History 861
IMPERIALISM: THE CONQUEST AND PARTITION OF AFRICA
Fall - 1993

Thursdays 4:00-6:00
2631 Humanities (check 5th floor seminar rooms each week)

Office hours: Th 9:30-11:30 and by appointment

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The purpose of this course is to introduce you to some of the major theoretical works on the conquest and partition of Africa. Most of these are very eurocentric, and we will deal with that issue throughout the course. However, they are works that historians of Africa should know.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is divided into three parts. During the first two weeks we will introduce ourselves and our work and discuss the format of the course and the writing of history. Beginning in the third week, part two, we will engage in intensive reading on the topic. Each week one or two students will be responsible for leading the discussion on the works to be discussed, distributing a written discussion or outline of the main work(s) in mailboxes the morning of the day before the class meeting. The other students will be expected to have considered the written material presented to them so that the discussion will be worthwhile for all concerned. Each of you will be responsible for leading at least one of these discussions. The week following the session in which you lead the discussion, you will hand out a summary (3-7 pages) of the readings and class discussion to each student and the instructor. These written materials will be helpful for you when you are preparing for qualifying exams. The written discussions should include points covered in class that may not have been covered in the readings or were disputed in class discussion.

The third part of the course will revolve around your individual research papers. You will be responsible for choosing, in consultation with the instructor, a topic dealing with the imposition of colonial rule or its workings in the particular geographical area on which you are concentrating. Decolonization is also a possibility. It is hoped, of course, that you will choose a topic that is related to your dissertation or M.A. thesis topic or that will help you explore possibilities in the selection of these topics. Your preliminary bibliographies, in the bibliography style presented in Turabian, are due on October 14. They will be returned to you the following week. Rough drafts of your research papers should be available to the class at least two days before your class presentation. The student critiquing your paper will present a written critique to the presenter and two copies to the instructor the day of the
critique, giving an oral presentation of the critique to the class. If you take one of the earlier class presentations, the paper can be a little more "rough" than those presented on one of the later dates. Final drafts (two copies) are due December 15 at noon. These deadlines are to help you keep on track and avoid the dreaded incomplete. Please make us both happy and stick to them. The final paper should be 15-25 pages (c. 225 words/per page), double-spaced with one-inch margins and not including the bibliography. If your word processing program allows you to do footnotes rather than end notes, that would be appreciated. It is not required.

Classroom Participation is an important part of your grade (though it will not outweigh the importance given to your performance on written work)! Your discussion in class is an indication of whether you have done the readings and thought about them!

Some Questions for consideration

Is there a mono-causal theory explaining the political partition of Africa?

Should the partition of Africa be considered separate from the European partition of Latin America and parts of Asia?

What is the historical significance of the political partition, and does it outweigh--or is it as important as--the economic dominance established over Africa by European powers?

What is the role of technology and the industrial revolution in the political partition of Africa?

How did the political partition--and the reasons for their participation in it--differ between various colonial powers?

How did African responses to the partition differ and what were some of the reasons for these differing responses?

Course Meetings and Readings

September 2 - Introduction to the course and each other

September 9 - Research and writing in history: Brad Hughes of the Writing Lab


September 16 - European Exploration and Africa Partitioned


Explorers to be considered:

Heinrich Barth, David Livingstone, Richard Burton, V. L. Cameron, Henry Morton Stanley, René Caillié, Richard and John Lander, John Hanning Speke, Mungo Park, James Bruce

Recommended:


September 23 - General overviews of "Imperialism."


September 30 - Economic Theories of Imperialism: Hobson v. Lenin (2 students)


October 7 - Economic Theories of Imperialism: Hopkins v. Fieldhouse


October 14 - Preliminary bibliography for Research Paper due. Will be returned in next week's class

Eurocentric Grand Theories for the African partition


**October 21** - Military and Medical Advance as a Factor in the Partition (all students)


Philip Curtin, *The Image of Africa*, pp. 58-87; 177-197. (all students)

**October 28** - Resistance and Reaction of Africans


2 popular, readable accounts to consider: (2 students)


**November 4 - Dominator and Dominated**


**November 11 - Technology Transfer, 1st hour. 1st paper, 2nd hour.**


**November 18 - 2 papers**

**December 2 - 2 papers**

**December 9 - 2 papers**