

COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS IN ASIA

FALL 2018

T 1.55-4.55 pm

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Description

The history of colonialism in Asia, as elsewhere, was both painful and complex. For more than a century from the early nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century, Asian societies suffered from an intensive exploitation of their land, resources, and labor by foreign colonizers. Even after the establishment of independent nation-states, Asian societies had to tackle the legacies of empire and colonialism. This course examines the particular cases of South Asia, China, Taiwan, Korea, and Vietnam to provide students with a comparative approach to the social histories of colonialism in Asia. Reading several critical works dealing with various aspects of colonial encounters in these regions, we will engage in discussions on theories of colonialism, global political economy, anti-colonial struggles and their leaders, and postcolonial transitions.

Objectives

This seminar seeks to offer students an opportunity to reflect upon their earlier knowledge on colonialism in an Asian and comparative context. By the end of the course, students will be able to describe social and political changes in Asia with the dominance of colonialism as a formative world politics, compare the colonial theories of Britain, France, and Japan as well as the implementation of these theories in various parts of Asia. Students will develop their own arguments on and inquiries into the emergence of anti-colonial movements in different socio-political contexts.

Requirements

Come to classes
Read the materials
Participate in discussions
Write 6 response papers
Submit a final paper

Grades

%20 Participation and Attendance
%30 Response Papers
%50 Final Paper

Course Materials

All course materials are available online, either on course website under
“Files” tab or as eBook.

Course Plan

AUG 28 Introduction

SEP 4 What is Colonialism? Theories and Debates

Ania Loomba, *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*, London: Routledge, 3rd Edition, 2015, pp. 7-
103.

Group A Response Paper

SEP 11 Asia Before Europeans

Janet L. Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony: The World System, A.D. 1250-1350*,
New York: Oxford University Press, 1991. Part III Asia, pp.249-373.

Group B Response Paper

SEP 18 Colonialism in South Asia: Whose history?

Ranajit Guha, *Dominance Without Hegemony: History and Power in Colonial India*,
Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997, pp. 1-99.

Group A Response Paper

SEP 25 British Colonialism and Opium

Carl A. Trocki, *Opium, Empire and the Global Political Economy: A Study of the Asian Opium Trade, 1750-1950*, London: Routledge, 1996, pp. xi-xiv; 1-12; 33-87; 160-173.

Group B Response Paper

OCT 2 Gandhi, Nehru, and Anti-colonialism in India

Mahatma Gandhi, *The Essential Writings*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, pp. ix-xxxiii; 133-161; 309-373.

Nehru on his social and political outlook

Group A Response Paper

OCT 9 Chinese Encounters with the West

James Hevia, *English Lessons: The Pedagogy of Imperialism in Nineteenth-Century China*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2003, pp. 1-27; 123-155; 195-240. (eBook)

Group B Response Paper

OCT 16 Japanese Colonial Ideology

Marius Jensen, "Japanese Imperialism: Late Meiji Perspectives;" Mark R. Peattie, "Japanese Attitudes Toward Colonialism, 1895-1945;" Lewis H. Gann, "Western and Japanese Colonialism: Some Preliminary Comparisons," in *The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945*, ed. Ramon H. Myers and Mark R. Peattie, Princeton: Princeton

University Press, 1984.

Group A Response Paper

OCT 23 Japanese Colonialism in China

The Japanese Informal Empire in China, 1895-1937, ed. by Duus, Myers, and Peattie, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989, pp. xi-xxix; 101-132; 166-209; 433-438.

(eBook)

Group B Response Paper

Submit paper topic

OCT 30 Japanese Colonialism in Taiwan (Movie: Seediq Bale)

Leo T. S. Ching, *Becoming "Japanese": Colonial Taiwan and the Politics of Identity Formation*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001, pp. 15-50.

Yao Jen-To, "The Japanese Colonial State and Its Form of Knowledge in Taiwan," in *Taiwan Under Japanese Colonial Rule*, pp. 37-61.
Huang Ying-Che, "Were Taiwanese Being 'Enslaved'? The Entanglement of Sinicization, Japanization and Westernization," in *Taiwan Under Japanese Colonial Rule*, pp. 312-326.
Paul D. Barclay, *Outcasts of Empire: Japan's Rule on Taiwan's "Savage Border," 1874-1945*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2018, pp. 190-249. (eBook)
Group A Response Paper

NOV 6 Japanese Colonialism in Korea

Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2005, pp. 139-184.
Group B Response Paper

NOV 13 French Colony-building in Indochina

Nicola Cooper, *France in Indochina: Colonial Encounters*, Oxford: Berg, 2001, pp. 11-90.
Group A Response Paper
Submit bibliography

NOV 20 Colonialism and Anti-colonialism in Indochina

Truong Buu Lam, *Colonialism Experienced: Vietnamese Writings on Colonialism, 1900-1931*, Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 200, pp. 8-38; 105-124; 162-164; 234-237; 275-291; Writings of Ho Chi Minh.
Group B Response Paper

NOV 27 Vietnam between France, Japan and the US

Ho Chi Minh, Declaration of Independence; Kiyoko Kurusu Nitz, "Independence Without Nationalists? The Japanese and Vietnamese Nationalism during the Japanese Period, 1940-45," *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, Mar 1984, 108-133; Mark Atwood Lawrence, "Explaining the Early Decision: the US and the French War, 1945-1954"; David Hunt, "Taking Notice of the Everyday" in *Making Sense of the Vietnam Wars: Local, National, and Transnational Perspectives*, ed. By Bradley and Young, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

DEC 4 Concluding Remarks