

## MODERNITY AND NATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

**Instructor: Reto Hofmann**  
**Day/Time: MW, 11-12.15pm**  
**Location:**  
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### **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)**

Robert Tignor et al, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart* (New York: Norton, 2002)

**Abbreviations**

<i>DIA</i>	Documents on International Affairs, 1936-1946, v.2,
<i>SCT</i>	Sources of Chinese Tradition, Second Edition, v.2
<i>SJT</i>	Sources of Japanese Tradition, Second Edition, v.2
<i>SMC</i>	The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection

**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

Kenneth Pomeranz, “Continuities and Discontinuities in Global Development: Lessons from New East/West Comparisons,” in *World Economics*, v.3, 4, October–December 2002, 73-86 (online: [http://www.relooney.info/0\\_Development\\_7.pdf](http://www.relooney.info/0_Development_7.pdf))

Edward Said, “Introduction,” *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage, 1979), 1-30.

**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?*

Benedict Anderson, "The Origins of National Consciousness" and "Creole Pioneers," in *Imagined Communities*, 37-65.

Anthony D. Smith, “Are Nations Modern?” in *The Ethnic Origins of Nations*, 6-20.

### **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)

Otto von Bismarck, "Iron and Blood" speech (1862) ([http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=250&language=english](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=250&language=english))

#### Secondary Sources

Christopher Duggan, "Italy United [1850-1870]," in *A Concise History of Italy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002), 117-142.

Mary Fulbrook, "The Unification of Germany," "Germany under Bismarck," in *Concise History of Germany* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002), 122-136.

#### Film

Luchino Visconti, *The Leopard* (1963).

### **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

Sakuma Shōzan, "Reflections on my Errors," *SJT*, 628n -638.

Fukuzawa Yūkichi, "The Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yūkichi," *SJT*, 658-661.

Lin Zexu, "Letter to the English Ruler," *SCT*, 201-202.

Feng Guifen, "On the Manufacture of Foreign Weapons", "On the Adoption of Western Learning," *SCT*, 235-237.

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

#### Secondary sources

Charles Holcombe, "The Nineteenth-Century Encounter of Civilizations", in *A History of East Asia: From the Origins of Civilization to the Twenty-First Century*, 190-205, 213-227.

## **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

John A. Hobson, *Imperialism*, v-vi, 140-161, 162-181.

Richard Horowitz, “International Law and State Transformation in China, Siam, and the Ottoman Empire during the Nineteenth Century,” in *Journal of World History*, 15 (2004), only 460-486.

**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

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

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.

Secondary Sources:

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).

Isabel Hull, “The Military Campaign in German Southwest Africa, 1904–1907,” *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute*, 37, Fall 2005, pp.39-44.

**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.

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

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

Secondary Sources

Conrad Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations*, 430-449, 450-480, 499-508.

Ben Middleton, "Scandals of Imperialism: The Discourse on Boxer War Loot in the Japanese Public Sphere." Robert Bickers (ed.) *1900: The Boxers, China, and the World*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.

### 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

Mark Mazower, "Empires, Nations, Minorities," in *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century* (New York: Vintage, 1998), 41-75.

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

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### SPRING RECESS, MARCH 14-18

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#### **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

John Pollard, *The Fascist Experience in Italy* (London: Routledge, 1998), pp.121-132 [including primary sources on Italian fascism].

#### Texts (students to compare two)

Chiang Kai-shek, "Essentials of the New Life Movement" (1934), *SCT*, 337-344.

"Guomindang 'Emergency Laws,'" (1931) *SMC*, 275-277.

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (Selections)

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

"Fundamentals of Our National Polity," *SJT*, 968-974.

Mussolini, "Incorporation of the Peasantry into the Italian Nation," "Fascism's Myth: the Nation," "The Birth of a New Civilization," in Roger Griffin, ed., *Fascism* (Oxford: 1995), 41-44, 72-3, 78-9.

#### Secondary Sources (Optional)

Jay Taylor, "The Northern Expedition and Civil War," in *The Generalissimo: Chiang Kai-shek and the Struggle for Modern China* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press), 49-96.

Mary Fulbrook, "The collapse of Weimar democracy," and "The Consolidation of Hitler's Power," in *Concise History of Germany* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002), 172-186.

George M. Wilson, *Radical nationalist in Japan: Kita Ikki, 1883-1937* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1969).

#### **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.

"Draft of Basic Plan for Establishment of Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere," (1942) *SJT*, 1010-1013.

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

Wolfgang Schivelbusch, "On Being Defeated", in *The Culture of Defeat: On National Trauma, Mourning and Recovery*, 1-36.

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](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/japan001.asp#art2))

### Secondary Sources

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.

## **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

Andreas Huyssen, "Present Pasts: Media, Politics, Amnesia," in *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory* (Stanford, 2003), pp. 11-29. [E-Book on Clio]

### Texts

W.G. Sebald, "Air War and Literature," *On the Natural History of Destruction* (New York: The Modern Library, 1999) (Selections).

Nakazawa Keiji, *Barefoot Gen* (Penguin, 1988).

### 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)