

History 22

Contemporary World History (1760 and After)

Spring 2017, UCLA

M, W, F: 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM, in Bunche 2209A

Instructor: Vinay Lal, Professor of History

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Office hours: Monday, 1-1:50 PM; Friday, 2-4 PM

Course webpage: <https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/17S-HIST22-1>

Instructor's YouTube Page: <https://www.youtube.com/user/dillichalo>

Instructor's faculty webpage: <http://www.history.ucla.edu/faculty/vinay-lal>

Instructor's blog: <https://vinaylal.wordpress.com/>

Brief Course Description: This course covers world history from around the mid-18th century to the present. Our canvas is huge, but our ambitions will perforce have to be modest. We have a great deal more knowledge of the modern world than we do of the pre-modern world; many of the institutions and ideas that we take for granted took their birth in the “modern” period, assuming that the “modern” can be dated, though this is itself a matter of some debate, to the 18th century. By the same token, there is a good deal of what we assume to be modern that in fact has its origins in the pre-modern world; we might, for instance, believe that people who are modern are also cosmopolitan, but it can also be reasonably argued that in many respects the pre-modern world was much more cosmopolitan, and in perhaps more significant ways, than the modern world. There are also questions to be asked about what we mean when we speak of the “world”, for all too often the world is taken to mean little more than Europe, the United States, or more broadly what is termed ‘the West’. It is also imperative to probe the politics of world history itself: world histories are written in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, London, Cambridge, and Berlin, not in Accra, Lima, Cairo, Khartoum, or even New Delhi or Beijing. Do we begin to do “world history” merely by becoming more inclusive, making certain that we do not confine ourselves to Europe and the United States and their impact on the world?

This course makes no pretense at covering all the major developments of the modern period. Nevertheless, it will attempt to signpost and interpret some key aspects of modern history, thought, and experience. The rise of the nation-state; the growth of the middle class; the industrial revolution; the ascendancy of ideas of liberty, progress, and democracy; the emergence of new instrumentalities of governance, among them the census and modern administrative systems; the growth of the metropolis and the megacity as a new life-form; successive technological revolutions that take us from the invention of the steam engine, telegraph, railways, telephone, automobile, aircraft, and antibiotics to our present digital age; the colonization of much of the world by European powers; histories of anti-colonial resistance and decolonization; the ‘emergence’ of large segments of the population—women, racial, sexual and linguistic minorities, laborers—into history:

this is a very partial list of some of the main topics we shall seek to probe. But how about sensibilities, mentalities, and emotions? Can we have a notion of world history capacious enough to accommodate even marginally some histories that cannot be accommodated under the rubric of the material, the ideational, and the ideological? We shall at least make a stab in this direction. Much that is important will, however, fall by the wayside: for instance, the birth of the modern (research) university, the segmentation of knowledge and the emergence of the modern academic disciplines; public education; modern taxation, banking, and revenue systems; the history of manufacturing; the increasing commercialization of agriculture; and so on. Nevertheless, I hope that students will emerge from this course with a considerably enhanced understanding of contemporary history, the nature of the “modern” world, the achievements and equally the limits of the “modern”, and an analytical appreciation of the merits of questioning received histories.

Requirements, Operational Details, and Course Materials: The course meets thrice a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 11:00 am to 11:50 am. In addition, each student will be enrolled in a discussion section led by a teaching assistant. Students are expected to attend all lectures and discussion sections.

The teaching assistants will explain their expectations and requirements at the first section meeting. Students are responsible for completing assignments that might be set by TAs at their discretion. However, some requirements are common to all students, as follows:

- 1.Short paper of 3 pages, due in class on Monday, April 24: this will account for 15% of the grade;
- 2.Short paper of 3-4 pages, due in class on Monday, May 15: this will determine 25% of the grade;
- 3.In-class final exam: this will account for 40% of the grade. The final exam will take place from 3-6 PM on June 13; location TBA.

The remaining 20% of the grade is for section participation and attendance.

All grading will be done by your TA, and questions about your grades should always be directed to your TA. The final grade will be determined by the TA in consultation with the course instructor.

Readings: All the readings are available online to registered students, except for three small and inexpensive books that have been ordered for your use at ASUCLA bookstore; these books are part of the required reading:

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*

W. E. B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

Please note that though there are a few dozen readings, most of them are very short, many as short as 1-3 pages. The total reading amounts to about 100 pages a week, except for those four weeks when you will be reading the *Communist Manifesto*, Freud, Gandhi, and DuBois, when the reading is closer to 150 pages a week. The readings introduce students to a very diverse body of work, with an eye to this work as material for historians: speeches, policy documents, manifestos, political treatises, poetry, and a variety of other primary sources;

secondary works, mainly scholarly articles and excerpts from scholarly books; and newspaper articles.

The keywords mentioned besides the week's readings are meant to alert students to some of the principal themes that may be covered in that week's lectures and/or readings, or themes which arise in relation to the central subject of a particular lecture.

Calendar of Classes and Themes:

Week One

M, April 3 Introduction to the Class

W, April 5 Revolutions 1: The French Revolution; Notions of Liberty & Fraternity
(Other keywords: progress, nation-state, the idea of the modern, the secular and secularism, the masses, the Enlightenment)
Readings: excerpts from The Declaration of Independence (1776), The Declaration of the Rights of Man (1789), The Declaration of the Rights of Woman (1791), and speeches by Robespierre.
Jawaharlal Nehru, *Glimpses of World History* (1934; New York: John Day Co, 1942), 366-377.

F, April 7 Revolutions 2: Haiti and the Global South
(Other keywords: slavery, plantation labor, racism, colonization)
Readings: Haitian Declaration of Independence (1804), online at <http://today.duke.edu/showcase/haitideclaration/declarationstext.html>
O. Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano . . .* (1794), excerpts.
Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (1995), 70-107.
Note: If you wish to read more about slavery in the Atlantic world, there are numerous websites, such as:
<http://ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/africanpassageslowcountryadapt/introductionatlanticworld>

Week Two

M, April 10 Revolutions 3: Industrial (1760-1840)
(Other keywords: England, machinery, mechanized labor, capitalism, working class, the industrial city, rural landscapes, Karl Marx, Factory acts)
Readings: Excerpts from primary and secondary documents, including: Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (1776); Arnold Pacey, *Technology in World Civilization* (1990); and Peter Stearns, *The Industrial Revolution in World History* (1993).
John Bowditch, ed., *Voices of the Industrial Revolution* (1961), pp. 82-90, excerpts.
Testimony from the Factory Act (1833), excerpts.

W, April 12 India under the British (1757-1856)
(Other keywords: Asia and Europe, colonialism, economic exploitation)
Readings: Karl Marx, “The British Rule in India”, “The Future Results of British Rule in India”, in *Karl Marx on India*, ed. Iqbal Husain (3rd ed., New Delhi: Tulika Books/Aligarh Historians Society, 2008), pp. 11-17, 46-51.
Warren Hastings, “Letter to Nathaniel Smith”, in *The Bhagavat-Geeta*, trans. Charles Wilkins [1784].
Thomas B. Macaulay, “Minute on Indian Education” [of 2 Feb. 1835], on the internet at: <http://www.english.ucsb.edu/faculty/rraley/research/english/macaulay.html>

F, April 14 Colonialism and the Nation-State
(Other keywords: European colonization, intellectual conquest, new epistemologies of domination)
Readings: Ernest Renan, “What is a Nation?” (1882)
Cecil Rhodes, “Confessions of Faith” (1877), online at: <http://pages.uoregon.edu/kimball/Rhodes-Confession.htm>
Nehru, *Glimpses of World History*, 572-90.
Roger Casement, Consul General’s Report to Sir Edward Grey (1911)

Week Three

M, April 17 Revolutions 4: Latin America and Europe
(Other keywords: Venezuela, Simon Bolivar, revolutions of 1848, the middle class)
Readings: Simon Bolivar, Jamaica Letter (1815), online at: <http://faculty.smu.edu/bakewell/BAKEWELL/texts/jamaica-letter.html>
Eduardo Galeano, *Faces & Masks*, Vol. 2 of *Memory of Fire*, excerpts.

W, April 19 The Indian Rebellion of 1857-58 & the American Civil War (1857-61)
(Other keywords: Sepoy Mutiny, colonial revolts, Slaveholding South, secessionism, Abraham Lincoln, cotton)
Readings: *Karl Marx on India*, pp. 83-91, 101-118, and 246-48.
First inaugural addresses of Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln, online at: <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/primarysources/davisinaugural1.html>
<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/primarysources/lincolninaugural1.html>
Henry David Thoreau, “A Plea for Captain John Brown” (1859), online at: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/thoreau_001.asp

F, April 21 Japan and China, 19th Century

(Other keywords: triangular trade: England, India, China; insularity, the idea of the Orient, Opium Wars 1839-42 and 1856-60, “Opening Up” of Japan, Nagasaki)

Readings: Nehru, *Glimpses of World History*, 443-64.

Excerpts from Japanese writers, 19th century.

Chinese Documents: Lin Zexu, Letter to Queen Victoria (1839), online at: <http://acc6.its.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~phalsall/texts/com-lin.html>

and Treaty of Nanjing (1842)

Week Four

M, April 24

Migrations: Immigrants, Laborers, Indentured Slaves, Colonists

FIRST PAPER DUE

Readings: Selections from letters from immigrants to the US and Argentina

Adam McKeown, “Global Migration, 1846-1970”, *Journal of World History* 15, no. 2 (June 2004): 155-89.

Marina Carter & Khal Torabully, *Coolitude: An Anthology of the Indian Labour Diaspora* (London: Anthem, 2002), 17-44.

W, April 26

Technology 1: Communications, Travel, Military

(Other keywords: Steam Engine, Machine Gun, Railways, Telegraph, Communications, Photography)

Readings: John Ellis, *Social History of the Machine Gun* (London: Croom Helm, 1975), excerpts.

Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *Disenchanted Night: The Industrialization of Light in the Nineteenth Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995), 114-34.

F, April 28

Ideologies: Liberalism and Marxism

(Other keywords: Bentham, Utilitarianism, Romanticism, Idealism, John Stuart Mill, Mazzini, Marx, Engels)

Readings: K. Marx and F. Engels, *Communist Manifesto*, intro. by Gareth Stedman Jones (Penguin Books, 1967), 191-258 (at a minimum).

Week Five

M, May 1

NB: May Day, or International Workers’ Day (except in US)

Africa and the European Scramble for Power

(Other keywords: Darwin, social evolutionism, “the primitive”, European colonization, exploration, working class, racism)

Readings: Jules Ferry, “On French Colonial Expansion” (1884), online at:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1884ferry.asp>

Literary sources: Joseph Conrad, Chinua Achebe, and Francis Bebe, excerpts

W, May 3 Nationalism: Japan, India, and China; European ‘origins’ of nationalism
(Other keywords: Tokugawa, Russo-Japanese war, militarism, Asian age, the nation-state)
Readings: Kakuzo Okakura, *Ideals of the East* (1904), excerpts.
Rabindranath Tagore, *Nationalism* (1917), excerpts.
Ernst Gerhardt, review of two books on nationalism, *Journal of World History* 15, no. 2 (June 2004): 248-51.

F, May 5 Revolutions 5: Russia and Communism
(Other Keywords: Bolshevism, Lenin, Trotsky, Red Army, centralized planning, collectivization of agriculture, Stalin, Ukrainian famine)
Readings: V. I. Lenin, “The Tasks of the Proletariat . . .” (1917), online at:
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/apr/04.htm>
Alexander Mosler, “The October Revolution” (1923), online at:
<http://www.firstworldwar.com/diaries/octoberrevolution.htm>
Lenin, “The Transition from Capitalism to Communism” (1917).

Week Six

M, May 8 The Late Ottoman Empire and the Arab World
Readings: Nehru, *Glimpses of World History*, 755-772.
Ottoman Decrees and Proclamations (1856/1870).

W, May 10 Wars: Colonial Wars and World War I
(Other keywords: Boer War South Africa, colonialism, ‘The Great War’, European balance of power)
Readings: Excerpts from European and African sources
World War I Propaganda Posters—study closely a few posters at this website: <http://www.ww1propaganda.com/?page=1>
Syrian Congress Memorandum (1919)
Film (recommended) on the Boer War: *Breaker Morant* (1980), dir. Bruce Beresford

F, May 12 Revolutions 6: China and Communism
(Other keywords: Boxer Rebellion, Chiang kai-Shek, Nationalists, Mao, Nanking)
Japanese Government, “Demands on China” (1915), online at:
<http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/21demands.htm>
Mao Zedong, “A Report on the Peasant Movement in Hunan” (1927), online at:
https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_2.htm
Mao Zedong, “On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People” (1957) and “US Imperialism is the Most Ferocious Enemy . . .” (1964), online at:

https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-5/mswv5_58.htm
https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-9/mswv9_11.htm

Week Seven

- M, May 15 Revolutions 7: Psychoanalysis, Literature, Art
(Other Keywords: Freud, the unconscious, modernism, Eliot, Yeats, Picasso, Tagore)
SECOND PAPER DUE
Readings: Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (1930).
- W, May 17 Ideologies: Militarism, Fascism, and National Socialism
(Other keywords: Nazi regime, Holocaust, the Jews, Palestine, racism, eugenics, Aryanism, Holocaust)
Readings: Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (1925), selections;
Ronnie S. Landau, *Studying the Holocaust: Issues, Readings and Documents* (London: Routledge, 1998), pp. 17-21, 56-64, 106-7.
- F, May 19 Dissent: Nonviolence in India, the United States, & South Africa
(Other keywords: Thoreau, Gandhi, ahimsa, satyagraha, civil disobedience, Albert Luthuli, Nelson Mandela, Sermon on the Mount, Civil Rights movement, M L King)
Readings: Henry David Thoreau, “On the Duty of Civil Disobedience” (1849), online at:
<http://www.ibiblio.org/ebooks/Thoreau/Civil%20Disobedience.pdf>
Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (1909), online in The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi, vol 10, 245-315, read Chs. 3-14, 17 at:
<http://www.gandhiserve.org/cwmg/VOL10.PDF>
M. L. King, “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (1963), online at:
https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html

Week Eight

- M, May 22 Wars: World War II, the Holocaust, Nuremberg, & Tokyo Trial
(Other keywords: fascism, national socialism, Spanish Civil War, Franco, anti-Semitism, the “Jewish Problem”, Palestine, war criminals, “crimes against humanity”)
Readings: Hanna Levy-Hass, *Diary of Bergen-Belsen* (1944-45)
Reflections on the Holocaust, excerpts
Testimony of the Commandant of Auschwitz at Nuremberg (1946)
Henry L. Stimson, “The Nuremberg Trial: Landmark in Law”, *Foreign Affairs* 25, no. 2 (January 1947): 179-89.

- W, May 24 Internationalism, the Modern World System, and the Global South
(Other keywords: United Nations, Bretton Woods, global governance, Cold War, Bandung, non-alignment)
Readings: The Yalta Conference (1945).
Sukarno, Speech at the Bandung Conference (1955), online at:
<http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1955sukarno-bandong.html>
UN General Assembly Resolution on Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (1960), online at:
[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/1514\(XV\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/1514(XV))
- F, May 26 Ideologies: Capitalism, Development, The Cold War
(Other keywords: the free market, free market fundamentalism, social change, Third World)
Readings: Winston Churchill, “The Sinews of Peace” (1946)
George Kennan, “The Long Telegram” (1946)
Paul Nitze, “A Report to the National Security Council—NSC 68” (1950)
Milton Friedman, “Capitalism and Freedom” (1958), excerpts.
Majid Rahnema, “Development”, in V. Lal and A. Nandy, *The Future of Knowledge and Culture: A Dictionary for the 21st Century* (New Delhi: Viking Penguin, 2006).
- Week Nine**
- M, May 29 University Holiday: Memorial Day
- W, May 31 Decolonization: Asia, Africa, and Latin America
(Other keywords: Sukarno, CIA, anti-communism, Malay Insurgency, anti-colonialism, counter-terrorism, Algerian war, FLN, Congo, Nkrumah, Lumumba)
Readings: Ho Chi Minh, “Vietnamese Declaration of Independence”, online at:
<http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1945vietnam.html>
Patrice Lumumba, “Speech at the Proclamation of Congo’s Independence” (1960), at:
<https://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/lumumba/1960/06/independence.htm>
Secret FBI Report on Kwame Nkrumah, President of Ghana (1966), online at:
http://www.governmentattic.org/docs/DIA_AnalysisKwameNkrumahOfGhana1966.pdf
Carmel Budiardjo, “Surviving Indonesia’s Gulag” (1996), excerpts.
Readings by Pablo Neruda, Fidel Castro, and Charles de Gaulle
- F, June 2 Technologies 2: Aircraft, Nuclear Energy, Cyberspace

(Other keywords: Airpower, nuclear annihilation, carpet bombing, changing face of warfare, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, computing, the internet, Google, “social media”)

Readings: Statement by President Truman Announcing the Use of the A-Bomb at Hiroshima (1945), online at:

<http://www.trumanlibrary.org/publicpapers/index.php?pid=100&st=atomic&st1=bomb>

Vinay Lal, “The Vanquisher and the Vanquished: Nagasaki and Two Uncommon Lives”, *Amerasia Journal* 36, no. 2 (2010), 139-45.

Memories of the survivors of the atomic bombings, excerpts.

Nehru, *Glimpses of World History*, 773-79.

Week Ten

M, June 5

Ideologies: Modernity, Women’s Rights, Human Rights

(Other Keywords: the sexual revolution, contraception, women’s equality, universal franchise, ‘international community’, right to protect, African National Congress, Velvet Revolution, Apartheid)

Readings: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), online:

<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

Excerpts on immigrant women and global labor (2001)

World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2013, skim a few pages online at

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GenderGap_Report_2013.pdf

Nelson Mandela, speech at the Rivonia Trial (1964), online at:

<http://www.anc.org.za/show.php?id=3430>

W, June 7

The Veil and Invisibility: Muslims, Refugees, Climate Change
(Other Keywords: Arab Spring, the “Muslim World”, Global Warming, Slums, the ‘color line’)

Readings: Globalization and Arab Culture (2000).

Hannah Ingber, “Muslim Women on the Veil”, *New York Times* (27 May 2015), online at:

https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/28/world/muslim-women-on-the-veil.html?_r=0

W. E. B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903), complete.

Jeffrey D. Sachs, “Climate Change Refugees”, *Scientific American* (2007), online:

<http://www.nature.com/scientificamerican/journal/v296/n6/full/scientificamerican0607-43.html>

Gregg Easterbrook, “Global Warming: Who Loses—and Who Wins?”, *The Atlantic* (April 2007), online at:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2007/04/global-warming-who-loses-and-who-wins/305698/>

F, June 9

Fundamentalisms: Of the Market, Religion, and the American Empire

(Other Keywords: terrorism, humanitarian internationalism, genocide, American exceptionalism, the ‘one indispensable power’, religious extremism, Islamic terrorism, ISIS/ISIL, globalization)

Readings: Osama bin Laden, “Declaration of Jihad Against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holiest Shrines” (1996), at:

http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Osama_bin_Laden%27s_Declaration_of_War

(compare the version at:

http://salempress.com/store/pdfs/bin_laden.pdf (and read, if you wish, the commentary and interpretation)

Jeremy Seabrook, *The Song of the Shirt: Cheap Clothes Across Continents and Centuries* (Delhi: Navayana, 2014), 21-29, 96-99, 223-33.

Bertolt Brecht, “A Worker Reads History” (1935, poem)

FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, June 13, 3-6 PM, location TBA.