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

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21H.443  
Spring, 2005  
TR 11-12:30

Instructor: David Ciarlo

## EUROPEAN IMPERIALISM IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

From pineapples grown in Hawai'i to the outsourcing of English-speaking call centers to 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 1830s 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 identity; 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:

The written work for the class consists of three papers: two shorter (5-6 page ) papers, due **March 3** and **April 7**, and one longer (8-10 page) paper, due on the last day of class (**May 12**).

There will also be two map quizzes in the first half of the semester;  
However, there is no final examination for this subject.

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%

**Please note:** plagiarism of any kind—that is taking another's words 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 assignment.

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

Rudyard Kipling, *Kim* (1901)

Scott Cook, *Colonial Encounters in the Age of High Imperialism* (Talman, 1996)

Burton, Antoinette. *Burdens of History: British Feminists, Indian women and Imperial Culture, 1865-191* (1994)

Mike Davis *Late Victorian Holocausts* (2002)

Graham Greene, *The Quiet American* (1955)

Week 1 Introduction, Theories of Imperialism

Feb. 1 (Tues.) Introduction

Feb. 3 (Thurs.) Some Theories of Imperialism

Discussion: Rudyard Kipling *The White Man's Burden* (1899); J. Holland Rose (1905);  
John A. Hobson (1902); V.I Lenin (1916); Joseph Schumpeter (1919);  
George Orwell, *Shooting an Elephant* (1936)

Week 2 "Informal Empire"?

Feb. 8 (Tues.) The Foundation of British India: from "John Company" to the Mutiny  
Discussion: "Agreement between the Nabob Nudjum-Ul-Dowlah and the Company" (1765)

Feb. 10 (Thurs.) From "Free Trade" to the Opium Wars

Discussion: Adam Smith "America and the East Indies" *Wealth of Nations* (1776)  
Macauley's defense of the East India Company  
Documents on the impeachment of Warren Hastings (Hastings, Burke, Macauley)

Week 3 (New) Images of Exotic Lands and Savage Peoples

Feb. 15 (Tues.) Film: *Life and Times of Sara Baartman, 'The Hottentot Venus'* (53 m.)  
Read: excerpts from Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man* (1871)  
excerpts from Robert Knox, *The Races of Man* (1850)

Feb. 17 (Thurs.) Travel Writing and the New Geography

**First Map Quiz: World**

Discussion: Macauley, "Minute on Indian Education" (1835) [11 pp.]  
excerpts from Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man* (1871)  
excerpts from Robert Knox, *The Races of Man* (1850)

Week 4 The High Adventure of Empire

Feb. 22 (Tues.) NO CLASS (*Follow Monday schedule for classes*)

Feb. 24 (Thurs.) Discussion: Rudyard Kipling, *Kim* (1901)  
Scott Cook, *Colonial Encounters*, 113-143

Week 5 The Scramble for Africa

Mar. 1 (Tues.) The Scramble Envisioned: Map Fantasies

Read: Scott Cook, *Colonial Encounters* pp. 1-28, 33-70  
Discussion: Excerpts from David Livingstone, Henry Morton Stanley

Mar. 3 (Thurs.) The Scramble Begins: From "Adventurers" to the Berlin Conference

**First Paper Due**

Week 6

Mar. 8 (Tues.) The Imperial Adventurers

Reading: "Gordon Of Khartoum: The Making Of An Imperial Martyr" in *History Today* 35 (1985): 19-25

Mar. 10 (Thurs.) The Imperial Nation on Display

Discussion: Raymond Corbey, "Ethnographic Showcases, 1870-1930" (1995): 57-80.

Week 7 Race & Colonial Genocide

Mar. 15 (Tues.) Scramble for Africa II

Reading: excerpts from Robert Knox, *The Races of Man* (1850) (from Feb. 17)

**Second Map Quiz: Africa**

Mar. 17 (Thurs.) Genocides in the Belgian Congo and German South-West Africa

Discussion: Cook, 33-70

Excerpt from Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*

Mark Cocker, "The Germans in Southwest" (pp. 269-370)

***Spring Break (March 21 through 25)***

Week 8 Imperial Missions

Mar. 29 (Tues.) Missionaries and Colonial Medicine

Mar. 31 (Thurs.) Discussion: *Antoinette Burton, Burdens of History: British Feminists, Indian women and Imperial Culture, 1865-1915* (1994), 1-125

Cook, 146-156

Week 9 Impact of Imperialism

Apr. 5 (Tues.) Discussion: *Antoinette Burton, Burdens of History: British Feminists, Indian women and Imperial Culture, 1865-1915* (1994), 126-212

Apr. 7 (Thurs.) Colonial Warfare: Boer War; the Boxer Uprising; the First World War

Week 10 Narratives of Colonial Transformation

Apr. 12 (Tues.) Colonial Development

**Second Paper Due**

Apr. 14 (Thurs.) Colonial Transformation and its Limits

Discussion: Cook, "Islands of Manifest Destiny", 73-101

James Scott, "Peasant Weapons of the Weak" from Conklin & Fletcher, *European Imperialism, 1830-1930*

Week 11 Colonization and Counter-Narratives

Apr. 19 (Tues.) NO CLASS (Patriot's Day Vacation)

Apr. 21 (Thurs.) Discussion:

Frederick Cooper, "Colonizing Time" (from Nicholas Dirks, *Colonialism and Culture*)  
Louise White, "Cars Out of Place: Vampires, Technology, and Labor in East Central Africa" (from *Tensions of Empire*)

Week 12

Apr. 26 (Tues.) Empire in the Second World War

Apr. 28 (Thurs.) Twilight of Empire (Enter the Americans)

Discussion: Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*

Week 13 Decolonization in Asia and Africa

May 3 (Tues.) Decolonization: Independent Nationalism of the New Elites

Discussion: Brief excerpts from Césaire, Fanon, Gandhi

May 5 (Thurs.) Decolonization: European Abandonment

Discussion: Frederick Cooper, "The Dialectics of Decolonization: Nationalism and Labor Movements in Postwar French Africa" (1997)

Week 14: New Imperialisms?

May 10 (Tues.) The Neo-Colonialism of "Globalization"?

Readings to be announced

May 12 (Thurs.) The New American Empire?

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

**Final Paper Due**

Final Exam Week (May 16-20) There is no final for this class.