

Europe in the World, 1901-1945

Brandeis University Summer School (Session I, June 2 – July 3, 2008)
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 1:45-4:15pm, Olin-Sang 124

Instructor: Daniel Becker
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This is a preliminary syllabus, subject to change. Please feel free to contact the instructor by e-mail if you have any questions.

Course Description

The first half of the twentieth century marked an “age of extremes” (Eric Hobsbawm) in European history, shaped as much by economic and political crises and unprecedented violence as by political and social reform and lasting scientific or artistic innovations; a veritable “European civil war” (Ernst Nolte) perhaps, which pitted defenders of liberal nationalism and social democracy against advocates of radical ideologies and authoritarian government. When the upheaval found its cataclysmic end in 1945, the continent that had been the indisputable (though not uncontested) center of the world only a generation earlier was reduced to a minor player in global affairs, to a mere potential battleground in the ideological confrontation of two superpowers which lay largely outside of Europe.

In this seminar, we will read selections from both “classic” studies and newer scholarship on various aspects of European “classical modernity” (e.g. the two world wars, the advent of mass politics and propaganda, Fascism, Communism, and various other ideologies and movements, “high imperialism” and its transformations, the crisis of the capitalist world economy, as well as the changing dynamics of race, class, and gender); furthermore, we will try to situate European developments within a broader, global context. The goal is not only to learn about the time “as it really happened,” but also to reflect on changing representations and interpretations of it. The course, in other words, does not only concern itself with history, but also with historiography and questions of historical memory and historical consciousness.

N.B. Although the course will begin with a lecture in the first class meeting, it is a seminar, and you will already need to read a significant amount of pages for the second and third meetings. Since this syllabus and the required readings will be available to you well in advance, you should seize the opportunity to read ahead; do not wait until the first day to begin and end being overwhelmed by the material!

Requirements & Assignments

Participation

Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions are essential to make this seminar work. Students must notify the instructor of any absences well in advance (preferably by e-mail, and at least 24 hours before class). Students must not miss more than two class meetings. Exceptions will only be made under extraordinary circumstances. In order to facilitate discussion, students should bring hard copies of all readings to class, as well as their reading notes, which ought to include questions or critical comments that may be addressed in class. *Class participation will constitute 25% of the final grade for the course.*

Presentations

From the second week onward, students will on occasion prepare, beyond the common reading for each meeting (noted in the class schedule below), a critical summary of a set of additional readings, which they will present to the class. The readings for these presentations cover subjects of debate among historians or “famous” (infamous?) historiographical controversies, and the presentations should outline the differing opinions and interpretations in a way that will foster class discussion. They need not be submitted in writing (indeed, it would be greatly appreciated if you speak freely, and do not read off a pre-formulated text). However, students must provide all class participants

with a handout containing, for example, outlines of major arguments, important quotations, and possible themes, issues, or questions for class discussion. Please note: There will be *no extensions* for these presentations! *The overall quality of these presentations will constitute 50% of the final grade for the course.*

🌀 Essay

Every student will write one essay (c. 2500 words) comparing two (or possibly more) general histories of Europe in the (first half of) the twentieth century. A preliminary version of the essay must be submitted to the instructor by Tuesday, June 24. (Please note: “Preliminary version” does not mean a “zero” or first draft!) A revised version must be circulated to all course participants (via the class listserv) by *12:00 noon on Wednesday, July 2; no extensions!* The grade for the essay will be based on this revised version. All students must read and prepare comments on all of these essays, which will be discussed on the last day of class (July 3). *The essay will constitute 25% of the final grade for the course.*

Course Policies

- 🌀 Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students must abide by the principles of academic integrity outlined in Section 4 of the university’s *Rights & Responsibilities Handbook* (available at <http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/rr/>) Students who submit work that is not their own will not receive credit for that assignment and be referred to the Department of Student Development and Conduct for potential disciplinary action.
- 🌀 Since this is a summer course with considerable time constraints, there cannot be any extensions for presentations or written work. If you have a pressing reason why you cannot complete an assignment on time, please contact me in advance; I will not grant last-minute extensions under any circumstances.
- 🌀 Computer failure can occur, but cannot serve as an excuse for not submitting an assignment on time. Please make sure that you back up your work regularly, as files as well as hard copies, to prevent any “accidents” (even if you are working on a brand new computer or on one of those allegedly faultless Macs or Linux systems...).
- 🌀 Class discussions may be contentious, but must remain civilized. *Ad hominem* attacks are unacceptable.
- 🌀 Cell phones must be switched off during class meetings. (Yes, please do switch them off entirely, do not set them to silent or vibrating mode!)
- 🌀 Note-taking by laptop computer may be convenient, but can also be disruptive, especially in a seminar. Therefore, you may not use a computer in class, except if you have a university-approved, disability-related waiver to use a laptop for note-taking.
- 🌀 If you have a documented disability on record with the university and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this course, please see me immediately (i.e. on the first day of class). I will not honor belated requests.

Texts

Required Texts

Most required readings for this course are available on LATTE, except readings marked with a hand symbol (👉) in the class schedule (below). These are available on reserve at the Goldfarb Library. (Texts for presentations have *not* been posted to LATTE as a general rule!)


The bookstore should have a good selection of the books for this class available for purchase as well. They are marked with a book symbol (📖) in the class schedule. Please do let me know immediately if you encounter any difficulties accessing the class material.

Recommended Background Text(book)s


For background information on the history and historiography of individual European countries:

- 🌀 Robert Gerwarth, ed., *Twisted Paths: Europe 1914-1945* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007). 📖 [currently only available as a high-priced hardcover, but OUP has announced a more affordable paperback version for April 2008]

Good synopses of overall European developments are available in

- ☞ Gordon Martel, ed., *A Companion to Europe 1900-1945* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005). [very expensive in hardcover, unfortunately, but available online via the library's subscription to "Blackwell Reference Online"; the direct URL is (you will need to authenticate with your Brandeis UNet login and password if off-campus): http://www.blackwellreference.com/resources.library.brandeis.edu/subscriber/uid=93/book?show=all&id=g9781405106641_9781405106641]
- ☞ Julian Jackson, ed., *Europe 1900-1945* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).  [available in affordable paperback, but much shorter than the Martel collection]

(Global) international relations are succinctly summarized in

- ☞ Antony Best et al., *International History of the Twentieth Century* (London: Routledge, 2003).  [You will find selections from this book in the reading assignments in the class schedule. They are meant to give you a basic, "factual" overview of international history. If you feel that you already know much of what is covered in the book, you should prioritize the other readings over the ones from this text.]

Class Schedule


Monday, June 2

COURSE INTRODUCTION (LECTURE)

Tuesday, June 3

NEW CENTURY, NEW CULTURE, NEW SOCIETY?

Common Reading

- ☞ H. Stuart Hughes, *Consciousness and Society: The Reorientation of European Social Thought, 1890-1930*, rev. ed. (New York: Vintage, 1977), 3-74, 336-344, 427-431 (additional chapters recommended for students with an interest in intellectual/cultural history). 
- ☞ *the following texts are optional, but strongly recommended (we may distribute these for brief individual student presentations):*
 - Warren G. Breckman, "Disciplining Consumption: The Debate about Luxury in Wilhelmine Germany, 1890-1914," *Journal of Social History* 24.3 (1991): 485-505.
 - Lucy Delap, "Feminist and Anti-Feminist Encounters in Edwardian Britain," *Historical Research* 78.201 (2005): 377-399.
 - George L. Mosse, "Masculinity in Crisis: The Decadence," in *The Image of Man: The Creation of Modern Masculinity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), 77-106.
 - Eric Hobsbawm, "Mass-Producing Traditions: Europe, 1870-1914," in *The Invention of Tradition*, ed. Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983), 263-308.

Thursday, June 5

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS FROM THE TURN OF THE CENTURY TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Common Reading (sorry, a lot...)

- ☞ Holger Afflerbach, "The Topos of Improbable War in Europe before 1914," in *An Improbable War: The Outbreak of World War I and European Political Culture before 1914*, ed. Holger Afflerbach and David Stevenson (New York: Berghahn Books, 2007), 161-182.

- 👉 David Stevenson, *Cataclysm: The First World War as Political Tragedy* (New York: Basic Books, 2004), chs. 1-5, 8, 11-14, 18-21. 🖱️📖
(much of this is “mere” narrative, you may thus be able to skim...)
- 👉 Niall Ferguson, “Alternatives to Armageddon,” in *The Pity of War* (New York: Basic Books, 1999), 433-462.
- 👉 optional, recommended for students who need a recap of “the facts”:
Antony Best et al., *International History of the Twentieth Century* (London: Routledge, 2003), ch. 1.
🖱️📖

Suggested Student Presentations

- 👉 *The Debate on War Aims and War Guilt*
- 👉 *A New Kind of War? The Experience of Violence*
- 👉 *A New Kind of War? The Great War as a “Total War”*
- 👉 *The War Experience on the Home Fronts*
- 👉 *The Treaty of Versailles: A World Made Safe for Democracy or Ripe for Another War?*
- 👉 *Memories of the War*

Monday, June 9

REVOLUTION AND RESTORATION IN THE WAKE OF WORLD WAR I

Film

- 👉 *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (Germany, 1919)

Common Reading

- 👉 *on the Russian revolutions:*
 - Stephen Kotkin, “1991 and the Russian Revolution: Sources, Conceptual Categories, Analytical Frameworks,” *Journal of Modern History* 70.2 (1998): 384-425. [You may also like to read the brief commentaries by Abbott Gleason and Robert V. Daniels, which follow Kotkin’s piece in this issue.]
 - *the following articles are optional, but recommended:*
 - James H. Billington, “Six Views of the Russian Revolution,” *World Politics* 18.3 (1966): 452-473.
 - Ronald Grigor Suny, “Toward a Social History of the October Revolution,” *American Historical Review* 88 (1983): 31-52.
 - Ronald Grigor Suny, “Revision and Retreat in the Historiography of 1917: Social History and Its Critics,” *Russian Review* 53.2 (1994): 165-182. [You may also like to read the commentary by John Eric Marot, “A ‘Postmodern’ Approach to the Russian Revolution? Comment on Suny,” *Russian Review* 54.2 (1995): 260-264.]
- 👉 *on Western Europe:*
Charles S. Maier, *Recasting Bourgeois Europe: Stabilization in France, Germany, and Italy in the Decade after World War I* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1975), selections.
- 👉 optional, particularly recommended for students with an interest in Eastern Central Europe:
 - Ivan T. Berend, *Decades of Crisis: Central and Eastern Europe before World War II* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), chs. 5-7. 🖱️📖
 - Gary B. Cohen, “Neither Absolutism nor Anarchy: New Narratives on Society and Government in Late Imperial Austria,” *Austrian History Yearbook* 29 (1998): 37-61.

Tuesday, June 10

NATIONALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM IN THE INTERWAR YEARS

Common Reading

- 👉 Oliver Zimmer, *Nationalism in Europe, 1890-1940* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003), esp. chs. 2-4. 🖱️📖
- 👉 Best et al., *International History of the Twentieth Century*, ch. 2. 🖱️📖
- 👉 Anique H.M. van Ginneken, "Introduction," in *Historical Dictionary of the League of Nations* (Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2006), 1-28.
- 👉 Katiana Orluc, "A Wilhelmine Legacy? Coudenhove-Kalergi's Pan-Europe and the Crisis of European Modernity," in *Wilhelminism and Its Legacies: German Modernities, Imperialism, and the Meanings of Reform, 1890-1930*, ed. Geoff Eley and James Retallack (New York: Berghahn Books, 2003), 219-234.

Suggested Student Presentations

- 👉 *The League of Nations*
- 👉 *The "Spirit of Locarno"*
- 👉 *Interwar Nationalism and the Minorities Question*
- 👉 *Precursors of European Integration*

Thursday, June 12

EMPIRES AND IMPERIALISMS

Common Reading

- 👉 Peter J. Cain, "Empire and the Languages of Character and Virtue in Later Victorian and Edwardian Britain." *Modern Intellectual History* 4.2 (2007): 249-273.
- 👉 Christopher M. Andrew and A. Sydney Kanya-Forstner, "France, Africa and the First World War," *Journal of African History* 19.1 (1978): 11-23.
- 👉 Michael Adas, "Contested Hegemony: The Great War and the Afro-Asian Assault on the Civilizing Mission Ideology," *Journal of World History* 15.1 (2004): 31-63.
- 👉 Rudolf von Albertini, *Decolonization: The Administration and Future of the Colonies, 1919-1960*, trans. Francisca Garvie (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1971), 3-23.
- 👉 Terry Martin, "An Affirmative Action Empire: The Soviet Union as the Highest Form of Imperialism," in *A State of Nations: Empire and Nation-Making in the Age of Lenin and Stalin*, ed. Roland Grigor Suny and Terry Martin (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 67-90.
- 👉 David Furber, "Near as Far in the Colonies: The Nazi Occupation of Poland," *International History Review* 26.3 (2004): 541-579.
- 👉 optional:
 - on theories of imperialism:
Patrick Wolfe, "History and Imperialism: A Century of Theory, from Marx to Postcolonialism," *American Historical Review* 102.2 (1997): 388-420.
 - for the international background:
Best et al., *International History of the Twentieth Century*, ch. 4-5. 🖱️📖

Suggested Student Presentations

- 👉 *Theories of Imperialism*
- 👉 *The League of Nations Mandates System between Power Politics and Colonial Reform*
- 👉 *Anti-Colonialism*
- 👉 *Colonial Conscription for Europe's Wars*
- 👉 *The French Empire between the World Wars*
- 👉 "Postcolonial" Perspectives on the Russian/Soviet Empire
- 👉 "From Africa to Auschwitz"? Colonialism and Nazi Imperialism

Monday, June 16

THE SOVIET UNION UNDER STALIN

Common Reading

- ☞ Chris Ward, *Stalin's Russia*, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Arnold, 1999), chs. 2-5, 7. 🖱📖
- ☞ *a few other perspectives, optional:*
 - Stephen Kotkin, "Modern Times: The Soviet Union and the Interwar Conjunction," *Kritika* 2.1 (2001): 111-164.
 - Stanley G. Payne, "Soviet Anti-Fascism: Theory and Practice, 1921-45," *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions* 4.2 (2003): 1-62.
 - David C. Engerman, "Modernization from the Other Shore: American Observers and the Costs of Soviet Economic Development," *American Historical Review* 105.2 (2000): 383-416.

Tuesday, June 17

CRISES OF CAPITALISM IN THE INTERWAR YEARS

Common Reading

- ☞ read one of the following general overviews:
 - either by an economic historian:
Ivan T. Berend, *An Economic History of Twentieth-Century Europe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), 10-150. 🖱📖
 - or, alternatively, by a historical economist:
Jeffrey A. Frieden, *Global Capitalism: Its Fall and Rise in the Twentieth Century* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2006), chs. 3, 6, 8-10. 🖱📖

Thursday, June 19

PROMISES AND PROBLEMS OF DEMOCRACY

Common Reading

- ☞ Julian Jackson, *France: The Dark Years, 1940-1944* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), chs. 1-5. 🖱📖
- ☞ Peter Fritzsche, "Did Weimar Fail?" *Journal of Modern History* 68.3 (1996): 629-656.
- ☞ Detlev J.K. Peukert, *The Weimar Republic: The Crisis of Classical Modernity*, trans. Richard Deveson (New York: Hill & Wang, 1992), 1-18 & 274-282 (*recommended, but optional*: 21-106, 147-190, 207-272). 🖱📖

Monday, June 23

FASCISM, NATIONAL SOCIALISM, AND THE AUTHORITARIAN RIGHT

Common Reading

- ☞ Aristotle A. Kallis, ed., *The Fascism Reader* (London: Routledge, 2002), selections. 🖱📖

Tuesday, June 24

HISTORIOGRAPHICAL CONTROVERSIES ABOUT THE INTERWAR DICTATORSHIPS

Film

- 👉 *Triumph of the Will* (Germany, 1936)

Common Reading

- 👉 Aristotle A. Kallis, ed., *The Fascism Reader* (London: Routledge, 2002), further selections. 🖐📖
- 👉 Ian Kershaw and Moshe Lewin, "Introduction: The Regimes and the Dictators: Perspectives of Comparison," and "Afterthoughts," in *Stalinism and Nazism: Dictatorships in Comparison*, ed. Ian Kershaw and Moshe Lewin (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), 1-25 & 343-358.
- 👉 Emilio Gentile, "Fascism, Totalitarianism and Political Religion: Definitions and Critical Reflections on Criticism of an Interpretation," *Totalitarian Movements & Political Religions* 5.3 (2004): 326-375.

Suggested Student Presentations

- 👉 *The Comparison of Dictatorships and the Totalitarianism Paradigm* (for two students to prepare together)
- 👉 *Fascism and Modernization*
- 👉 *Fascism in France?*
- 👉 *Stalinism between Political Tyranny and Social Discipline: A Debate from the 1980s*
- 👉 *Women under Fascism: Victims, perpetrators, something in-between?*

Thursday, June 26

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Common Reading

- 👉 P.M.H. Bell, *The Origins of the Second World War in Europe*, 3rd ed., selections. 🖐📖
- 👉 Rolf-Dieter Müller and Gerd Ueberschär, *Hitler's War in the East*, selections. 📖
- 👉 David Reynolds, "1940: Fulcrum of the Twentieth Century?" *International Affairs* 66.2 (1990): 325-350.
- 👉 of the following two, definitely read Mazower, and (skim) as much as you can from Jackson:
 - Mark Mazower, "Hitler's New Order, 1939-1945," *Diplomacy & Statecraft* 7.1 (1996): 29-53.
 - Julian Jackson, *France: The Dark Years*, chs. 7-10, 12, 14-18, 20-21, 24. 🖐📖
- 👉 optional:
 - *for the "factual" background*:
Best et al., *International History of the Twentieth Century*, chs. 7-8 (ch. 3 recommended). 🖐📖
 - *on memory*:
Pieter Lagrou, "The Nationalism of Victimhood: Selective Violence and National Grief in Western Europe, 1940-1960," in *Life After Death: Approaches to a Cultural and Social History of Europe during the 1940s and 1950s*, ed. Richard Bessel and Dirk Schumann (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).
Robert Moeller, "War Stories: The Search for a Usable Past in the Federal Republic of Germany," *American Historical Review* 101.4 (1996): 1008-1048.

Suggested Student Presentations

- 👉 *The Origins of the Second World War: The A.J.P. Taylor Debate*
- 👉 *The Origins of the Second World War: Appeasement*
- 👉 *Collaboration and Resistance*

Monday, June 30

GENOCIDES

Common Reading

- 👉 A. Dirk Moses, "Conceptual Blockages and Definitional Dilemmas in the 'Racial Century': Genocides of Indigenous Peoples and the Holocaust," *Patterns of Prejudice* 36.4 (2002): 7-36.
- 👉 Ian Kershaw, "Hitler and the Holocaust," in *The Nazi Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation*, 4th ed. (Oxford: Arnold, 2000), 93-133.
- 👉 Michael R. Marrus, "Reflections on the Historiography of the Holocaust," *Journal of Modern History* 66.1 (1994): 92-116.
- 👉 Mark Roseman, "Beyond Conviction? Perpetrators, Ideas, and Action in the Holocaust in Historiographical Perspective," in *Conflict, Catastrophe and Continuity: Essays on Modern German History*, ed. Frank Biess, Mark Roseman, and Hanna Schissler (New York: Berghahn, 2007), 83-103.
- 👉 Zygmunt Bauman, *Modernity and the Holocaust*, rev. ed. (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2000), 83-116.
- 👉 optional:
 - William Miles, "Third-World Views of the Holocaust," *Journal of Genocide Research* 6.3 (2004): 371-393.

Suggested Student Presentations

- 👉 *Explaining the Holocaust: The Motivation of the Perpetrators*
- 👉 *Explaining the Holocaust: A "Uniquely Unique" Event or "Just Another Genocide"?*
- 👉 *The Holocaust between Memory and Commodity*

Tuesday, July 1

THE ERA OF THE WORLD WARS AND THE GRAND NARRATIVES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Common Reading

- 👉 Charles S. Maier, "Consigning the Twentieth Century to History: Alternative Narratives for the Modern Era," *American Historical Review* 105.3 (2000): 807-831.

Student presentations

Students will present and discuss their essays on at least two of the following "grand narratives" (see section on "Requirements and Assignments," above, for details):

- 👉 Volker R. Berghahn, *Europe in the Era of Two World Wars: From Militarism and Genocide to Civil Society, 1900-1950* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005). 🖱️📖
- 👉 Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998). 📖
- 👉 Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991* (New York: Pantheon, 1994). 📖
- 👉 François Furet, *The Passing of an Illusion: The Idea of Communism in the Twentieth Century*, trans. Deborah Furet (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999). 📖
- 👉 Dan Diner, *Cataclysms: A History of the Twentieth Century from Europe's Edge*, trans. William Templer and Joel Golb (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2007). 📖
- 👉 James J. Sheehan, *Where Have All the Soldiers Gone? The Transformation of Modern Europe* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008). 📖
- 👉 Niall Ferguson, *The War of the World: Twentieth-Century Conflict and the Descent of the West* (New York: Penguin Press, 2006). 📖