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21H.443 European Imperialism in the 19th and 20th Centuries
Spring 2006

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21H.443
Spring, 2006
MW 2:30-4

Instructor: David Ciarlo

European Imperialism in the 19th and 20th Centuries

From pineapples grown in Hawai'i to English-speaking call centers outsourced India, the legacy of the "Age of Imperialism" appears everywhere in our modern world. This class explores the history of European imperialism in its political, economic, and cultural dimensions from the 1840s through the 1960s. While much of the class will focus on the role of imperialism in European society, we will also engage with case-studies and counter-narratives from Africa, India, and Asia, which offer experiences and perspectives that contrast vividly with those of the Europeans. Over the course of the semester, we will address such topics as the theories of imperial expansion; the rise of "scientific" racism; the myth of empire in European national identities; the role of social class and gender in colonial ideologies; the economic, social, and environmental impact of colonial rule; the forces behind decolonization; and globalization in the post-colonial world. The subject engages with a range of textual and visual sources, from historical writing to documents, from fiction to film.

Requirements:

There will be an in-class, closed-book final exam.

In addition, there will be three short papers (5 pages in length), due **March 13**, **April 19**, and **May 12**.

There will also be two map quizzes in the first half of the semester, which will be factored into the discussion grade.

I want to emphasize here that the discussion of readings in class will be a significant part of this class. Participation in discussions will count for 25% of the final grade.

Papers: 20%, 20%, 20% respectively

Discussion: 25%

Final Exam: 15 %

Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism:

Copying sections from someone else's printed or online work into your own without an acknowledgement is plagiarism; submitting someone else's paper as your own work is cheating. MIT has strict policies against both activities that I will fully enforce. If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me **before** submitting the work in question.

→ MIT Online Writing Communication Center: <<http://web.mit.edu/writing>>

This includes links on how to cite references and avoid plagiarism.

Books available for Purchase (at the MIT Bookstore, and on reserve at Hayden library)

Niall Ferguson, *Empire* (2002)
Scott Cook, *Colonial Encounters in the Age of High Imperialism* (Talman, 1996)
Mike Davis, *Late Victorian Holocausts* (2002)
Ferdinand Oyono, *Houseboy* (1960)
George Orwell, *Burmese Days* (1934)
Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (1963)

Week 1 Introduction, Theories of Imperialism

Feb. 8 (Wed.) Introduction

Week 2 "Informal Empire" of the late 18th and early 19th centuries

Feb. 13 (Mon.) The End of the Mercantilist Empires: from 1492 to the early 19th century
Discussion: Niall Ferguson, *Empire* (2002), Intro, 1-69, (skim 69-83), 84-92

Feb. 15 (Mon.) Classic Theories of Imperialism
Discussion: Rudyard Kipling *The White Man's Burden* (1899); J. Holland Rose (1905); John A. Hobson (1902); V.I Lenin (1916); George Orwell, *Shooting an Elephant* (1936)

Week 3 Commerce and Control

Feb. 20 *NO CLASS (President's Day)* (Monday's schedule followed on Tuesday)

Feb. 21 (Tue.) The Foundation of "British" India: from "John Company" to the Mutiny
Read: Ferguson, 93-105, 110-128
"Agreement between the Nabob Nudjum-UI-Dowlah and the Company" (1765) (2 pp.)
Discussion: Docs. on the impeachment of Warren Hastings (Hastings, Burke, Macauley)
First Map Quiz: World (moved from Feb. 22)

Feb. 22 (Wed.) Shifting Economic Rationales: From "Free Trade" to Opium Warfare
Discussion: Adam Smith, "America and the East Indies" *Wealth of Nations* (1776) (5 pp.)
Macauley's defense of the East India Company (pp. 54-8, 95-106)

Week 4 (New) Views of Exotic Lands and Exotic "Others"

Feb. 27 (Mon.) "Educating" India
Discussion: Macauley's "Minute on Indian Education" (1835)
Scott Cook, *Colonial Encounters* 113-143 ("Conflicting Ideologies in British India")
Read/skim Ferguson, 138-184

Mar. 1 (Wed.) Charting New Terrain: Discovering "Darkest Africa"
Discussion: Short excerpts from Livingston & Stanley
Read: Ferguson, 105-110, 128-136
(and begin Mike Davis *Late Victorian Holocausts*...it's long!)

Week 5 Imperial & "Civilizing" Missions

Mar. 6 (Mon.) Ethnography & "Race Science"
~~Discussion: excerpt from Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man* (1871)~~
~~excerpt from Robert Knox, *The Races of Man* (1850)~~
~~excerpt James Redfield, "Comparative Physiognomy" (1852)~~
Mar. 8 (Wed.) Discussion: Mike Davis *Late Victorian Holocausts* (2002)

Week 6 Partitioning the World

Mar. 13 (Mon.) From the Great Game to the Scramble for Africa
Read: Scott Cook, *Colonial Encounters* pp. 1-28
Excerpt from Carl Peters *New Light on Dark Africa* (1891)
Friedrich Fabri, "Does Germany Need Colonies?" (1879)
Palmerston to Bechoft in W. Africa (1852)

Mar. 15 (Wed.) The Berlin Conference: Power-Politics & Map Fantasies
Read: Ferguson, 185-244; ~~Does on the New Imperialism~~
First Paper Due <moved from original date of Mar 13>

Week 7 Violence

Mar. 20 (Mon.) Colonial Warfare: Indigenous Resistance
Discussion: Scott Cook, *Colonial Encounters*, 33-70
Documents from the Maji Maji Rebellion (1905-7)
Second Map Quiz: Africa

Mar. 22 (Wed.) Genocides in the Belgian Congo and German South-West Africa
Discussion: Lord Delamere "White Man's Country" (1903-)
Lord Lugard, *Indirect Rule*

Spring Break (March 27 through 31)

Week 8 Empire in the Metropole

Apr. 3 (Mon.) The Imperial Nation on Display
Discussion: Raymond Corbey, "Ethnographic Showcases, 1870-1930" (1995): 57-80

Apr. 5 (Wed.) Imperial Masculinities & Femininities
Read: "Gordon Of Khartoum: The Making Of An Imperial Martyr" (1985): 19-25

Cook, 146-156

Week 9 In the Colonies

Apr. 10 (Mon.) Hawai'i

Read: Cook, 73-101 ("Islands of Manifest Destiny")

Apr. 12 (Wed.) Discussion: Ferdinand Oyono, *Houseboy*

Week 10

Apr. 17 (Mon.) NO CLASS (Patriot's Day Vacation)

Apr. 19 (Wed.) Colonial Warfare II: Boer War; the Boxer Uprising

Second Paper Due

Week 11 Narratives (and Counter-Narratives) of Development

Apr. 24 (Mon.) The First World War in the Colonies

Apr. 26 (Wed.) Colonial Development

Discussion: Duignan & Gann, "Economic Achievements of the Colonizers"

Frederick Cooper, "Colonizing Time" (from Nicholas Dirks, *Colonialism and Culture*)

Week 12 Twilight of Empire

May 1 (Mon.) Discussion: George Orwell, *Burmese Days* (1934)

May 3 (Wed.) Empire in the Second World War

Week 13: Decolonization in Asia and Africa

May 8 (Mon.) Decolonization: European Abandonment?

May 10 (Wed.) Decolonization: Independent Nationalism of the New Elites

Discussion: Franz Fanon *The Wretched of the Earth* (1963)

Final Paper Due on Friday, May 12 (submitted via email)

Week 14 New Imperialisms?

May 15 The Neo-Colonialism of "Globalization"?

May 17 (Wed.) The New American Empire?

Discussion: Ferguson, 303-317 (Conclusion)

Robert D. Kaplan, "Supremacy by Stealth" in *The Atlantic Monthly* (2003), pp. 66-83

Final Exam Week (May 22-26)