

History 471: Contemporary Societies

Spring Term 1992
M. Meisner
MW 3:30 - 5

Colloquium on the History of Capitalism in Asia, Africa, and Latin America

It is today a veritable universal article of faith that a capitalist market economy is the solution to the economic (and other) problems that afflict the world. It is the aim of this course to test that belief by examining the actual history of capitalism in the economically underdeveloped lands where most of the world's people live.

The first part of the course (through Week V) will attempt to provide some of the essential theoretical background for the study of capitalism in the modern world. This will include a consideration of Karl Polyani's study of the market in 19th century England (in The Great Transformation) and capitalism as viewed from the perspectives of Marxist theory, 19th century Russian Populism, modernization theory, and world systems theory.

The bulk of the course (Weeks VI-XIII) will be a comparative inquiry into the histories of capitalism in China, India, Brazil, and Nigeria. No prior knowledge of the histories of these countries is presupposed.

During the final two weeks of the semester we will consider the relevance of the modern Japanese historical experience for our inquiry as well as attempt to draw some preliminary generalizations about the place of the Third World in the changing world capitalist order -- and perhaps speculate a bit about the future of capitalism in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

We will meet in a colloquia-type format twice weekly, on Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30-5. There will be no exams. However, you are required to write two short essays (about 5 pages each) and one longer seminar-type paper (about 15-20 pages). The first short essay (due on or before February 26) should consist of your reflections on one or more of the theories that will be considered during the first part of the course. The second short essay (due on or before April 22) should be a critical discussion of the readings for one of the four case studies. The topic for the longer paper should be decided upon in consultation with the instructor early in the semester (no later than Week VI) and can take a variety of forms -- a broad interpretive or theoretical essay, a comparative inquiry, or a research-type investigation of a specific problem relating to the development of capitalism in a single country or region. The final paper, whatever its form or topic, should reflect the knowledge you have gained from the course readings, lectures and

discussions. It is due no later than May 6. Regular attendance and participation in colloquium discussions is assumed.

The following books are available for purchase in paperback editions at People's Bookstore, 458 W. Gilman:

Karl Polyani, The Great Transformation (Beacon)

R. H. Tawney, Land and Labour in China (Beacon)

Robert C. Tucker, The Marxian Revolutionary Idea (Norton)

Barrington Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy (Beacon)

Peter Evans, Dependent Development: The Alliance of Multinational, State, and Local Capital in Brazil (Princeton)

The remaining readings will be made available in xeroxed form. Guest lecturers are sponsored and funded by the Harvey Goldberg Center for the Study of Contemporary History. The Goldberg Center will also provide the xeroxed materials free of charge, although you may have to share these.

History 471: Contemporary Societies (Spring 1992)

The History of Capitalism in Asia, Africa and Latin America
(tentative outline)

HISTORICAL AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Week I (Jan. 22)

Introduction: Thoughts on the Triumph of Liberalism and Capitalism -- and "the end of history"

Week II (Jan. 27 & 29)

The Satanic Mill: Capitalism and Market Economy in 19th Century England

1. Market versus Society
2. "Perceptions of the Market in England: Industrialists and Workers" (Prof. James Jaffe, History, UW-Whitewater)

Readings: Karl Polyani, The Great Transformation

Week III (Feb. 3 & 5)

Marxism and Capitalism

1. Karl Marx on the Historical Progressiveness of Capitalism
2. The Marxian Critique of Capitalism

Readings: Karl Marx, selections from Capital and the Manifesto
Robert C. Tucker, The Marxian Revolutionary Idea, chs. 1 and 2

Week IV (Feb. 10 & 12)

Populism and the Question of Capitalism

1. Marx and the Russian Populists
2. The Notion of a Non-Capitalist Path to Socialism

Readings: Andrej Walicki, The Controversy Over Capitalism (selections)
Teodor Shanin, Late Marx and the Russian Road: Marx and The Peripheries of Capitalism, pp. 3-39.

Week V (Feb. 17 & 19)

The Capitalist World Economy

1. Marxism, the Universalization of Capitalism, and Modernization Theory
2. World Systems Theory and Its Critique

Readings: I. Wallerstein, The Capitalist World System
Part I (chs. 1-9) and chs. 17-18.

Steve J. Stern, "Feudalism, Capitalism and, the World System in the Perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean," (along with Wallerstein's reply and Stern's rejoinder), American Historical Review, Vol. , No. , pp. 829-897.

CASE STUDIES

Weeks VI-VII (Feb. 24 - March 4) CHINA

1. The Abortiveness of Capitalism in Traditional China
2. Bureaucratic Capitalism in Chinese History
3. "Imperialism and Capitalism in China" (Robert Marks, Professor of History, Whittier College) (Monday, March 2)
4. The Pre-1949 Chinese Economy

Readings: R.H. Tawney, Land and Labour in China

selections from Marie-Claire Bergere, The Golden Age of the Chinese Bourgeoisie and Parks Coble, The Shanghai Capitalists

Carl Riskin, China's Political Economy, ch.2

Spring Recess (March 7-15)

Week VIII (March 16-18) INDIA

1. "Capitalism in India since Independence" (Porus Olpadwala, Professor of Urban Planning and Director of International Studies, Cornell University) (Monday March 16)
2. The Costs of Going Without Social Revolution

Readings: Barrington Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, ch.6 on "India and the Price of Peaceful Change"

WeekIX (March 23 & 25) COMPARATIVE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

1. "Poverty and Inequality in China and India" (Ma . Selden, Professor of History and Sociology, Fernand Braudel Center, SUNY-Binghamton) (Monday, March 23)
2. The Successes and Failures of Anti-Capitalist Revolutions in Economically Backward Lands

Readings: Maurice Meisner, "Bourgeois and Socialist Aspects of the Chinese Communist Revolution," ch. 2 of The Deradicalization of Chinese Communism

Maurice Meisner, Mao's China and After, ch.22.

Weeks X-XI (March 30 -- April 8)

LATIN AMERICA

1. " Capitalist Development and the Emergence of the Labor Movement in San Paulo, 1964-85," (Dale Tomich, Professor of Sociology, Fernand Braudel Center, SUNY-Binghamton)
(Monday March 30)
2. Capitalism and Slavery in Latin America (Francisco Scarano, Professor of History, UW-Madison)
(Wednesday April 1)
3. Debt and Dependence (Robert Pollin, Professor of Economics, University of California, Riverside)
(Monday April 6)
4. The Social Consequences and Human Costs of Dependent Development

Readings: Peter Evans, Dependent Development: The Alliance of Multinational, State and Local Capital in Brazil

Weeks XII-XIII (April 13-22)

AFRICA

1. Colonialism and Capitalism in Africa (Bill Brown,
Prof. of History, UW-Madison) (Monday, April 13)

2. Capitalism and NeoColonialism in Zaire (Michelle
Wagner, UW History Dept.) (Wed. April 15)
(tentative)

3. Women Workers and Capitalist Industrialization in
Nigeria (Carolyn Keyes, UW History Dept.)
(Monday April 20) (tentative)

4. TBA

Readings: TBA

Week XIV (April 27-29) JAPANESE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

1. The Relevance of the Japanese Historical Experience for Understanding Third World Capitalisms: Japanese Capitalism as a Problem in Global Intellectual History (Andrew Barshay, Assoc. Prof. of History, University of California, Berkeley) (Monday April 27)

2. The Political Implications of Late-Developing Capitalism

Readings: Barrington Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, ch.

Week XV (May 4 & 6)

PROSPECTS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The Changing World Capitalist Order, the Decline of Socialism, and the Third World (Arif Dirlik, Professor of History, Duke University) (Monday May 4)

2. The Future of Capitalism in the Third World (Roundtable discussion)