

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester II, 1991-92

History 573

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5125 Humanities
263-1822/1800

Undergraduate Seminar: Gender, Ethnicity and Colonialism

Between the mid-16th and mid-20th centuries, the creation and destruction of two world systems of colonialism and empire forever changed the ways in which human beings categorize each other according to racial, ethnic, or gender categories. In this seminar we will explore, through the use of case studies, some of the ways in which colonial power relations constructed, and were constructed by, ethnic/racial and gender hierarchies. We will also consider the impact of these new hierarchies and ideologies of race, gender, and ethnicity on processes of decolonization.

Requirements: 1) Two 8-10-page papers that analyze the primary sources assigned for weeks 6 and 14 of the class. The discussions in those weeks will serve as workshops in the analysis of the sources, with an eye toward helping students prepare their papers. 2) Active participation in the weekly discussion of assigned reading.

LIST OF ASSIGNED BOOKS

Please Note: Books are on exclusive order at A Room of One's Own Bookstore, 317 W. Johnson St. Xeroxed materials, listed with complete bibliographic information on the syllabus, will be available for copying on a week-to-week basis.

- 1) Berman, Bruce, Control and Crisis in Colonial Kenya: The Dialectic of Domination (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1990).
- 2) Furedi, Frank, Mau Mau War in Perspective (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1989).
- 3) Kanogo, Tabitha, Squatters and the Roots of Mau Mau (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1987).
- 4) Kenyatta, Jomo, Facing Mount Kenya (New York: Vintage Press, 1964).
- 5) Said, Edward W., Orientalism (New York: Vintage Press, 1979).
- 6) Sangari, Kumkum and Sudesh Vaid (eds.), Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1990).
- 7) Silverblatt, Irene, Moon, Sun, and Witches: Gender Ideologies and Class in Inca and Colonial Peru (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1987).
- 8) Stern, Steve J., Peru's Indian Peoples and the Challenge of Spanish

Conquest: Huamanga to 1640 (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1982).

- 9) White, Luise, The Comforts of Home: Prostitution in Colonial Nairobi (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1990).

SCHEDULE OF READING ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS

UNIT I: Theoretical Introduction

Week 2, 27 Jan.- Introduction

Week 3, 3 Feb.- Orientalism and the "Other"

Reading: Edward W. Said, Orientalism.

Week 4, 10 Feb.- Orientalism: Engagement and Critique

Reading: "Review Symposium," Journal of Asian Studies, XXXIX: 3 (May 1980), pp. 481-517.

Edward W. Said, "Representing the Colonized: Anthropology's Interlocutors," Critical Inquiry 15 (Winter 1989), pp. 205-225.

Uma Chakravarti, "Whatever Happened to the Vedic Dasi? Orientalism, Nationalism, and a Script for the Past," in Recasting Women, Eds. Kukum Sangari and Sudesh Vaid, pp. 27-87.

UNIT II: The Construction of Colonialism in the Andes

Week 5, 17 Feb.- The Early Encounters

Reading: Steve J. Stern, Peru's Indian Peoples and the Challenge of Spanish Conquest: Huamanga to 1640.

Week 6, 24 Feb.- Gender, Conquest and Colonialism

Reading: Irene Silverblatt, Moon, Sun and Witches: Gender Ideologies and Class in Inca and Colonial Peru.

Week 7, 2 March- Analysis of Primary Sources (I)

Reading: a) Father Pablo Joseph de Arriaga, The Extirpation of Idolatry in Peru, trans. and ed. L. Clark Keating (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1968), pp. 3-8, 9-74, 90-134.

b) Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala, Letter to a King: A Peruvian Chief's Account of Life Under the Incas and Under Spanish Rule, ed. and trans. Christopher Dilke (New York: E.P. Dutton, 1978), pp. 21-102; 171-242.

PLEASE NOTE: Half the class will choose (a), and half will choose (b). After a first hour of discussion in two smaller groups, we will come together for a general discussion.

*****PAPERS DUE ON FRIDAY, 20 MARCH, AT 5:00 P.M.*****
Spring Break, March 7-15

UNIT III: A Critique of Colonialism: Oppositional Historiographies in India

Week 8, 16 March- Building a New Perspective: Subaltern Studies

Reading: Ranajit Guha, "Preface"; and "Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India," Subaltern Studies: Writings on South Asian History and Society, Vol. I (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1982), pp. vii-viii; 1-8.

_____, "The Prose of Counter-Insurgency," Subaltern Studies: Writings on South Asian History and Society, Vol. II, (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1983), pp. 1-42.

David Arnold, "Gramsci and Peasant Subalternity in India," Journal of Peasant Studies, 11: 4 (July 1984), pp. 155-77.

Partha Chatterjee, "Gandhi and the Critique of Civil Society," Subaltern Studies Writings on South Asian History and Society, Vol. II, (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1983), pp. 153-94.

Sumanta Banerjee, "Marginalization of Women's Popular Culture in Nineteenth Century Bengal," Recasting Women, pp. 127-79.

Week 9, 23 March- Gender and the Subaltern: A Critique from Within

Reading: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography," Subaltern Studies: Writings on South Asian History and Society, Vol. IV, (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1985), pp. 330-63.

Kumkum Sangari and Sudesh Vaid, "Introduction," Recasting Women, pp. 1-26.

Lata Mani, "Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India," Recasting Women, pp. 88-126.

Prem Chowdhry, "Customs in a Peasant Economy: Women in Colonial Haryana," Recasting Women, pp. 302-336.

Ranajit Guha, "Chandra's Death," Subaltern Studies: Writings on South Asian History and Society, Vol. V (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1986), pp. 135-65.

Week 10, 30 March- Ongoing Debates

Reading: Partha Chatterjee, "The Nationalist Resolution of the Women's Question," Recasting Women, pp. 233-53.

Partha Chatterjee, "Caste and Subaltern Consciousness," Subaltern Studies : Writings on South Asian History and Society, Vol. VI (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1987), pp. 169-209.

Veena Das, "Subaltern as Perspective," Subaltern Studies : Writings on South Asian History and Society, Vol. VI (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1987), pp. 310-324.

Julie Stephens, "Feminist Fictions," Subaltern Studies: Writings on South Asian History and Society, Vol. VI (Delhi:

Oxford University Press, 1987), pp. 92-125.

Susie Tharu, "Response to Julie Stephens," Subaltern Studies: Writings on South Asian History and Society, Vol. VI (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1987), pp. 126-31.

UNIT IV: Colonialism: Process and Demise in Kenya

Week 11, 6 April- The Contours of a Colonial Order

Reading: Bruce Berman, Control and Crisis in Colonial Kenya: The Dialectic of Domination.

Week 12, 13 April- Gender and Colonialism

Reading: Luise White, The Comforts of Home: Prostitution in Colonial Nairobi.

Week 13, 20 April- Mau Mau and Anticolonialism

Reading: Tabitha Kanogo, Squatters and the Roots of Mau Mau.

Frank Furedi, The Mau Mau War in Perspective.

Week 14, 27 April- Gender and Mau Mau

Reading: Tabitha Kanogo, "Kikuyu Women and the Politics of Protest: Mau Mau," in Images of Women in Peace and War: Cross-Cultural Perspectives, eds. Sharon Macdonald, Pat Holden and Shirley Ardener (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1987), pp. 78-99.

Cora Ann Presley, "Kikuyu Women in the 'Mau Mau' Rebellion," in In Resistance: Studies in African, Caribbean, and Afro-American History, ed. Gary Y. Okihiro (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1986), pp. 53-70.

Luise White, "Separating the Men from the Boys: Constructions of Gender, Sexuality, and Terrorism in Central Kenya, 1939-1959," International Journal of African Historical Studies, 23: 1 (1990), pp. 1-25.

Week 15, 4 May- Analysis of Primary Sources (II).

Reading: Jomo Kenyatta, Facing Mount Kenya, pp. 130-318.

PAPERS DUE FRIDAY, MAY 15TH, AT 5:00 P.M.