

Cultures of Empire

Empires have been consistent – but ever changing – forms of rule in the modern world. This course explores how empires and imperialism have connected the world by forging new forms of politics and culture from 1850 to 2011. It examines key dimensions of imperialism such as nationalism, capitalism, racism, and fascism in Asia, Europe, Africa, and America. Based largely on primary sources – novels, memoirs, official documents, and visual arts, including photographs and film – the course presents imperialism both as experienced in different societies and also in its global interconnectedness.

Prerequisites

None

Requirements

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| 1. Weekly postings, attendance, presentation, and participation | 30% |
| 2. Two response papers | 20% |
| • 3-4 pages | |
| 4. One film or book review | 10% |
| 3. Final exam | 40% |

1. Introduction (9/6; 9/8)

Required Reading:

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

2. Theories of Empire and Imperialism (9/13; 9/15)

Required Reading:

J.A. Hobson, "Imperialism: a Study," in Harrison M. Wright, *The New Imperialism*, 5-20, 33-36.

V.I. Lenin, "The Highest Stage of Capitalism," in Harrison M. Wright, *The New Imperialism*, 44-53.

Joseph Schumpeter, "Imperialism as a Social Atavism," in Harrison M. Wright, *The New Imperialism*, 76-83.

Kôtoku Shûsui, *Imperialism: the Specter of the Twentieth Century* (1901) (selections).

I. NINETEENTH-CENTURY IMPERIAL CIVILIZATIONS

3. Civilizing Missions: Britain and Japan (9/20; 9/22)

Required Reading:

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (1902)

4. Making Empires, Making Nations: Italy (9/27; 9/29)

Required Reading:

Pankhurst Richard "Ras Alula in Italy: The Novel of Luigi Gualtieri and the Play of A. Castelletto", in *Ethiopia Observer*, xv, n.3, 1972,p 170-195.

Giuseppe Finaldi, "Culture and imperialism in a 'backward' nation? The Prima Guerra d'Africa (1885-1896) in Italian primary schools," in *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, fall, 2003 (available through CLIO).

5. Bourgeois (In)sensibilities I: Race (10/4; 10/6)

Required Reading:

Ludwig von Estorff, *Adventures and Battles in Southwest, East, and South Africa* (1904-1910).

Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* (selections)

6. Bourgeois (In)sensibilities II: Gender (10/11; 10/13)

Required Reading:

Stoler, Laura Ann, "Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers: European Identities and the Cultural Politics of Exclusion in Colonial Southeast Asia." *Society for Comparative Study of Society and History* (1992)

Film (required; to be screened outside of class)

Indochine (dir.: Régis Wargnier, 1992)

II. INTERWAR ANTI-IMPERIALISM

7. Patterns of Resistance I: Pan-Asianism (10/18; 10/20)

Required Reading

Lu Xun, "The True Real of Ah Q", in *The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China: The Complete Fiction of Lu Xun*, 79-123.

Kita Ikki, "An Outline Plan for the Reorganization of Japan," (1919) *SJT*, 960-967.

8. Patterns of Resistance II: Anti-Colonial Nationalism (10/25; 10/27)

Required Reading:

Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism*, 2007, pp.1-12, 218-222

Read at Least Two:

Lee, Duncan Cambell, *The Mandate for Mesopotamia and the Principle of Trusteeship in English Law* (1921)

<http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924052878265#page/n0/mode/2up>

Annual Report to the League of Nations on the Administration of the South Sea Islands Under Japanese Mandate (1925)

<http://www.archive.org/details/AnnualReportToTheLeagueOfNationsOnTheAdministrationOfTheSouthSea>

Memorandum presented by the Greek members of the Turkish parliament to the American commission on mandates over Turkey (1919)

<http://www.archive.org/stream/memorandumpresen00amer#page/n1/mode/2up>

Optional:

Susan Pedersen, "The Meaning of the Mandates System: An Argument," *Geschichte und Gesellschaft*, 32: 4 (Oct-Dec. 2006), 560-82.

9. World War II and Independence Movements in Southeast Asia (11/1; 11/3)

Required Reading:

Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *The Fugitive* (1947)

III. THE POSTCOLONIAL WORLD

10. Decolonization (11/10)

Required Viewing:

Africa Addio (Dir: Gualtiero Jacopetti, 1966)

Fanon, Frantz (1999, re-print). "Excerpt from 'Concerning Violence': *The Wretched of the Earth*," in Steger, Manfred and Nancy Lind (eds.). *Violence and its Alternatives: An Interdisciplinary Reader*. New York: St. Martin's Press: 157-168

11. Homecomings (11/15; 11/17)

Required Reading (and for Review)

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, *Exodus to North Korea* (2007) (excerpts)

Lori Watt, "Imperial Remnants: the Repatriates in Postwar Japan," in Caroline Elkins and Susan Pedersen, eds., *Settler Colonialism in the Twentieth Century: Projects, Practices, Legacies*. New York: Taylor and Francis, 2005, 243-255.

12. The US Imperium and the Cold War (11/22)

Required reading:

Bruce Cumings, "East Asia and the United States: Double Vision and Hegemonic Emergence," in *Parallax Visions: Making Sense of American-East Asian Relations*, 205-226.

Film (required; to be screened outside of class)

The Manchurian Candidate (dir: John Frankenheimer, 1962).

IV. THE WORLD TODAY

13. Neo-Imperialism and Neo-Lliberalism (11/29; 12/1)

Required Reading

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs* 72:3 22-49

George W. Bush: [The State of the Union Address \(January 29, 2002\)](#)

Patrick Cockburn, *The Occupation: War and Resistance in Iraq*, 2006 (selections)

Film (optional)

Avatar

14. Summary (12/6; 12/8)