Spring 2009 **INTERNATIONAL STUDIES 201:** GLOBAL HISTORY Part 2**.**

# *From Globalization to Globalization, 1914-2010*

TuTh 11:00AM - 12:20PM Fisk Hall 217

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***Course description:*** No prerequisite though having taken the first part of this course during Fall quarter is a significant advantage. In the sequel course, with the help of Eric Hobsbawm’s classic, we re-trace the ‘Short Twentieth Century’ from its beginning in 1914 to the end in 1991. The organizing concept of the course is hegemonic cycle introduced in the first lecture. Another modern classic, James Scott’s *Seeing Like a State*, makes sense of the glorious achievements, infamies and just the ridiculousness of bureaucratic developmentalism. This has been a central trend running through modernity. The resurgence of East Asia is looming as a hugely important shift in geopolitics and world economy. Bruce Cumings’s lucid and forceful discussion of Korea applies to this whole region. Bob Brenner’s bestseller helps to understand the post-1945 business cycles until the present-day crisis. We conclude with Immanuel Wallerstein’s concise terse discussion of future options for America and the world. Besides, you really need a couple good atlases to find your way on this planet.

***Teaching method and evaluations:*** Lectures and a lot of required readings. Four short, take-home papers limited to 5 pages. Each paper is worth 20% of final grade, section participation is another 20%.

***Required books:***

* Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991.* NY: Vintage, 1996 (or any edition in any language)
* James Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998.
* Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun.* Norton, UPDATED EDITION 2005.
* Robert Brenner, *The Economics of Global Turbulence.* London: Verso, 2009
* Immanuel Wallerstein, *After Liberalism.* NY: New Press, 1995.

TWO atlases were ordered as well: John Haywood’s *World Atlas of the Past. Vol 4: Modern Times* (Oxford University Press, any edition would do) and *Penguin’s Atlas of Contemporary History* — another Colin McEvedy’s masterpiece.

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

**Schedule of Classes and Readings.**

PART I. THE HORRIBLE TIMES, 1914-1945

31 March **Theoretical Preview. Global Hegemonic Cycle: Venice — Amsterdam — London — New-York — ??** Read Immanuel Wallerstein’s essay “Peace, Stability, and Legitimacy, 1990-2025” in his book *After Liberalism* (pp. 25-45) Recommended: watch ***Girl with a pearl earring***, a gorgeous film about the Dutch painter Vermeer, his calculating mother-in-law, and his rich patron.

2 April **The Inadvertent Group Suicide of 1914**. Start reading Eric Hobsbawm, *Age of Extremes*, Ch. 1. Consult the Atlases to see the configuration of European empires before 1914 and their dissolutions after 1918 and 1945. Recommended: ***All quiet on the Western front*** (The 1930 film based on the experience of former German soldier Erich Maria Remarque). Or try the hilarious anarchist Czech classic: ***The fateful adventures of the good soldier Svejk during the World War***, by Jaroslav Hasek. [pronounced Shveik by Yaroslav Hashek]

DISCUSSION SECTIONS WILL FIRST MEET ON FRIDAY. April 3

7 April **The Ripple Effects: the World-System Falls Apart**. 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: Try the Hollywood drama ***Lawrence of Arabia*** (esp. its concluding part). But better, ***The Reds*** by Warren Beatty recently released on DVD.

9 April **The 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, to learn about Picasso and the surrealists). In McEvedy’s *Atlas* read his incredibly clear commentaries on the course of conflicts. Recommended: the classy English mystery ***Gosford Park***.

14 April **The Third World Emerges**. Read Hobsbawm’s Ch. 7 “End of Empires”. Now you really need an atlas. Recommended: ***The Battle of Algiers*** (the best political film ever), and ***Gandhi*** on the alternative political strategy.

The **first take-home assignment** will consist of no more than 5 (five) pages and cover the 1914-1945 great hegemonic collapse. Due in sections on Friday, April 17. If you submit it to your TA after class on Tuesday, April 14, you can get a 1/2 grade point extra. The assignment will be announced a week in advance.

PART II. THREE GLORIOUS DECADES, 1943 - 1973

16 April **After 1945: Everybody's Victory in a Bi-polar World (capitalism restored, communists established, colonies gain independence, religions reconciled to modernity)**. Read Hobsbawm Ch. 8 “Cold war”. A must see is Stanley Kubrick’s ***Dr. Strangelove***

21 April  **The Best of Times.** Read Hobsbawm, chapter 9 “The Golden years” and (especially!) Ch. 10 “Social Revolution” which flows into Ch. 11 “Cultural Revolution” (how about some rock-n-roll?). Recommended: ***The Graduate*** starring Dustin Hoffman. And you have seen ***Motorcycle Diaries***, haven’t you?

23 April **Fordism: The Political Economy of Post-War Miracle.** Read now Robert Brenner, *The Economics of Global Turbulence*. Part Two “The Long Upturn” (pp. 41-96) on America, Germany and Japan. Recommended, of course, Charlie Chaplin’s ***Modern Times***

28 April **Was State Socialism an Alternative?** (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”. Recommended: the sardonically funny, tempestuous and bitter masterpiece of the former Yugolsav Emir Kusturica ***Underground.***

30 April **Bureaucratic Developmentalism**. Read James Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, “Introduction” (pp. 1-8, **highlight!)** and Chs. 3-4 “Authoritarian High Modernism” and “The High-Modernist City” (which is us, here in Chicago). Recommended: Fritz Lang’s futuristic classic ***Metropolis***(1926)

The second paper assignment (on the post-1950s world transformation) is due in sections on Friday, May 8. The bonus deadline after class on Tuesday, May 5.

PART III. CRISIS AND REACTION

5 May **1968: Anti-Bureaucratic Revolution according to Max Weber**. Read from Immanuel Wallerstein’s book pp. 232-251: “The Collapse of Liberalism” and Hobsbawm’s Ch. 10 “Social Revolution” (yes, again). Recommended: Pink Floyd, **The Wall.**

7 May **The 1970s Signal Crisis.** Read Hobsbawm Ch. 14 “The Crisis Decades” in tandem with Robert Brenner Part Three “From Boom to Downturn”. Recommended: Michael Moore’s first documentary ***Roger & me****.*

12 May **The Collapse of Soviet Empire.** First, read James Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, Ch. 5 “Revolutionary Party: A Plan and a Diagnosis” is a masterpiece. Follow with Ch. 6 “Soviet Collectivization, Capitalist Dreams” and get an idea of what is in Ch. 7 about Tanzania. Then it is **a MUST** to read Hobsbawm’s Ch. 16 “End of Socialism”. Recommended: Ken Loach ***Land and Freedom*.** See how anarchist spontaneity clashed with Stalinist authoritarianism in the Spanish Civil war. Also, at some point, try Georgi Derluguian, *Bourdieu’s Secret Admirer in the Caucasus* (2005).

14 May **The National Development That Worked: East Asian paradigm.** Start reading Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*. A lot, but it reads easily. You need to get a good sense of Ch. 1 “The Virtues” which covers the imperial traditions. Those who have previously read Abu-Lughod’s *Before European Hegemony* would find many parallels. In the chapters 2, 3, and 4 you need to get a sense of what caused the century-long eclipse of Korea (and China). Pay attention to Japan’s pivotal role and to America’s priorities in the region during the Cold War. Recommended: Bertolucci’s epic ***The Last Emperor***

The third take-home assignment (on 1968 and the ensuing crisis, i.e. on Hobsbawm and Brenner) is due in sections on Friday, May 22. Bonus deadline: after class on May 19.

PART IV. ANOTHER GLOBALIZATION

19 May **East Asia Re-Emerges.** Very important: read Bruce Cumings’s Chapter 6 “Industrialization”. You also need to understand what caused the democratization of South Korea (Ch. 7). The rest of the book, for this course’s putposes, can be only recommended. Still, eventually read Ch. 8 on North Korea that pretends to be communist but in fact remains the traditionalist hermit kingdom, and the last Ch. 10 that will help you understand the shape of future world. Recommendations — can you suggest something?

21 May **Neo-Liberal Globalization.** Read Brenner, Part Four “The Long Downturn”, esp. Ch. 12 “The US Counter-Offensive”. Eventually, promise to read Hobsbawm’s concluding chapter 19. Track the map changes in the atlases!Read this: http://www.newstatesman.com/economy/2009/02/housing-societies-essay

26 May **The Crisis.** Finish reading Robert Brenner’s book. Its last part is short and the “AFTERWORD” now sounds darkly prophetic. Read Immanuel Wallerstein “The Cold War and the Third World: The Good Old Days?” (pp.10-24) all along remembering that this was written a decade before 9/11. And remember James Scott? It is time to appreciate his Ch. 10 *Conclusion*. Recommended: Watch *Syriana*. Also try Timothy Earle and Allen Johnson, *The Evolution of Human Societies* (Stanford, 2nd edition, 2000). Its last chapter contains a balanced analytic summary of the debate between the advocates and critics of markets.

28 May **Your possible futures**. The last reading is Immanuel Wallerstein’s central essay “America and the World: Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow”.Recommended: ***Fierce Creatures***. (Downsizing a zoo in the age of globalization, terroristic lemurs help John Cleese to build an alternative future.)

The last paper must be handed to your TA personally no later than 4PM on **Monday, June 8.** The Bonus deadline (you earn 1/2 point): **Tuesday June 2**