Peasant studies have attracted considerable scholarly attention during the past two decades. Within this general field the subject of peasant rebellion and revolution has been a particular focus of investigation for numerous historians and social scientists. The seminar will address three of the broad issues which have tended to dominate scholarly discussion of this subject. First, how have peasant societies been affected by and responded to the impact of modernization? Has modernization substantially increased the likelihood of peasant revolts? Second, what social factors tend to promote or to retard the mobilization of peasants in collective action, especially in revolutionary movements? And third, what classes or types of peasants have displayed the greatest potential for revolution? Though the instructor is particularly interested in Irish agrarian rebellions of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, this seminar will be concerned with peasant upheavals in a wide variety of geographical and temporal settings. The theoretical issues mentioned above will be explored through a concrete examination of revolutionary movements in France, Russia, Latin America, and especially China and Vietnam.

LECTURES

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

There will be three written assignments: (1) a report of about six pages on the assigned reading and related discussion questions for one session of the seminar; (2) a critical book review, eight to ten pages in length, and (3) a research proposal of about fifteen pages, to include a detailed outline of the project and a comprehensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

GRADING SYSTEM

Though the exact weighting of the different elements will be decided after general discussion at our first meeting, I suggest the following distribution: (1) seminar report (15 percent); (2) critical book review (15 percent); (3) research proposal (30 percent); (4) informed participation in seminar discussion (40 percent).

REQUIRED READINGS

(See attached sheet.)
HISTORY 572
Professor Donnelly
Semester II, 1987-88

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:


Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, Cambridge University Press.


Topics of Research Proposals

Laura Bugge: Anarchist Peasant Movements: A Comparative Study of Spanish and Russian Anarchists

Daniel Churchill: Agrarian Rebellions in Mexico Prior to the Mexican Revolution of 1910: Precursors of Zapata?

Rosa Diaz: The Impact of the Cuban Revolution on Peasants

Julie Fischer: Peasant Politics and the Agricultural Economy in the Commune of Cuers (Department of the Var) in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Mark Giamo: The Aftermath of the English Food Riots of 1766: The Selective Process of Prosecution under the Criminal Code

Peter Hayes: The Role of Peasants and the Agricultural Community in the Nicaraguan Revolution of 1979

Ann Hokanson: The Crisis in Viticulture and Its Effects on Peasant Disaffection in Late Nineteenth-Century France

J. Edward Kastenmeier: Friction between Graziers and Peasants within the United Irish League, 1897-1903

Robert Kokott: The Role of Anarchist Ideology in Peasant Rebellions and Revolutions: A Cross-Societal Investigation

Robert Newton: Popular Culture and Elite Culture in Ireland during the Land War Period of the Late Nineteenth Century

Katherine Thompson: Peasant Rebellions in El Salvador up to the Farabundo Martí of 1932: Historical Perspectives on the Current Situation

Kevin Topper: The Regional Distribution of Peasant Commitment to the Revolutionary Regimes in France during the 1790s

Christopher Williams: Agrarian Rebellion in Prefamine Ireland: The Whitefeet Movement of 1829-33

JSD
3/28/85