

SPRING 2006, GOVERNMENT 98R EMPIRE: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

Meeting time: Mondays, 1-3pm
Location: CGIS, Knafel N105
Instructor: Olivia Lau
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Office hours: Mondays, 3-4pm Fisher Family Commons

Description

This course will offer a critical examination of modern Western empires using analytic and critical concepts from social science. We will look at economic, geostrategic, and domestic causes for the rise of empires, their dissolution, and imperial legacies. Since I do not assume that students will have any experience in the topic, a small portion of each week's reading provides some historical background.

This is not a course on American foreign policy in the 21st century.

Requirements

Grading will consist of the following components:

- 20% Class participation
- 25% 10 page book review (due Friday, March 9th, 5pm)
- 5% 5 minute presentation of proposed research topic (due in class March 19th)
- 50% 25 page research paper (due May 16th, 5pm)

All written assignments should be turned in to my mailbox on the 3rd floor of CGIS North (the Knafel building). Written work will be penalized at the rate of a full letter grade for each day (1 minute to 24 hours) late. No extensions will be granted for the research paper as you will have had an entire semester to work on it.

Since this is a small course, I expect everyone to have done the weekly reading, such that your participation reflects the thought and consideration you have put into the readings. Your class participation grade reflects attendance, the thoughtfulness of your comments, and your ability to engage your peers as well as the readings. For example, an individual with perfect attendance, who speaks frequently, but does not contribute to the intellectual development of the course can expect no better than a "B" for his or her participation grade.

For the book review, you may select from the list on page 3. If you wish to review a book not on the list, you may do so, but clear it with me no later than February 12th. You should

provide a social-scientific assessment of the author's thesis, and examine whether he provides sufficient evidence to support his arguments. Note that the book review is due outside of our normal class meeting time.

For March 19th, you should prepare a brief presentation of a proposed research topic for your final paper. Think about the following prior to your presentation:

- What is the research question?
- What evidence can I find?
- What theories from the course can I apply to the question?

I am willing to read drafts of your final research paper, provided that they are submitted no later than our final class meeting on April 30th. I am available via email at any time, but if you have detailed questions, you should come to my office hours. If you cannot make it to my office hours, email me to set up an alternative time.

Required Course Materials

David B. Abernethy (2000), *The Dynamics of Global Dominance: European Overseas Empires, 1415–1980*, Yale University Press.

Niall Ferguson (2002), *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power*, Basic Books.

Other required readings are available online, via links on the syllabus or online course reserves.

Recommended Materials

George Orwell (1934), *Burmese Days: A Novel*, Harvest.

Noel Barber (2005), *The War of the Running Dogs: Malaya, 1948-1960*, London: Cassell, new ed

Indochine (1992), Sony Pictures Classics.

Potential Books for Review

Benjamin R. Barber (2003), *Fear's Empire: War, Terrorism, and Democracy*, New York: Norton.

Andrew J. Bacevich (2002a), *American Empire*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Niall Ferguson (2004), *Colossus: The Rise and Fall of the American Empire*, London: Allen Lane Penguin.

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri (2000), *Empire*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Chalmers Johnson (2004), *The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy and the End of the Republic*, New York: Verso.

Michael Mann (2003), *Incoherent Empire*, New York: Verso.

Emmanuel Todd (2003), *After the Empire: The Breakdown of the American Order*, New York: Columbia University Press.

Course Outline

Items marked with an * are optional, but recommended.

Week 1: Introduction (Wednesday, January 31)

We will be meeting in CGIS N252 (the Shklar Room) from 1-2pm for an introductory session prior to the lottery deadline. Please note the special day and location.

Types of Empires and their Origins

Week 2: Types of Empire (February 5)

George Steinmetz (2005), “Return to Empire: The New U.S. Imperialism in Comparative Historical Perspective,” *Sociological Theory*, 23, pp. 339–367. [Link..](#)

Chapters 3–7, “Phases of Imperial Expansion and Contraction” (pp. 45–172), in David B. Abernethy (2000), *The Dynamics of Global Dominance: European Overseas Empires, 1415–1980*, Yale University Press.

Week 3: Mercantilism and Monopoly (February 12)

Select book for review, and bring it to class.

Chapters 1–2 “Why Britain?” and “White Plague” (pp. 1–92), in Niall Ferguson (2002), *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power*, Basic Books.

P.J. Cain and A.G. Hopkins (1980), “The Political Economy of British Expansion Overseas, 1750–1914,” *Economic History Review*, 33, pp. 463–490. [Link..](#)

Robert Paul Thomas (1968), “The Sugar Colonies of the Old Empire: Profit or Loss for Great Britain?” *The Economic History Review*, 21, pp. 30–45. [Link..](#)

M.A.P. Meilink-Roelofs, “A Comparative Study of the Dutch and English Trading Companies in Asia” (pp. 428–453), in M.A.P. Meilink-Roelofs, M.E. van Opstall, and G.J. Schutte (eds.) (1988), *Dutch Authors on Asian History*, Foris Publications.

Presidents' Day (February 19): No class meeting

Week 4: Security and the Size of Nations (February 26)

David A. Lake (1996), "Anarchy, Hierarchy and the Variety of International Relations," *International Organizations*, 50, pp. 1–33. [Link..](#)

William C. Wohlforth (2001), "The Russian-Soviet Empire: A Test of Neorealism," *Review of International Studies*, 27, pp. 213–235. [Link..](#)

Chapters 8–9, "Western Europe as a Region: Shared Features" and "Western Europe as a System of Competing States" (pp. 175–224), in David B. Abernethy (2000), *The Dynamics of Global Dominance: European Overseas Empires, 1415–1980*, Yale University Press.

Chapters 1 and 4, "The Myth of Security Through Expansion" and "Japan's Bid for Autarky" (pp. 1–20, 112–152) in Jack Snyder (1991), *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition*, Cornell University Press.

Features of Empires

Week 5: Imperial Administration (March 5)

Chapters 3–4, "The Mission" and "Heaven's Breed" (pp. 93–184), in Niall Ferguson (2002), *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power*, Basic Books.

Chapters 10 and 12, "The Institutional Basis for the Triple Assault" and "Sectoral Institutions and Techniques of Control" (pp. 225–253, 277–299) in David B. Abernethy (2000), *The Dynamics of Global Dominance: European Overseas Empires, 1415–1980*, Yale University Press.

Yoav Alon (2004), "Tribal Shaykhs and the Limits of British Imperial Rule in Transjordan, 1920–1946," *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 32, pp. 69–92. [Link..](#)

Chapter 4, "Settlers and the Failure of French State-Building in Algeria" (pp. 47–76), in Ian Lustick (1985), *State-Building Failure in British Ireland and French Algeria*, no. 63 in Research Series, University of California, Berkeley: Institute of International Studies.

* George Orwell (1934), *Burmese Days: A Novel*, Harvest.

Book reviews due: Friday, March 9th at 5pm

Week 6: Finance and Informal Empire (March 12)

P.J. Cain and A.G. Hopkins (1987), “Gentlemanly Capitalism and British Expansion Overseas II: New Imperialism, 1850–1945,” *Economic History Review*, 40, pp. 1–26. [Link.](#)

Jeffrey Frieden (1994), “International Investment and Colonial Control: A New Interpretation,” *International Organization*, 48, pp. 559–593. [Link.](#)

John Gallagher and Ronald Robinson (1953), “The Imperialism of Free Trade,” *The Economic History Review*, 6, pp. 1–15. [Link.](#)

Kris James Mitchener and Marc Weidenmier (2005), “Empire, Public Goods, and the Roosevelt Corollary,” *Journal of Economic History*, 65, pp. 658–692. [Link.](#)

Week 7: Student Presentations (March 19)

The Aftermath

Week 8: Decolonization and Nationalism (April 2)

Chapters 4 and 10, “Creole Pioneers” and “Census, Map, and Museum” (pp. 47–66, 163–186) in Benedict Anderson (1983), *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*, London: Verso, revised ed.

Selections (pp. 26–30, 36–53, 85–97, 131–166) from Partha Chatterjee (1993), *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World*, University of Minnesota Press.

Chapters 11 and 13, “Non-European Initiatives and Perceptions” and “Sources of Colonial Weakness” (pp. 254–273, 300–322), in David B. Abernethy (2000), *The Dynamics of Global Dominance: European Overseas Empires, 1415–1980*, Yale University Press.

* Either watch *Indochine* (1992) or read Noel Barber (2005), *The War of the Running Dogs: Malaya, 1948-1960*, London: Cassell, new ed.

Week 9: Decolonization and Ethnic Conflict (April 9)

David D. Laitin, “Hegemony and Religious Conflict: British Imperial Control and Political Cleavages in Yorubaland” (pp. 285–316), in Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol (eds.) (1985), *Bringing the State Back In*, Cambridge University Press.

Chapters 2 and 14, “Ici, C’est la France” and “Je Vous Ai Compris” (pp. 44–60, 299–313), in Alastair Horne (2006), *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria, 1954–1962*, New York Review Books Classics.

Chapters 2–3, “The British Mandate, 1920–1932” and “The Erosion of the British Legacy, 1932–1945” (pp. 21–60), in Phebe Marr (2004), *The Modern History of Iraq*, Westview Press, 2nd ed.

Week 10: The Economic Legacy of Empires (April 16)

Daron Acemoglu, James A. Robinson, and Simon Johnson (2001), “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation,” *American Economic Review*, 91, pp. 1369–1401. [Link..](#)

Abhihit Banerjee and Lakshmi Iyer (2005), “History, Institutions, and Economic Performance: The Legacy of Colonial Land Tenure Systems in India,” *American Economic Review*, 95, pp. 1190–1213. [Link..](#)

Stanley L. Engerman and Kenneth L. Sokoloff (2002), “Factor Endowments, Inequality, and Paths of Development among New World Economies,” *Economia*, 3, pp. 41–109. [Link.](#) (including comments by Miguel Urquiola and Daron Acemoglu).

Week 11: The United States in the Post-War World (April 23)

David A. Lake (1993), “Leadership, Hegemony, and the International Economy: Naked Emperor or Tattered Monarch with Potential?” *International Studies Quarterly*, 37, pp. 459–489. [Link..](#)

Chapter 4, “The Legend of Isolationism” (pp. 108–161), in William Appleman Williams (1959), *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, W.W. Norton.

Chapters 7–8, “America’s Imperialism” and “The Seventh Power” (pp. 243–272) in Ernest R. May (1961), *Imperial Democracy: The Emergence of America as a Great Power*, New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Marin Walker (2002), "What Kind of Empire?" *Wilson Quarterly*, 26, pp. 36–49.
Link..

Andrew J. Bacevich (2002b), "New Rome, New Jerusalem," *Wilson Quarterly*,
26, 50–58. Link..

Week 12: Conclusions? (April 30)

Final papers due: May 16th at 5pm