

HSEA 4232: EMPIRES IN THE FORMATION OF MODERN EAST ASIA, 1700-1950

SPRING 2017

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Course overview

This course, a seminar for advanced undergraduates and M.A. students, explores themes in the history of empires in East Asia, from the early 18th century to the end of World War II. The main geographical focus will be the region now corresponding to mainland China (including a part of Inner Asia), Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Colonial empires and their possessions in Southeast Asia will also be discussed.

The master narrative of modern political history has long been one of transition from Empire to Nation: decaying empires – Mughal, Ottoman, Qing – proved unable to adapt to the challenges of modern international competition, and were replaced more or less violently with more homogeneous nation-states. We have come to see, however, that empires are more flexible and durable political forms than previously thought, and also that East Asian polities were far from stagnant when Western imperialism burst onto the scene. Imperialism itself was not foreign to the region; the Qing Empire, for example, vastly expanded its territory in the 18th century. Both in Japan and in China, although in different ways, modern nation-building was inseparable from the imperial control of remote and heterogeneous lands. Lastly, in the East Asian context of the 19th and early 20th centuries, framing Western powers as aggressive “nations” is partial at best: what East Asians dealt with were colonial empires, whose policies were often determined at the margins rather than in the metropole. It is therefore appropriate to consider the international history of East Asia from the 18th century to World War II through the lens of interactions and conflict among Empires and Empires in the making.

Course goals

This course aims at giving students a general understanding of the history of East Asia from the Qing expansion to World War II, particularly of the geopolitical conflicts that shaped the region. By focusing on the areas of interaction (often violent, but not always) between empires, the course will provide students with a global perspective on modern East Asian history. Students will deepen their understanding of the subject, further, by writing research papers on topics chosen in consultation with the instructor. Although the course concludes in the mid-20th century, the material covered has direct relevance to present-day geopolitical tensions in East Asia, from the Xinjiang and Tibet questions to Russo-Japanese disputes and competing claims in the South China Seas.

Previous basic knowledge of the overall history of early modern and modern East Asia, as well as a basic knowledge of the history of Western imperialism, are recommended. Students who are unfamiliar with the time period are advised to read Christopher Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914: Global Connections and Comparisons*, Blackwell, 2004. The book will be on reserve at the

Starr East Asian Library. This is an important and useful (and inexpensive) book, which students might consider buying. For an overview of Chinese and Japanese histories in this time period, see Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, Norton, 2012, and Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, Oxford University Press, 2013.

Course Policies

- **Attendance and participation**

Attendance is compulsory. If a student finds it necessary to miss one class for exceptional reasons, she or he must discuss it with the instructor beforehand.

Since this is a seminar course, it is indispensable that students read the texts assigned each week and participate actively in class discussions, which will be based on the readings.

- **Disability Accommodation**

Students with disabilities are entitled to receive reasonable accommodations necessary for their full participation in the course and all of its requirements. If you are a student with a disability and have a DS-certified 'Accommodation Letter' please come to my office hours to confirm your accommodation needs. If you believe that you might have a disability that requires accommodation, you should contact Disability Services at 212-854-2388 and disability@columbia.edu. For more information about accommodations and the process for acquiring them please see the following website: <http://www.college.columbia.edu/rightsandresponsibilities>.

- **Academic Integrity**

The academic integrity standards applied to this course will mirror those outlined in the University's official policy statements regarding intellectual honesty. These policies are listed here: <http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/integrity-statement>. Any violations will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

- **Requirements and grading**

- 1) **Each week**, every student will write a **short post** (300-500 words) summarizing the main takeaways of the week's readings to help prepare for discussion. Oral participation and weekly posts will make up **35% of the final grade**.
- 2) **Each week, one or two students** (depending on the size of the group) will **present** the compulsory readings and start the discussion (**15% of the final grade**).
- 3) Each student will write a **research paper, due on week 13**. The paper will address a question of the student's choice after approval by the lecturer. A list of suggested topics will be provided on the first day. Students are welcome to make other suggestions. The research paper should tackle a specific historical question based on diversified and up to date scholarship. **Students are expected to discuss the historiography and defend their**

own position in a balanced, well-argued and organized manner. A bibliography must be included, as well as detailed references to the works used and cited. Using primary sources (historical documents) is welcome but not required. The expected length of the paper is 12-15 pages for undergraduate students and 15-20 pages for MA students (Times New Roman 12, double spaced). The topic must be set by week 4. By week 6, a prospectus (1-2 pages) and a working bibliography must be provided. The prospectus accounts for **15%** of the final grade and the research paper for **35%** (50% in total).

- **Deadlines and extensions**

Late work will be sanctioned (minus 5% for each day). Extensions will be granted only in exceptional cases, and only if requested at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline.

SCHEDULE AND WEEKLY READINGS

All the readings listed below are required unless otherwise indicated. Some of the texts can be accessed online via CLIO. The others are available at several of the Columbia Libraries, and will all be put on reserve at the Starr East Asian Library.

Week 1: Introduction and course administration. What is an Empire?

Jane Burbank and Fredrick Cooper, *Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference*, Princeton : Princeton University Press, 2010. Pages 1-22.

Week 2: Ending the “empire of the steppes”: the Qing, Russia and the conquest of Central Asia

Peter Perdue, *China Marches West: The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia*, Cambridge : Harvard University Press, 2005. Pages 1-11 and 133-299.

Treaty of Nerchinsk (http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/hist/eia/documents_archive/nerchinsk.php)

Week 3: East Asia’s encounter with the European maritime empires

Robert Hellyer, *Defining Engagement: Japan and Global Contexts*, Harvard University Press, 2009, pp. 1-24 and 235-252.

James Hevia, *Cherishing Men from Afar: Qing Guest Ritual and the Macartney Embassy of 1793*, Duke University Press, 1995, pp. 29-83.

Visualizing Cultures (“Rise and Fall of the Canton Trade System” I, “The First Opium War”, “The Opium War in Japanese Eyes”, “Black Ships and Samurai” I and II) (<https://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/home/index.html>)

Jane Leonard, *Wei Yuan and the Rediscovery of the Maritime World*, Harvard University Press, 1984, pp. 121-210.

Week 4: External encroachments and restive peripheries: the crisis of the Qing imperial system

William Rowe, *China’s Last Empire: The Great Qing*, Harvard University Press, 2009, pp. 149-200.

Pär Kristoffer Cassel, *Grounds of Judgment: Extraterritoriality and Imperial Power in Nineteenth-Century China and Japan*, Oxford University Press, 2012, pp. TBD.

Hodong Kim, *Holy War in China: The Muslim Rebellion and State in Chinese Central Asia, 1864-1877*, Stanford University Press, 2004, pp. TBD.

Deadline for choosing a research paper topic.

Week 5: The teleology of the nation: Western theories and Asian problems

Joseph W. Esherick, Hasan Kayali and Eric Van Young (ed.), *Empire to Nation: Historical Perspectives on the Making of the Modern World*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2006, pp. 1-31.

Prasenjit Duara, “On Theories of Nationalism for India and China” (http://ignca.nic.in/ks_40032.htm).

Carol Gluck, *Japan's Modern Myths: Ideology in the Late Meiji Period*, Princeton University Press, 1985, pp. 17-41 and 102-156.

Peter Perdue, “Where do incorrect political ideas come from?”, in Joshua Fogel (ed.), *The Teleology of the Modern Nation State: Japan and China*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004, pp. 174-199.

Week 6: Redefining the East Asian order in the late 19th century

Peter Perdue, “The Tenacious Tributary System”, *Journal Of Contemporary China*, 24 (96), 2015, pp. 1002-1014.

Kirk Larsen, *Tradition, Treaties, and Trade : Qing Imperialism and Chosŏn Korea, 1850-1910*, Cambridge : Harvard University Press, 2008, pp. TBD.

Donald Keene, *Landscapes and Portraits: Appreciations of Japanese Culture*, Secker and Warburg, 1972, pp. 259-299.

Benjamin Elman, “The ‘Rise’ of Japan and the ‘Fall’ of China after 1895”, in Zheng Yangwen (ed.), *The Chinese Chameleon Revisited: From the Jesuits to Zhang Yimou*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013, pp. 143-171.

Visualizing Cultures (“Throwing off Asia”, I and II) (<https://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/home/index.html>).

Prospectus and bibliography due on day of class

Week 7: The scramble for Asia: collective imperialism around 1900

Paul Cohen, *History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience and Myth*, Columbia University Press, 1997, pp. 14-58.

Anand A. Yang, “(A) Subaltern(s) Boxers: an Indian soldier’s account of China and the world in 1900-1901”, in Robert Bickers and R. G. Tiedemann (ed.), *The Boxers, China and the World*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2007, pp. 43-64.

John W. Steinberg (ed.), *The Russo-Japanese War in Global Perspective: World War Zero*, Brill, 2005, pp. 4-21, 87-101, 545-563, 609-627.

Visualizing Cultures (“Civilization and Barbarism”, “Visualizing the Boxer Uprising”, I, II and III; “Throwing Off Asia” III, “Asia Rising”, “Yellow Promise, Yellow Peril”, “The Empress Dowager and the Camera”) (<https://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/home/index.html>).

Week 8: From Empire to Republic: redefining the Chinese nation

Prasenjit Duara, *Rescuing History From the Nation: Questioning Narratives of Modern China*, University of Chicago Press, 1995, pp. 177-204.

Peter Perdue, “Erasing the Empire, Re-racing the Nation: Racialism and Culturalism in Imperial China”, in Ann Laura Stoler, Carole McGranahan and Peter C. Perdue (ed.), *Imperial Formations*, School for Advanced Research Press, 2007, pp. 141-169

Joseph Esherick, “How the Qing Became China”, in Joseph W. Esherick, Hasan Kayalı and Eric Van Young (ed.), *Empire to Nation: Historical Perspectives on the Making of the Modern World*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2006, pp. 229-261.

Peter Zarrow, “Historical Trauma: Anti-Manchuism and Memories of Atrocities in Late Qing China”, *History and Memory*, 16 (2), 2004, pp. 67-107.

“Zou Rong on Revolution, 1903”, in Janet Chen, Pei-Kai Cheng and Michael Lests (ed.), *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, Norton, 2014, pp. 179-183.

Optional reading : Uradyn Bulag, “Going Imperial: Tibeto-Mongolian Buddhism and Nationalisms in China and Inner Asia”, in Joseph W. Esherick, Hasan Kayalı and Eric Van Young (ed.), *Empire to Nation: Historical Perspectives on the Making of the Modern World*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2006, pp. 262-295.

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Week 9: World War I, a suicide of Western imperialism?

Erez Manela and Robert Gerwarth (ed.), *Empires at War: 1911-1923*, Oxford University Press, 2014, pp. 1-16 and 197-234.

Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism*, Oxford University Press, 2007, pp. 3-14, 55-62, 99-158 and 177-214.

“Japan’s Twenty One Demands”, in Janet Chen, Pei-Kai Cheng and Michael Lests (ed.), *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, Norton, 2014, pp. 203-207.

“Chen Duxiu: ‘Call to Youth’, 1915”, in Janet Chen, Pei-Kai Cheng and Michael Lests (ed.), *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, Norton, 2014, pp. 219-225.

“Li Dazhao: ‘The Victory of Bolshevism, 1918’”, in Janet Chen, Pei-Kai Cheng and Michael Lests (ed.), *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, Norton, 2014, pp. 225-229.

Week 10: Japan’s colonial Empire: mimetic imperialism?

Robert Eskildsen, “Of Civilization and Savages: The Mimetic Imperialism of Japan’s 1874 Expedition to Taiwan”, *American Historical Review*, 107 (2), 2002, pp. 388-418.

Ramon Myers and Mark Peattie (ed.), *The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945*, Princeton University Press, 1984, pp. 80-127, 275-311, 347-398 and 497-525.

Peter Duus, Ramon Myers and Mark Peattie (ed.), *The Japanese Informal Empire in China, 1895-1937*, pp. xi-xxix.

Yosaburō Takekoshi, *Japanese Rule in Formosa*, Longman, Greens and Co., 1907, pp. v-vi and 1-11.

Week 11: Nation-Empire: colonial expansion and nation-building in modern Japan

Louise Young, *Japan's Total Empire : Manchuria and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism*, University of California Press, 1998, pp. 115-180.

Jun Uchida, *Brokers of Empire: Japanese Settler Colonialism in Korea, 1876-1945*, Harvard University Press, 2011, pp. 33-139.

Sayon no kane サヨンの鐘 (Sayon’s Bell), excerpts.

Week 12: Pan-Asianism and Japan’s challenge to the West

Eri Hotta, *Pan-Asianism and Japan’s War, 1931-1945*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2007, pp. 75-225.

Prasenjit Duara, “Transnationalism and the Predicament of Sovereignty: China, 1900-1945”, *The American Historical Review*, 102 (4), 1997, pp. 1030-1051.

Sun Yat-sen, “Greater Asianism” (Kobe, 28 November 1924) (https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Sun_Yat-sen%27s_speech_on_Pan-Asianism).

“Prince Konoe’s Address, September 1937”, “The Japanese Ambassador Explains, 1937” and “Chiang Replies, 1938”, in Janet Chen, Pei-Kai Cheng and Michael Lests (ed.), *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, Norton, 2014, pp. 318-327.

Week 13: From sacred land to puppet state: the making of Manchuria

Mark Elliott, “The Limits of Tartary: Manchuria in Imperial and National Geographies”, *Journal of Asian Studies*, 59, 2000, pp. 603-646.

Robert H. G. Lee, *The Manchurian Frontier in Ch’ing History*, Harvard University Press, 1970, pp. 78-115.

Prasenjit Duara, *Sovereignty and Authenticity: Manchukuo and the East Asian Modern*, pp. 41-129.

“Situation in Manchuria: Report of the Lytton Commission of Inquiry”, excerpts.

Research paper due

Week 14: Empires at war (again): mobilization and integration during World War II

Andres Rodriguez, “Building the Nation, Serving the Frontier: Mobilizing and Reconstructing China's Borderlands during the War of Resistance (1937–1945)”, *Modern Asian Studies*, 45, 2011, pp. 345-376.

Takashi Fujitani, *Race for Empire: Koreans as Japanese and Japanese as Americans during World War II*, University of California Press, 2011, pp. 35-77 and 239-374.

Wu Zhuoliu, *The Fig Tree: Memoirs of a Taiwanese Patriot* (trans. Duncan Hunter), M. E. Sharpe, 1994, excerpts.