

Study Group - Key Terms

Lecture 1 - Introduction to Global History

(Historical) Objectivity : Historians are supposed to transcend their bias by reconciling divergent sources and viewpoints into a compelling whole.

Global History : A field of historical study that emerged as a distinct academic field in the 1980s. It examines history from a global perspective and understanding how events had a global radius but also washed over a differentiated landscape, leaving an unique imprint upon world regions, states and cultures.

National History : Regards the nation-state as the primary unit of historical analysis, and social, economic, intellectual, and other processes are contained within it.

Eurocentric World History : Placing the story of white Europeans at the center of global events. A worldview centered on or biased towards Western civilization. The exact scope of centrism varies from the entire Western world to only Europe or even just Western Europe.

Fossil Age : ---

Lecture 2 - Planetary History

Great Divergence : The Great Divergence is a term made popular by Kenneth Pomeranz which explained how western modern civilization conquered older empires. Europe's 19th century industrialization strengthened its power relative to Eastern Empires and non-Western peoples.

European Miracle : The European Miracle is a term referencing the changes that enabled Europe to industrialize and escape the Malthusian trap that had locked human civilization to inefficient agriculture by having technological breakthroughs which occurred during the period from the scientific revolution to the industrial revolution, first in Britain and then in other parts of Europe. It Made europeans more powerful and allowed for colonialism, which came with the fall of old empires and tribal resistance to western brought change.

Imperial Wave : The Imperial Wave began around the 1820's, this era saw European expansion, colonization, and exploitation of supposedly inferior societies. By and large, this occurred at a global scale as a result of political imbalance between industrialized Western powers and traditional 'gunpowder' empires. Industrialization facilitated European military prowess which was demonstrated during the Opium Wars between the British and the Chinese empires.

Core-Periphery Model : The core-periphery model is the Wallerstein thesis which stipulated that by gathering surplus in China and India (periphery - distant location with poor access to prosperous markets), countries like Britain (core - centrally located prosperous urban-industrial areas) were able to lift their own workers out of absolute poverty. In essence, it's how the West exported exploitation globally.

Lecture 3 - The West Transformed

Nationalism : Nationalism was a 19th century ideology that the ideal state embraced citizens on the basis of their common language, shared ethnic identity, history and cultural traditions. The Napoleonic wars gave it momentum and emerged in a broader movement, reforming the dynastic European map of Western Europe and destabilized multi-ethnic empires in Eastern Europe.

Liberalism : Liberalism was a liberal philosophy which started during the 18th century enlightenment, restructuring Western society. It emphasized ideologies of a limited government, popular sovereignty, rule of law, equal opportunities and protection of individual rights. These ideas stimulated revolutions towards constitutional and representative government during the 19th century inside North America, Europe and Latin America.

Myth of Progress : The Myth of Progress is the misinterpretation of the Christian Doctrine of Salvation. This idea was prominent during the 18th century. Europeans believed heaven could be made on Earth through the mastery of science and the unlocking of laws of nature in order to make successive generations wealthier. Industrial technology and advancements enabled many Western societies create their idea of heaven on Earth.

Social Darwinism : Importantly, this theory emerged during the late 18th century as stream of pseudoscience which attempted to scientifically tried to prove the superiority of particular races. Moreover, this philosophy was predominantly employed by Europeans to justify the colonization and subjugation of primarily non-european peoples. Ultimately, the theory morally justified the exploitation and destruction of peoples including, but not limited to: Congolese, Native Americans, Chinese and many more.

Lecture 4 - Rising Tide of Western Hegemony

First Opium War : The First Opium War was fought between the United Kingdom and Quing dynasty of China from 1839-42. It was brought on by attempts to suppress the trade of Opium in exchange for tea. The Chinese were defeated, forced to surrender and open their markets to free trade regime (Treaty of Najin).

Boxer Rebellion : The Boxer Rebellion was a militant uprising within China, lasting from 1898-1900. It symbolized the absolute nadir of Chinese power and how the Emperor was more than a simple 'figurehead' who existed and operated at the behest of the interests of Europeans. The rebellion was movement that sought to expel unwanted influence of Western nations.

Treaty of Nijjin (Treaty of Inequity) : A treaty of Inequity was the name given by the Chinese to treaties signed with Western powers by Qin dynasty after military attacks. The Treaty of Nijjin was a treaty that brought to an end the Opium War in 1842. China ceded the territory of Hong Kong and brought lower tariffs. It added 4 new trading ports which allowed for easier trades.

Empress Dowager Cixi : She was the Chinese empress for 47 years, and supported official who encouraged the anti-foreign Boxer rebels. She played a key role in modernizing China by implementing many innovations that had been reversed in 1898.

Lecture 5 - Deflecting and Assimilating Western Modernity

Meiji Restoration : The Meiji restoration began in 1867. It was a political reform that abolished the feudal system in favor of a more open market economy and a centralized government with the emperor as its figurehead. It was the start of Japan's process of modernization by importing and adapting Western practices to its culture, society and environment.

Perry Expedition : Commodore Perry lead steamships to the off coast of Japan in 1853. The reason for the expedition was because they wanted Japan to open its market to the West. The pressure of Commodore Perry and the West caused the emperor to allow foreign trade in Japan kickstarting the modernization of the country.

Iwakura Mission : It was a diplomatic voyage to the Europe and United States conducted in the early 1870s by leading statesmen and scholars of the Meiji period. The program consisted of trying to master the new Western knowledge by sending their brightest minds abroad to ensure they learned the indigenous knowledge and spread it across Japan.

Unequal Treaty system : The unequal treaty system was the result of the West forcefully imposing the free trade regime to Asian and African countries and reaped all benefits which was unfair for populations who were unable to resist during the 1800s. It occurred in Europe, Africa and Asia since it was during the circular exchange. The Westerns believed themselves to be superior to other culture and wanted power over the world.

Lecture 6 - Integration of the Atlantic

Abolition Movement : The brutality of slave industry spurred a growing abolition movement, a social and political push that sought to end the Atlantic slave trade and free slaves, during the 19th century. In 1808 Jefferson banned slave trade, but it took decades until the final end of slavery in 1888.

King Cotton : King Cotton was a phrase coined by Southern politicians before the American Civil War, referring to the American South economy. Their economy depended on cotton productions, after the invention of the Cotton Gin (1793) due to increased demands in America and Europe it surpassed tobacco as dominant cash crop in the agricultural economy of the South.

Columbian Exchange : The Columbian Exchange was a period of cultural and biological exchanges between the Old World (Europe) and the New World (Americas) during the 15th and 16th century. It transformed European, and American ways of life by impacting the social and cultural sides of the Atlantic ; explaining the collapse of Indian nations, new found wealth and power of European nation and why Africans were sold into slavery.

Crosby Thesis (Neo-Europes) : Crosby pointed out that the population of temperate zones were mainly composed of European descendants. He wanted to know why there were large concentrations of Europeans on lands far from Europe. His thesis was that European expansion was driven by bio-ecological factors rather than military supremacy. Diseases brought from Europe to the Americas played a major role, killing the Indigenous population (weak immunology) reducing resistance.

African Diaspora : African Diaspora is the term commonly used to describe the mass dispersion of peoples from Africa during the Transatlantic Slave Trades, from the 1500s to the 1800s. This Diaspora took millions of people from Western and Central Africa to different regions throughout the Americas and the Caribbean.

Lecture 7 - Shrinking World

Transatlantic Telegraph : The transatlantic telegraph was an undersea cable running under the Atlantic Ocean, first developed by Samuel F. B. Morse (1832), which was used for communication in 1858 between North America and Europe. This was significant as it condensed communication time from a number of days to a number of minutes, which was a major advancement. The telegraph inaugurated an era of global communication by creating a planetary network.

Chain Immigration Model : The Chain Immigration Model is a term used to refer to the social process by which migrants from a particular town follow others from that town to a particular destination. The destination may be in another country or in a new location within the same country. (Late 19th century - early 20th century)

Steerage : The part of a ship providing accommodations for passengers with the cheapest tickets. It was the default choice of many immigrants from the 1850s through the 1930s. The conditions varied by steamship line and were likely to be relatively harsh compared to modern standards. Steerage made transoceanic voyages affordable to Europe's poor and made it possible to pursue a better life abroad.

Ocean-Lines : A large luxurious passenger ship of a type formerly used on a regular line. Ocean liners established regular connection between geographically dispersed hubs like Hamburg, Shanghai and Buenos Aires.

Lecture 8 - Mad Global Scramble

New Imperialism : The European states scramble for land all over the world during the 19th century, by colonizing and imposing European values and policies in other nations. This set the stage a more global economy, and a more connected world with Europe at its center.

Long Depression 1873-1894 : The Long Depression of 1873-1894, was a severe economic recession impacted in Europe (UK hit hardest) and the United States which had been experiencing strong economic growth during the second industrial revolution. It was caused by the devaluation of silver and a destabilization of currency which caused panics in the Vienna and Paris stock markets leading to protectionism and neo-liberal policies.

Civilizing Mission : The civilizing mission was a European belief that it was their duty to civilize 'backwards peoples'. The mission western empires would partake in during the colonial stage and a method used to justify pushing their values, religions and government institutions. This was done via force, and was done to create a habitat for Europeans to live in these foreign colonies, and in some cases instill trade markets or institutions.

Berlin Conference : The Berlin Conference was a series of negotiation first thought of by the Germans in 1884-85 held in Berlin. It was to bring together European powers to divide African territory. The Germans were trying to hide their power by distracting the other countries of Europe. This changed the continent of Africa forever, arbitrary lines were created to separate territories and they still remain borders.

Scramble for Africa : The Scramble for Africa is a term used to describe the European colonialism expansion in carving the African continent following the 1884-85 Berlin Conference. It brought the civilizing mission to reality. It had a tremendous impact on native Africans who became subject to

European rule and market forces in a very rapid and dramatic way. It was stimulated by economic turmoil cultural anxieties and national rivalries.

Congo Free State : The Congo Free State was a territory in Central Africa consisting of most the Congo River Basin created shortly after the Berlin Conference. It was considered to be the personal property of King Leopold II of Belgium (1880), given to him on two pretenses; all European traders would be welcome, and if the territory were to fail, concessions would be given to other European powers. The Free State had a legacy of brutality where those who were extracting resources in the Congo killed and maimed native peoples with impunity.

Lecture 9 - Genocide along the Global Frontier

The 'Frontier' : The 'Frontier' was a late 19th century idea about vast areas of land at the edge of civilization; a 'wild' land inhabited by 'savage' peoples. In French it means border, it was part of the prism at how Europeans looked at the world.

Ishi : (1861-1916) Ishis was the last known member of the Yahi tribe who emerged from the wilderness of California in 1911, decades after his tribe was presumed dead. He was brought to Alfred Kroeber, an anthropologist working at USC Berkeley, and collaborated with him because Kroeber wanted to document their traditional way of life.

Von Trothas vernichtungsbefehl (annihilation order) : There was a German-Herero conflict. Von Trotha, a German military commander, launched an annihilation order against the Herero and Nama people. He sent German colonial troop to German South-West Africa in 1904. The annihilation order resulted in the deaths of nearly 75% of the population, which is considered by most to be a genocide.