EMPIRE & REVOLUTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: A SEMINAR
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
History 573/755

Mr. McCoy           Fall 1994

Course Description: This seminar studies the expansion of European empires into Southeast Asia and the response of the region's indigenous societies. Starting with the general literature on imperialism in the Third World, the course next introduces students to readings on the dynamics of empire and processes of both resistance and revolution in modern Southeast Asia.

Rather than repeating the narrative and chronology covered in the Department's lecture courses on Southeast Asia, this seminar seeks instead to introduce students to theoretical literature on the social change underlying these events. After a brief survey of some basic readings for students still unfamiliar with the region's history, the seminar will move on to study the analytical literature that scholars have drawn upon to produce these books and articles. To understand, for example, the debate over the role of the Vietnamese village in that nation's revolution, students will read conflicting accounts of village society in Samoa and central Mexico.

Instead of transferring a fund of facts about Southeast Asia, the seminar seeks to critically examine the perspectives and perceptions of Western scholars who have studied this region. Hopefully, students will emerge from the course with a better understanding of both the specifics of Southeast Asian history and, more broadly, the processes of historical change.

Course Aims: As the final phase of the undergraduate History major or first step in a graduate career, the seminar allows students an opportunity to reflect upon lessons learned in past courses and to refine essential academic skills--critical reading, academic analysis, primary research, expository writing, and formal oral presentation.

Class Meetings: The seminar is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Room No. 2653, Humanities Buildings. Depending on bookings, subsequent meetings shall be held in the 5th Floor seminar rooms adjacent to the Curti Lounge.

Office Hours: In Room 5131 Humanities, Mondays 4:00-6:00 p.m., and other hours by appointment. Telephone: 263-1855 (direct line); 263-1800 (History Department, message). Messages may be left in Mailbox No. 5026.

Grading: In addition to participating in each class, students shall make one oral presentation and complete two pieces of written work.

Class Presentation & Write Up: At each class meeting, one student shall open the class with a 15 minute discussion of the readings. Within a week after the oral presentation, this student shall submit a written summary, sourced to the "Required" readings and selections from the "Background" section.

Discussant: In addition, each student shall serve as a discussant, responding briefly to the opening presentation and then asking questions to stimulate comments around the table.

Major Essay: After approval of their paper precis (due in my mailbox by 9:00 a.m., November 9th), students shall submit a 5,000 word research essay, sourced to both the syllabus and additional references, on November 29. Thus, the final grade shall be computed as follows:

--oral presentation: 25%
--presentation write-up: 25%
--research essay: 40%
--discussant: 10%
Readings: There is no single text or group of texts capable of meeting the broad agenda of the course. Instead, the syllabus lists a number of similar readings for each topic to allow students a choice in case the main readings are not on the shelf. In preparation for each meeting, students should read all the "Required readings," and then use the "Background readings" as alternative sources or for preparation of essays.

The undergraduate library in Helen C. White will hold 50 selected books on three-hour reserve, but all journal articles will have to be searched from the stacks in Memorial Library. Selecting and skimming as time and interest allow, students should finish at least four readings per week, two theoretical and two empirical.

Book to Be Purchased:

Anderson, Benedict, *Imagined Communities*.
Geertz, Clifford, *Agricultural Involution*.
Reid, Anthony, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, I*.
Said, Edward W., *Orientalism*.
Scott, James C., *Moral Economy of the Peasant*.

WEEK 1 (September 7): THE EUROPEAN WORLD SYSTEM

**Required Reading:**


**Background Reading:**


WEEK 2 (September 14): RISE OF EMPIRE

Required Reading:-

Reid, A.J.S. Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce (New Haven, 1988), Preface, Chapt. 3.

Background Reading:-

Adas, Michael, Machines as the Measure of Men (Ithaca, 1989), pp. 17-68.
Baran, Paul & Sweezy, Paul, The Political Economy of Growth (New York, 1957), chapt. 6 (pt. 4-8), chapt. 7 (pt. 1-3).
Lenin, V.I., Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism (Peking, 1961).
Shumpeter, Joseph, Imperialism and Social Classes (Cleveland, 1980), pp. 3-98.
WEEK 3 (September 21): ORIENTALISM

Required Reading:-


Background Reading:-


WEEK 4 (September 28): FEUDALISM & THE ASIATIC MODE

Required Reading:-

Avineri, Shlomo, Karl Marx on Colonialism and Modernization (New York, 1968), pp. 81-87, 88-95.
Wolf, Eric, Europe and the People Without History (Berkeley, 1982), pp. 73-100.

Background Reading:-

Anderson, Perry, Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism (London, 1974).
Mintz, Sidney, Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History (New York, 1985), pp. 3-73.*
Mitry, David, Marx Against the Peasant: A Study in Social Dogmatism (London, 1952).

WEEK 5 (October 5): A DICHOTOMY OF CITIES

Required Reading:-


Background Reading (Global):
Geertz, Clifford, The Social History of an Indonesian Town (Cambridge, 1965).
Park, Robert E., Human Communities: The City and Human Ecology (Glencoe, 1952).
Redfield, Robert, The Folk Culture of Yucatan (Chicago, 1941).

Background Reading (Southeast Asia):
Reed, Robert R., Colonial Manila (Berkeley, 1978), chapt. 1, 2, 4, 5.

WEEK 6 (October 12): THE MYTH OF THE VILLAGE

Required Reading :
Lewis, Oscar, Life in a Mexican Village: Tepoztlan Restudied (Urbana, 1951), pp. 3-49, 221-52.

**Background Reading (Global):**

Lewis, Oscar, *Tepoztlan, Village in Mexico* (New York, 1960.)
Mead, Margaret, *Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization* (New York, 1928).
Redfield, Robert, *The Folk Culture of Yucatan* (Chicago, 1941).

**WEEK 7 (October 19): TRADITIONAL STATE & SOCIETY**

**Required Reading:**


**Background Reading (Southeast Asia):**


Coedes, Georges, The Indianized States of Southeast Asia (Honolulu, 1968).


Eberhard, W., Conquerors and Rulers: Social Forces in Medieval China (Leiden, 1965), pp. 1-17.


Hall, Kenneth R., Maritime Trade and State Development in Early Southeast Asia (Sydney, 1985), chapt. 1.


Kumar, Ann, "Developments in Four Societies over the Sixteenth to Eighteenth Centuries," in, Harry Aveling, ed., The Development of Indonesian Society (St. Lucia, 1979).

Leach, Edmund R., Political Systems of Highland Burma (Boston, 1965).


Milner, A.C., Kerajaan: Malay Political Culture on the Eve of Colonial Rule (Tuscon, 1982).


Steinberg, David J., ed., In Search of Southeast Asia (Honolulu, 1985), pp. 59-91.

Tambiah, S.J., World Conqueror and World Renouncer (Cambridge, 1976), chapt. 7.


Reid, A.J.S., "'Closed' and 'Open' Slave Systems in Pre-Colonial Southeast Asia," in, A.J.S. Reid, Slavery, Bondage & Dependency in Southeast Asia (St. Lucia, 1983).


WEEK 8 (October 26): THE COLONIAL STATE

Required Reading:--


Geertz, Clifford, Agricultural Involution (Berkeley, 1963).


Orwell, George, "Shooting an Elephant," [see, various collections of his work.]

Background Reading (Global):--

Fanon, Franz, The Wretched of the Earth (New York, 1966).

**Background Reading (Southeast Asia):**

Breman, Jan, *Control of Land and Labour in Colonial Java* (Dordrecht, 1983).
Cushner, Nicholas, *Spain in the Philippines* (Manila, 1971), chapt. 3-5.


Roth, Dennis M., "Church Lands in the Agrarian History of the Tagalog Region," in, Alfred McCoy & Ed. C. de Jesus, eds., Philippine Social History: Global Trade and Local Transformations (Honolulu, 1982).


Stenson, Michael R., Class, Race and Colonialism in West Malaysia (St. Lucia, 1980).


WEEK 9 (November 2): COLONIALISM'S CONSTRUCTION OF SELF & OTHER

Required Reading:--

Szanton, Cristina Blanc, "Collision of Cultures: Historical Reformulations of Gender in the Lowland Visayas, Philippines," in, Jane Atkinson and Shelley Errington, Power and Difference: Gender in Island Southeast Asia (Stanford, 1990), pp. 345-83.

WEEK 10 (November 9): PEASANT RESISTANCE--DAILY & "PRIMITIVE"

Required Reading:--

Scott, James, Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance (New Haven, 1985), chapt. 1, 2, 5, 8.

Background Reading (Global):--

Femia, Joseph, "Hegemony and Consciousness in the Thought of Antonio Gramsci, Political Studies 23:1 (1975).*

**Background Reading (Southeast Asia):**


**WEEK 11 (November 16): PEASANT & PROLETARIAN POLITICS**

**Required Reading:**


Kerkvliet, Ben, *The Huk Rebellion* (Berkeley, 1977), chapt. 1, 2, 3.


**Background Reading (Global):**

Moore, Barrington Jr., Authority and Inequality under Capitalism and Socialism (Oxford, 1987).
Moore, Barrington, Social Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship (Boston, 1967), chapt. 1, 2.

Background Reading (West Sumatra):-

Background Reading (Southeast Asia):-
Doeppers, Daniel F., Manila, 1900-1941 (New Haven, 1984), chapt. 1, 2, 4.
Rutten, Rosanne, Women Workers of Hacienda Milagros (Amsterdam, 1982), chapt. 1, 3, 5, 6.
WEEK 12 (November 30): CONTESTED NATIONALISMS

Required Reading:


Ileto, Reynaldo, Pasyon and Revolution: Popular Movements in the Philippines, 1840-1910 (Manila, 1979), chapt. 1, 2, 3, 5.

Background Reading (Southeast Asia):


Afoncillo, Teodoro, Revolt of the Masses (Quezon City, 1956), chapt. 1-4,16.


Cushner, Nicholas, Spain in the Philippines (Quezon City, 1971), pp. 186-230.


Emerson, Rupert, Malaysia: A Study in Direct and Indirect Rule (Kuala Lumpur, 1964).

Fast, Jonathan & Richardson, James, Roots of Dependency (Quezon City, 1979), chapt. 8-13.


Ingleson, John, The Road to Exile: The Indonesian Nationalist Movement, 1927-1934 (Singapore, 1974).


Marr, David, Vietnamese Anticolonialism (Berkeley, 1971).


**WEEK 13 (December 7): NATIONAL REVOLUTIONS**

**Required Reading:**


**Background Reading (Global):**


Background Reading (Southeast Asia):-

Kahin, George, Nationalism and Revolution in Indonesia (Ithaca, 1952).
Kerkvliet, Ben, The Huk Rebellion (Berkeley, 1977), chapt. 1, 2, 4.
Mortimer, Rex, Indonesian Communism Under Sukarno (Ithaca, 1974).
Pluvier, J.M., Southeast Asia from Colonialism to Independence (Kuala Lumpur, 1974).
Reid, A.J.S., The Indonesian Revolution (Melbourne, 1974).
WEEK 14 (December 14): THE POST-COLONIAL STATE

Required Reading


Background Reading (Southeast Asia):-


Ahmad, Zakaria Haji & Crouch, Harold, eds., Military-Civilian Relations in Southeast Asia (Singapore, 1985).


Chaloemtiarana, Thak, Thailand: The Politics of Despotic Paternalism (Bangkok, 1979), chap. 4, 5, 6.

Chandler, David, A History of Cambodia (Boulder, 1983).


Geertz, Clifford, The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays (New York, 1973), chapt. 9, 10, 15.


Neher, Clark D., Modern Thai Politics (Cambridge, 1979).

Ofreneo, R.E., Capitalism in Philippine Agriculture (Quezon City, 1980), chapt. 3,4,5.


Prizzia, Ross, Thailand in Transition: The Role of Oppositional Forces (Honolulu, 1985), chapt. 2, 3.

Race, Jeffrey, "The Political Economy of the New Order in Indonesia in a Comparative Regional Perspective," in, James Fox et al., eds., Indonesia: Australian Perspectives (Canberra, 1980), pp. 699-709.

Riggs, Fred W., Thailand: The Modernization of Bureaucratic Polity (Honolulu, 1966).

Background Reading (Global):