Japan, Italy, and Germany have a common response to global modernity?”

NOTE:
This course has substantial reading and writing components. Students should be prepared to work hard, and contribute to class discussions.

Most readings are available on Courseworks or online. Where this is not the case, the books are put on Reserve at Butler Library or Starr East Asian Library (Kent Hall).

ALL PAPERS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED IN HARD COPY; NO EXTENSIONS ARE GRANTED WITHOUT VALID MEDICAL REASON; PLAGIARISM OF ANY FORM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

Textbook (available on Reserve)


Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Source Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>DIA</td>
<td>Documents on International Affairs, 1936-1946, v.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCT</td>
<td>Sources of Chinese Tradition, Second Edition, v.2</td>
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<td>SMC</td>
<td>The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection</td>
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Course Schedule

**WEEK ONE (Jan 19): Introduction**

*How are Europe and Asia (dis)connected – geographically, economically, culturally, politically? To what extent can Europe and Asia be studied comparatively? What kind of cultural and ideological limitations are there in such an attempt? What are Europe and Asia anyway?*

Basic


**I. THE AGE OF NATIONALISM AND NATION BUILDING, 1800-1880**

**WEEK TWO (Jan 24, 26): Nations and Nationalism**

*What does it take to make – or to be – a nation? Are nations ancient entities or modern inventions? What do nation-states have in common and what divides them?*


WEEK THREE (Jan 31, Feb 2): Making Nations I: State and Regionalism

How distinctive were the paths to the nation-state in Italy and Germany? What stood in the way of the nation-state? How important was the presence of national “heroes”?

Basic:
Tignor, 271-285

Texts
Giuseppe Cesare Abba, *Diary of One of Garibaldi’s Thousand* (1880)


Secondary Sources


Film

WEEK FOUR (Feb 7, 9): Making Nations II: State and colonialism

How distinct were the paths to the nation-state in Japan and China? What stood in the way of the nation-state? What role did imperialism play?

Texts

Zeng Guofan and Li Hongzhang, “On Sending Young Men Abroad to Study,” *SCT*, 240-241

Secondary sources

II. THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM, 1880-1918

WEEK FIVE (Feb 14, 16): Empire and Imperialism

Why do nation-states create empires? What is the effect of empires on nation-states? What is the relationship between colonialism and international law?
RESPONSE PAPER DUE THURS, FEB 17, 12PM: “What were the major problems faced by Chinese, Japanese, Italian, and German nation builders?”

**Basic**
Tignor, 286-307


**WEEK SIX (Feb 21, 23): Bringing the Empire Home**
*How did Italian and German society, politics, and culture experience imperialism?*

**Basic**
Tignor, 317-329; 333-336

**Texts**


**Secondary Sources:**


**WEEK SEVEN (Feb 28, March 2): Imperialism in Asia, Asian imperialism**
*What responses did imperialism elicit in Asia? How would you compare the reactions in China and Japan? Is imperialism inherently “Western?”*

**Basic**
Tignor, 311-317; 336-338

**Texts**
Sun Yat-sen, “Revolutionary Program” and “The Manifesto of the T’ung-meng-hui” (1905), in *China’s Response to the West*, 223-229.


“Japan’s Twenty-One Demands, 1915,” *SMC*, 216-220.

**Secondary Sources**

III. THE INTERWAR CRISIS: FASCISM AND WAR

WEEK EIGHT (March 7, 9): New Models: liberal and socialist internationalisms

*What changed at Versailles in 1919? What was internationalism supposed to do? To what extent did it succeed? What were the main problems in the interwar period?*

RESPONSE PAPER DUE THURS, MARCH 10, 12PM. “How did imperialism transform the culture and politics of two societies we have studied (China, Japan, Italy, Germany)? Is the response to imperialism common or is every imperialism different and why”

**Basic**
Tignor, 347-372

**Secondary Sources**

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SPRING RECESS, MARCH 14-18

WEEK NINE (March 21, 23): Blood and Soil

*What was fascism? What was fascism’s understanding of the nation, empire, internationalism? What was fascism supposed to do – in Europe and in Asia? To what extent can we speak of “Asian fascism?”*

**Basic**
Tignor, Ch10 (“Of Masses and Visions of the Modern, 1910-1939,” 366-372

**Texts (students to compare two)**

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (Selections)


Secondary Sources (Optional)


WEEK TEN (March 28, 30): Total war and fascist empires
When did WWII break out? What were the war aims of China, Japan, Italy, and Germany?

Basic
Tignor, Ch.11 (“The Three-World Order, 1940-1975,” 385-392)

Texts
“Japan at War”, SMC, 314-329.

“Extracts from Himmler’s Directive on the Inclusion in the German National Register of Germans Living in the Reichsgau Wartheland, 12 September 1940,” DIA, 244-250.
Excerpts from Imperial Conference, November 5 1941, in Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War, pp.35-38

Secondary Sources
Mark Mazower, Dark Continent: Europe’s Twentieth Century (New York: Vintage, 1998), 138-

IV. THE COLD WAR

WEEK ELEVEN (April 4, 6): VICTORS AND VANQUISHED
What does it mean to lose and win a war? How did the societies of China, Japan, Italy and Germany cope with the aftermath of WWII?
RESPONSE PAPER DUE THURS, APRIL 7, 12PM. “Why were some Chinese, Japanese, Italians, and Germans attracted to fascism?”

Basic
Tignor, 392-394
Secondary Sources
John Dower, Embracing Defeat, 19-32.

Film
Akira Kurosawa, Stray Dog (1949).

WEEK TWELVE (April 11, 13): New Alliances
How did China and Japan position themselves in the Cold War? How “international” was the postwar era?

Basic
Tignor, 394-423.

Texts
Mao Zedong, “Leaning to One Side,” “Stalin is Our Commander”, SCT, 450-456.

“Treaty of Peace with Japan”
(http://www.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~worldjpn/documents/texts/docs/19510908.T1E.html)
“Japan-U.S. Security Treaty,” (http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/japan001.asp#art2)

Secondary Sources

WEEK THIRTEEN (April 18, 20): Remembering the Twentieth Century: WWII in History and Memory
Why do postwar societies put so much importance in memory? Why is WWII central in how these societies envision their nations and place in the world? What can memory do that history cannot?
MON: Guest Lecturer Chad Diehl (PhD Candidate, CU), on history and memory in Nagasaki.
WED: NO CLASS

Basic

Texts


Secondary Reading (Optional)
Ian Buruma, The Wages of Guilt: Memories of War in Japan and Germany (Phoenix, 2002).
V. WHERE ARE WE NOW?

WEEK FOURTEEN (April 25, 27): Europe and Asia in the Early Twenty-First Century
What is the state of the nation in 2010 – in China, Japan, Italy, and Germany? To what extent do these countries share the same problems? What role do the media play in the making (and unmaking) of national citizens and political democracy?

Basic
Tignor, 427-443

Texts:
Paul Ginsborg, Berlusconi (selections)
Alexander Stille, The Sack of Rome (selections)
Guobin Yang, The Power of the Internet in China (selections)