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

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21H.443  
Fall, 2007  
MW 9-10:30

Instructor: David Ciarlo

### **European Imperialism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 two short papers (5 pages in length), due **October 10** and **November 7**, and a comprehensive final paper (10-15 pages), due at the end of the last week of class, **December 14**.

(There is no final exam for this class.)

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 **30%** of the final grade.

Papers: 20%, 20%, 30% respectively

Discussion: 30%

There will also be two map quizzes, which will comprise a portion of your discussion grade. In addition, we will watch three films outside of regular class time.

**Please note:** plagiarism of any kind—that is taking another's words and/or ideas from a book, another student, or from the internet without full and complete citation—will not be tolerated regardless of the circumstances, and will result in an "F" for the final class grade.

If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me before submitting the work in question. The MIT Online Writing Communication Center, (<http://web.mit.edu/writing>) 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)  
Ferdinand Oyono, *Houseboy* (1960)  
Daniel Headrick, *The Tools of Empire*  
Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*  
George Orwell, *Burmese Days*

Week 1

Sept. 5 (Wed.): Introduction

Week 2 "Informal Empire" of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries

Sept. 10 (Mon.): The End of the Mercantilist Empires: from 1492 to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Discussion: Niall Ferguson, *Empire* (2002), Intro, 1-69, (skim 69-83), 84-92

Sept. 12 (Wed.): Classic Theories of Imperialism  
Discussion: Rudyard Kipling *The White Man's Burden* (1899); Encyclopedia Britannica (1878), J. Holland Rose (1905); John A. Hobson (1902); V.I Lenin (1916);  
Headrick, *Tools of Empire*, 3-12, George Orwell, *Shooting an Elephant* (1936)

Week 3 The East India Company

Sept. 17 (Mon.): From "John Company" to the Sepoy Mutiny  
Read: Ferguson, 93-105, 110-128  
"Agreement between the Nabob Nudjum-Ul-Dowlah and the Company" (1765) (2 pp.)  
Documents: The impeachment of Warren Hastings (Hastings, Burke, Macauley)

Sept. 19 (Weds.): 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)

film: *Kim* (1950, 113 min)

Week 4 Technology & Empire

Sept. 24 (Mon.): NO CLASS

Sept. 26 (Weds.): Discussion: Daniel Headrick, *The Tools of Empire*

Week 5 Christianizing and Civilizing Missions

Oct. 1 (Mon.): "Educating" India  
Discussion: Macauley's "Minute on Indian Education" (1835)

Ferguson, 138-184

- Oct. 3 (Weds.) Discovering "Darkest Africa"  
Discussion: Short excerpts from Livingston & Stanley  
Palmerston to Beccoft in W. Africa (1852)  
Ferguson, 105-110, 128-136  
Hochschild, 1-74

Week 6 Partitioning the World

Oct. 8 (Mon.) NO CLASS (Columbus Day)

- Oct. 10 (Weds.) The Scramble for Africa and the Berlin Conference:  
Power-Politics & Map Fantasies  
Read: Ferguson, 185-244;  
Excerpt from Carl Peters *New Light on Dark Africa* (1891)  
Friedrich Fabri, "Does Germany Need Colonies?" (1879)

**First Paper Due** (at beginning of class)

Week 7 Violence

- Oct. 15 (Mon.) Colonial Warfare: Indigenous Resistance  
Documents: Lord Delamere "White Man's Country" (1903-)

**Second Map Quiz: Africa**

- Oct. 17 (Weds.) Genocides in the Belgian Congo and German South-West Africa  
Discussion: Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*  
Ferguson (pages on the Congo; tba)  
Herge, *Tintin in the Congo* (1931, English transl. 1962)

Week 8 Empire in the Metropole

- Oct. 22 (Mon.) The Imperial Nation on Display  
Discussion: Raymond Corbey, "Ethnographic Showcases, 1870-1930" (1995): 57-80
- Oct. 24 (Weds.) Imperial Masculinities & Femininities  
Read: "Gordon Of Khartoum: The Making Of An Imperial Martyr" (1985): 19-25

Week 9 In the Colonies

- Oct. 29 (Mon.) Discussion: Lord Lugard, *Indirect Rule*
- Oct. 31 (Weds.) Discussion: Ferdinand Oyono, *Houseboy*

Week 10

Nov. 5 (Mon.) film: *The Man Who Would Be King* (1975, 129 min.)

Nov. 7 (Weds.) Colonial Warfare II: Boer War; the Boxer Uprising  
**Second Paper Due**

Week 11 Colonial "Development"?

Nov. 12 (Mon.) NO CLASS (Veteran's Day)

Nov. 14 (Weds.) Discussion: Duignan & Gann, "Economic Achievements of the Colonizers"  
Frederick Cooper, "Colonizing Time" (from Nicholas Dirks, *Colonialism and Culture*)

Week 12 Late Empire

Nov. 19 (Mon.) The First World War in the Colonies

Nov. 21 (Weds.) Discussion: George Orwell, *Burmese Days* (1934)

Week 13: Twilight of Empire

Nov. 26 (Mon.) film: *A Passage to India* (1984, 163 minutes)

Nov. 28 (Weds.) Empire in the Second World War

Week 14 Decolonization in Asia and Africa

Dec. 3 (Mon.) Decolonization: European Abandonment?

Dec. 5 (Weds.) Decolonization: Independent Nationalism of the New Elites  
Discussion: excerpt from Franz Fanon *The Wretched of the Earth* (1963)

film: *The Battle of Algiers* (1966, 121 min.)

Week 15:

Dec 10 (Mon.) The New American Empire?

Dec 12 (Weds.) Discussion: Ferguson, 303-317 (Conclusion)  
Robert D. Kaplan, "Supremacy by Stealth" in *The Atlantic Monthly* (2003), pp. 66-83

**Final Paper Due Friday, December 14**

*There is no final exam for this class.*

(Final Exam Week Dec. 17-21)

Message from the writing center:

Free, one-on-one, professional advice about all types of writing and oral presentation is available to you at the **Writing and Communication Center (12-132)**. You can get advice about any issue-- from thinking of a topic to revising a draft, from deepening your ideas to overcoming writer's block, from punctuation to professionalism. All the Center's consultants are published writers and experienced college teachers who can give insight into all types of academic, creative, and professional writing. Go to <http://web.mit.edu/writing> and click on the yellow sunburst.

If you cannot find an open appointment slot, do not despair. There are always cancellations on the day of the appointment (sometimes as many as 15 cancellations in one day). Click on the Wait List (the blue strip that says "*Is the time that you want already reserved?*"). Whenever a cancellation occurs on that day, you will be automatically notified by email. Because several people might receive that same message, go online ASAP to schedule that open spot; 96% of clients who want an appointment end up with one *if* they use the Wait List. If you can't find an appointment, try the Online Tutor at <http://web.mit.edu/writing/Center/onlinetutor.html>.

The Center's hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and Sundays, 5:00-9:00 p.m