HISTORY 572: EUROPEAN LABOUR IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Fall Semester 1993  W 3-5  2125 Humanities
Professor Jonathan Zeitlin (5213 Humanities; 5-2523)

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the major issues and debates in nineteenth-century European labor history through a comparative analysis of Britain, France and Germany. Key themes will include: industrialization and working-class formation; trade unions, employers and industrial relations; liberalism, socialism and the evolution of popular politics. Particular emphasis will be placed on variations in national patterns of development and the role of politics and the state in shaping the divergent trajectories followed by labor movements in the three countries.

Requirements

In addition to active class participation, students will be expected to give one or more oral presentations introducing the week's reading and to complete three writing assignments: two short essays of 4-6 pages, which may be based on the oral presentations; and a longer paper of 12-15 pages comparing the experience of two or more countries on a topic to be agreed with the instructor. The first paper is due at the 6th meeting, the second paper at the 11th meeting, and the third paper at the final meeting of the seminar.

Reading

All starred items are required reading, and students should come to seminar prepared to discuss them. Unstarred items are intended as further reading for those who wish to go deeper into individual topics, particularly for graduate students. All starred and most unstarred books will be held on reserve at the Helen C. White Library. Copies of journal articles and unpublished papers will also be placed on reserve at Helen C. White.
Required Texts

Students should purchase the following required books which will be available at the University Bookstore:


Recommended Texts

The following books which we will read during the course will also be available at the University Bookstore:


Week 1: Introduction

Part I: Industrialization and Class Formation

Week 2: Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives


Week 3: Britain


Week 4: France


Week 5: Germany


Part II: Protest, Organization, and Politics, 1800-1850

Week 6: Britain: Radicalism, Trade Unionism and Chartism


Week 7: France: Artisans, Republicans and Revolution


Week 8: Germany: Masters, Journeymen and the Revolution of 1848


Part III: Industrial Relations and Popular Politics, 1850-1914

Week 9: Britain: Unions, Employers, and Collective Bargaining


Week 10: Britain: Liberals, Labour, and the People


Duncan Tanner, *Political Change and the Labour Party, 1900-1918*  

**Weeks 11-12: France: Socialism, Syndicalism and the Republic**

Week 11 will focus on socialism and the readings by Magraw, Judt and Moss; week 12 on syndicalism and the readings by Friedman and Lewis. But the readings for week 11 contain a significant amount of material which is relevant for week 12 as well.


*Gerald Friedman, "Revolutionary Unions and French Labor: The Rebels Behind the Cause or Why Did Revolutionary Syndicalism Fail?", unpublished working paper, Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, 1991.*


Week 13: Germany: Paternalism, Repression, and Industrial Unionism


*Michael Schneider, A Brief History of German Trade Unions (Bonn: Dietz, 1989), chs. 2-4, pp. 30-108.

*Mommsen and Husung, The Development of Trade Unionism in Great Britain and Germany, chs. 11-13, 16, 20, 22, pp. 201-49, 283-301, 338-58, 370-89.


Week 14: Germany: Social Democracy, the Working Class and the State

*Fletcher, Bernstein to Brandt, chs. 1-3, 5-6, pp. 1-25, 34-53.


Gunther Roth, Social Democrats in Imperial Germany (Totowa, NJ. 1963).

Week 15: Explaining National Differences


