

Spring 2006

**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES 201: Intro to Modern World-System, Part III.**

***From Victorian Globalization to American Globalization, 1914-2015***

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**Course description:** This is the concluding part in the three-quarters sequence of courses that serve as a foundation for pursuing the major in International Studies. We are going to examine the key processes of our contemporary epoch, or the 'short twentieth century' (1914 to 1991) taking them, as Stephen Jay Gould prescribed, in the whole system of relations. Starting with the mutual suicide of the Great Powers in the First World War, we trace the effects of newer, much bigger and invasive governments and economic corporations. We shall try to figure out what caused the two world wars, what fascism, populism, the New Deal and Fordism was, or communism, how the former colonies became independent states, and what came out of their programs of national development and modernization. We shall investigate the institutions that ensured the long peace of the Cold War, and how their breakdown released the newest globalization. We shall also try to speculate what might come out of globalization. The course gives you a general map of the contemporary world and the key to pursuing your future studies.

**Teaching method and evaluations:** Lectures and a lot of required readings that you will be discussing in sections. You shall write four short, take-home papers that must be 5 pages long. Each paper is worth 20% of the final grade, and section participation is another 20%.

**Books:**

- Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991*. NY: Vintage, 1996 (or any edition in any language).
- Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, NY: Norton, UPDATED EDITION 2005.
- William Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*. The MIT Press, 2002.
- David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford University Press, 2005
- Immanuel Wallerstein, *Utopistics, Or, Historical Choices of the Twenty-first Century*, NY: New Press, 1998.

TWO atlases were ordered as well: the *Hammond Atlas of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* and *Penguin's Atlas of Contemporary History* — it is a vintage Colin McEvedy atlas.

Strongly recommended are two more books which you can find at the Norris bookshop as well:

- James Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998.
- Marc Sageman, *Understanding Terror Networks*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

**The books are at the Norris bookshop. In addition, all readings were placed on reserve in the library (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor).**

***Schedule of Classes and Readings***

March 28 **The (Inadvertent) Imperial Group Suicide of 1914.** Read Hobsbawm, *Age of Extremes*, Ch. 1. Consult the Atlas to see the configuration of European empires before 1914 and their dissolutions after 1918 and 1945.

Recommended: Of course, there is *All quiet on the Western front* by Erich Maria Remarque. For you, perhaps, the voice of this epoch is Hemingway (*Farewell to Arms*). But just try the hilarious anarchist Czech classic *The fateful adventures of the good soldier Svejk during the World War*, by Jaroslav Hasek. [also spelled phonetically as Yaroslav Hashek, and *Svejk* is also spelled in German as *Schweik*]

March 30 **The Ripple Effects: World-System in Ruin.** Continue reading Hobsbawm, *Age of Extremes*, Chs. 2 (Revolutions) and 3 (Economic Abyss). The key is to follow the spread of “vortex” from the Western core of world-system to its peripheries. As you read, make for your own sake a short list of such ‘effects’, their vectors, and mark the quotations in Hobsbawm, which you would later use in your papers.

Recommended: Watch the famous drama *Doctor Zhivago*.

**SECTIONS WILL MEET ON FRIDAY, March 31.**

April 4 **The Struggle for Systemic Solutions, or the German-American Thirty Years War for Global Hegemony.** Read Hobsbawm Chs. 4 and 5 on the struggle against fascism. I recommend also Ch. 6 on the turmoil in arts (skim it at least). If you have the *Penguin’s Atlas* of Colin McEvedy, read his incredibly good and concise commentaries on the course of wars.

April 6 **The Third World Emerges.** Read Hobsbawm’s Ch. 7 “End of Empires” and Ch. 12 “The Third World”. You will also need an atlas.

Recommended: Two films are highly useful: *The Battle of Algiers* (the best ever film on terrorism and urban warfare, watch the 2004 release DVD), and *Gandhi* on the alternative political strategy.

April 11 **After 1945: Everybody's Victory (capitalism restored, communists and the Third World nationalists triumphant, religions reconciled to modernity).** Read Hobsbawm Chs. 8 “Cold war” and 9 “The Golden years”.

Recommended: A must see is Stanley Kubrick’s *Dr. Strangelove, or, How I learned to stop worrying and love the bomb*. On this film and its epoch, especially if you are in journalism, polisci, history, or communications, see also *Reelpolitik II: political ideologies in '50s and '60s films*, by Beverly Kelley (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004).

THE FIRST PAPER IS DUE IN SECTIONS ON APRIL 14 (NO EARLY DEADLINE)

The topics will be world wars, the Great Slump, revolutions, the New Deal, and fascism.

April 13 **The Three Glorious Decades, 1940s-1960s.** Read Hobsbawm, Ch. 10 “Social Revolution” esp. on the emergence of youth culture and new feminism, and ch. 11 “Cultural Revolution”. Recommended: James Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, Introduction (seminal!) and Chs. 3-4.

Recommended: *The Graduate* starring Dustin Hoffman with the music of Simon and

Garfunkel, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, listen to the *Beatles*, *Pink Floyd*, *Quilapayun* and *Inti-Illimani* (Chile), Presumably, you have recently watched the *Motorcycle Diaries*, haven't you?

- April 18 **What was socialism and did it create another world-system?** (NO. As they joked in Eastern Europe, "Capitalism is the system where man exploits man; socialism is its opposite"). Jokes aside, read Hobsbawm, Ch. 13 "Real socialism" and try to begin Ch. 16 "The End of socialism". Also recommended is the lucid and sobering James Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, Chs. 5 (Revolutionary party) and 6 on socialist agriculture in the USSR. Recommended: The film to watch along with Scott's classic is, of course, Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*.
- April 20 **From high hope to the collapse of compromises: 1968-73.** Read Hobsbawm Ch. 14.
- April 25 **The disastrous end of Cold War geopolitics.** Read Hobsbawm, Chs. 15 and 16 (the collapses of communist bloc, Yugoslavia, and the Third World). Very attentively read Hobsbawm's concluding chapter 19. Recommended: Marc Sageman, *Understanding Terror Networks*. The best book of its kind, period.
- THE SECOND PAPER IS DUE IN SECTIONS ON APRIL 28  
(THE HALF-POINT BONUS DEADLINE: APRIL 25)
- The topics will be state directed economies, both socialist and capitalist, their huge achievements, unexpected irrationalities, and ultimate ossification (rely mostly on Hobsbawm and it would be nice to include the four factors outlined by James Scott in his Introduction and in the lectures).
- April 27 **National development that worked: Korea as paradigm.** Start reading Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, you need to get a good sense of Chs. 1, 2 and 3, the whole history. Recommended: Watch the epic *Last Emperor*
- May 2 **East Asia Re-Emerges.** Cumings, Ch. 5 (get a sense of Cold War geopolitics in the region) and attentively work through Ch. 6 (Industrialization)
- May 4 **The Future of East Asia.** Cumings, Chs. 7 and 10. Pay attention to Ch. 8 (North Korea).
- May 9 **Developmental Failures.** Read William Easterly *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, beginning with Prologue and work through Ch. 5. Recommended: James Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, Ch. 7 on Tanzania
- May 11 **What is missing in developmental economics? What are the prospects?** Finish reading Easterly. Begin reading David Harvey. Very recommended: James Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*, Ch. 9 and especially the (wise) concluding Ch. 10

THE THIRD PAPER DUE IN SECTIONS ON MAY 12 (BONUS DEADLINE: MAY 9)

The assignment will cover the developmental experiences of the 1940s-1990s (i.e. Cumings, Easterly and you may impress us by adding James Scott.)

- May 16 **The Great Right Turn: Who invented Globalization?** Begin David Harvey's *Brief History of Neoliberalism*, Ch. 1 "Freedom's..." and ch. 2 "The Construction of Consent".
- May 18 **States and Markets: Fixing the World-System.** Harvey, Ch. 3 "Neoliberal State" and ch. 4 "Uneven Geographical Development". (Ch. 5 on China very usefully complements Bruce Cumings).
- May 23 **The Global (im)Balance.** Read Harvey's bristling Chs. 6 and 7. Also begin reading Immanuel Wallerstein's *Utopistics*. This short book will serve as coda to our course.
- May 25 **The last lecture: Your world.** Read Wallerstein's *Utopistics* and keep this and other books after you graduate. You might feel like returning to it several years later.

Perhaps the best book to recommend here is Timothy Earle and Allen Johnson, *The Evolution of Human Societies* (Stanford, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2000). In this book, read the last chapter, on the dynamics of market and state integration. The best analytic summary of the moralistic debate between the advocates and critics of markets.

The best film to watch at this point would be Monty Python's 1997 comedy (of course) called *Fierce Creatures*. (Downsizing a zoo in the age of global corporations, Michael Palin and terroristic lemurs helping John Cleese to build an alternative future.)

THE LAST PAPER MUST BE DELIVERED TO YOUR TA NO LATER  
THAN JUNE 2, BEFORE 5PM. BONUS DEADLINE: May 30.