

History 471

Contemporary Societies: The History of Capitalism  
in Asia, Africa, and Latin America

2:30 - 4:00 MW, Spring semester 1994  
Meisner

Today, in the era of "the new world order," it is an almost universal belief that a capitalist market economy will solve the economic (and other) problems that afflict the world. One of the aims of History 471 is to test that belief by examining chapters in the actual history of capitalism in the economically underdeveloped lands where most of the world's people live. Another aim of the course is to understand capitalism -- a global system, everyone agrees -- in global historical perspectives, rather than focusing on capitalism's Western European and North American "core."

The first part of the course (Weeks I-VI) will provide some of the essential historical and theoretical background for the study of the history of capitalism in the modern world. This will include a consideration of Karl Polanyi's classic study on the nature of the market (in The Great Transformation) and Eric Wolf's innovative Europe and the People Without History. Capitalism will also be considered from the perspectives of Marxism, Russian Populism, modernization theory, and world systems theory, among other theoretical approaches.

The bulk of the course (approximately the next eight weeks) will be a comparative inquiry into the history of capitalism in China, India, and selected countries in Africa and Latin America. No prior knowledge of the histories of these countries is presupposed. The course will conclude with an attempt to draw some preliminary generalizations about the place of the "non-Western" world in the changing world capitalist order and the future of capitalism in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

History 471 will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-4. As a general (but not rigid) rule, formal lectures will be delivered at the Monday meetings whereas the Wednesday sessions will emphasize discussions based on assigned readings, perhaps preceded by brief and informal mini-lectures. Ten course lectures will be offered by distinguished guest scholars. Guest lecturers from other institutions are funded and sponsored by the Harvey Goldberg Center for the Study of Contemporary History.

Formal requirements:

1. Timely completion of the required readings and regular participation in scheduled class sessions.
2. A final take-home examination based on lectures, readings

and discussions. For students who regularly attend and participate in class meetings, the final exam can be waived at the discretion of the instructor.

3. A short essay (due on or before March 9) consisting of your reflections on one or more of the theoretical approaches to capitalism considered in the first six weeks of the course.

4. A seminar-type paper (about 15 to 20 pages in length) due on May 11. The topic should be decided on in consultation with the instructor relatively early in the semester and no later than the last class meeting before spring break (March 23). The paper can take a variety of forms -- a broad interpretive or theoretical essay, a comparative inquiry into capitalist development in two or more countries or regions, or a research-type investigation of a specific problem or question relating to the history of capitalism in a single country or region. The final paper, whatever the topic, should reflect the knowledge you have gained from the course readings, lectures, and discussions. Please submit a draft (or at least an outline) of the paper by April 6 if you would find it helpful to have critical commentary and suggestions before you prepare the final version.

Enrollment is limited to the number of students who can be accommodated in a colloquium-type format.

The following books are available for purchase (all in paperback editions):

Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation (Beacon)

Eric Wolf, Europe and the People Without History (California)

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

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

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

John Iliffe, The Emergence of African Capitalism (Minnesota)

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Schedule of Lectures, Discussions, and Readings

HISTORICAL AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND (January 24 - March 2)

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| M Jan 24 | An Introduction to the Inquiry<br>Definitions of Capitalism  |
| W Jan 26 | Capitalism and "the end of history"  |
| M Jan 31 | Marxism and Capitalism: the celebration and<br>the critique  |
| W Feb 2  | Discussion of modes of production in the pre-<br>modern world, based on the reading of Eric<br>Wolf, <u>Europe and the People Without History</u> ,<br>Part One, "Connections," pp. 1-125. |
| M Feb 7  | Theories of Imperialism (Tom Lutze, UW History<br>Dept.)   |
| W Feb 9  | Discussion of "the expansion of Europe," based<br>on the reading of Wolf, <u>Europe and the People<br/>Without History</u> , Part Two, "In Search of<br>Wealth," pp. 129-261.              |
| M Feb 14 | Capitalism and the Commodification of Land and<br>Labor. Lecture followed by discussion of Karl<br>Polanyi, <u>The Great Transformation</u> , chs. 5, 6,<br>14, and 15.                    |

- W Feb 16 Discussion of Polanyi, The Great Transformation, chs. 3-10 (pp. 33-129).
- M Feb 21 World Systems Theory and its Critique
- W Feb 23 Discussion (cont.) of Polanyi, The Great Transformation, chs. 11-18 (pp. 130-219).
- M Feb 28 Marxism and Modernization Theory: A Critique of Economic Determinism
- W Mar. 2 Discussion of Wolf, Europe and the People Without History, Part Three, "Capitalism," pp. 265-391.

INDIA AND CHINA

- M Mar 7 Capitalism in India Since Independence: Results and Consequences (Prof. Porus Olpadwala, Cornell University)
- W Mar 9 The Costs of Going Without Revolution. Discussion of Ch. 6 ("Democracy in Asia: India and the Price of Peaceful Change") in Barrington Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy (pp. 314-410).
- M Mar 14 The Abortiveness of Capitalism in Traditional China
- W Mar 16 Imperialism and Capitalism in Modern China

Read: Barrington Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, Ch. 4 (pp. 162-227).

- M Mar 21            The Pre-1949 Chinese Economy
- W Mar 23            Bureaucratic Capitalism in Communist China
- Read: (prior to the March 21 lecture)  
                    R.H. Tawney, Land and Labour in China

March 26 -- April 4    Spring Recess

LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA (April 6 - May 2)

- W Apr 6            Capitalism and Slavery in Latin America (Prof. Francisco Scarano, UW History Dept.)  
                    (tentative)
- M Apr 11            Free Trade and NAFTA: A Latin American Perspective (Prof. Robert Pollin, Univ. of California, Riverside)
- W Apr 13            Capitalism in Brazil: A consideration of the theory of "the development of underdevelopment"
- M Apr 18            Capitalism and Populism in the Third World (Prof. Catherine Lynch, Case Western Reserve University)
- W Apr 20            Capitalism in Brazil" A discussion of the theory of "dependent development"
- Read: Peter Evans, Dependent Development: The Alliance of Multinational, State and Local Capital in Brazil, chs 1 and 6 (and as much more as you can manage)
- M Apr 25            Capitalism and Women in the Third World (Prof. Marilyn Young, New York University)

- W Apr 27            Capitalism in Pre-Colonial Africa (Prof. William Brown, UW History Dept.)
- M May 2             Imperialism and Capitalism in Africa (Prof. William Brown)

Read: John Iliffe, The Emergence of African Capitalism (87 pp).

SOME FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- W May 4            Capitalism and Democracy: Political Implications of Late Developing Capitalism (the case of Japan)
- Read: Moore, Social Origins, chs 5 and 8.
- M May 9            On the Transition from "Socialism" to "Capitalism" (Dr. Lin Chun, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) (tentative)
- W May 11           The Future of Capitalism in Asia, Africa, and Latin America