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Lehigh University
International Relations

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IR 123: Evolution of International Order

Tuesdays, 1:10-4:00pm
Mohler 110

Catalog description: Evaluates competing explanations for the origins of the modern states system, the development of capitalism, the rise of the West, and the nature of international order in non-Western subsystems.

The study of politics is too often based on an abstract, stylized understanding of world history. This is due in part to scholars' focus on new developments and contemporary policy problems. However, it is also the result of the common assumption that the underlying logic of interaction between states is transhistorical—i.e., equally applicable to different systems in different time periods.

The purpose of this course is to examine how international order has evolved over time. Specifically, it asks how the internal organization of states and their economies affected, and were affected by, their external environment. For example, how did the transition from feudalism to capitalism affect the definition of states' "national interests"? Why is the modern international system dominated by nation-states rather than city-leagues or empires? What explains variation in different regions? And how did a few small countries on the western peninsula of Eurasia come to rule enormous swaths of territory throughout the world?

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Grades will be based on class participation (24%), eleven readings quizzes (44%), and eight critiques (32%).

Class participation will be evaluated impressionistically, over the course of the entire semester, according to a) contribution to class discussion that is b) germane, intelligent, and c) implicitly demonstrates thoughtful engagement with the assigned readings. Questions about the logic or evidence of the readings are always welcome.

- Unexcused absences from class will result in a grade penalty.
- Students who have difficulty speaking in class due to social anxiety, lack of fluency in English, or physical disability should meet with me in the first or second week of class for advice or accommodation.

Readings quizzes will be held at the beginning of each class and will typically consist of ten multiple-choice questions on the readings assigned for that session.

- Thirteen quizzes will be offered, one for each class beginning on the second week. The two lowest scores out of those twelve will be dropped.
- No make-up opportunities will be offered for students who miss class or arrive late without a valid excuse from the Office of the Dean of Students.

Critiques are due at the start of every class beginning with Week 6 (February 19). Each should be approximately 200 words in length (one or two paragraphs, not more than one page), and make an analytic criticism of one of the readings assigned for that class session.

- Focus on what you find to be the most important vulnerabilities in the author's argument. To this end, you might consider whether its assumptions are realistic, its concepts are appropriately defined, its logic is internally consistent, its alternatives can be rejected, or its empirics are accurate. You may also weigh the argument in light of other authors' ideas, current events, or other cases with which you are familiar.
- Be careful not to misrepresent author's claims. Always cite the page number of the argument that you are critiquing.
- One week may be skipped or dropped. Late papers will not be accepted without a valid excuse from the Office of the Dean of Students.

This course is subject to all university and departmental regulations. Students are strongly encouraged to look at the Department of International Relations' policy on academic integrity at <http://cas.lehigh.edu/casweb/Content/Resources/download.aspx?ID=48>. If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center C212 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted.

My office hours are on Mondays at 3-5pm, or by appointment, in Maginnes 202. I welcome any and all concerns, requests, suggestions, and questions that students may have about the class, academics, careers, or international relations more broadly.

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The assigned readings average approximately 130 pages per week. Individual articles may be subject to change. The following books are required for purchase:

Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States, A.D. 990-1992*, rev. ed. (Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 1992).

Hendrik Spruyt, *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors: An Analysis of Systems Change* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994).

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*, rev. ed. (London: Verso, 2006).

Benno Teschke, *The Myth of 1648: Class, Geopolitics, and the Making of Modern International Relations* (London: Verso, 2003).

Ellen Meiksins Wood, *Empire of Capital* (London: Verso, 2005).

Victoria Tin-bor Hui, *War and State Formation in Ancient China and Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).

James Mahoney, *Colonialism and Postcolonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

Robert Wright, *Nonzero: The Logic of Human Destiny* (New York: Pantheon, 2000).

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I. EUROPEAN STATES SYSTEM

January 15: Introduction

January 22: War (131)

- Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States*, 1-5, 16-33, 51-91, 96-160, 181-87.

January 29: Trade (130)

- Spruyt, *Sovereign State and Its Competitors*, 22-33, 61-180.

February 5: Ideology (137)

- Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1-46, 67-89.
- Philip S. Gorski, *The Disciplinary Revolution: Calvinism and the Rise of the State in Early Modern Europe* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003), 39-77.
- Mlada Bukovansky, "The Altered State and the State of Nature: The French Revolution and International Politics," *Review of International Studies* 25.2 (April 1999): 197-216.

February 12: Class (137)

- Ellen Meiksins Wood, *The Origin of Capitalism: A Longer View* (London: Verso, 2002), 73-109.
- Teschke, *Myth of 1648*, 167-268.

II. RISE OF THE WEST

February 19: Geography (104)

- Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers* (New York: Random House, 1987), 3-30.
- J. M. Blaut, *The Colonizer's Model of the World: Geographical Diffusionism and Eurocentric History* (New York: Guildford, 1993), 1-17, 152-213.

February 26: Culture (152)

- Toby E. Huff, *The Rise of Early Modern Science: Islam, China, and the West*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 89-159, 179-89.
- Victor D. Hanson, *Carnage and Culture: Landmark Battles in the Rise of Western Power* (New York: Anchor, 2002), 21-59, 135-69.

March 5: Capitalism (164)

- Douglass C. North and Robert P. Thomas, *The Rise of the Western World: A New Economic History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973), 120-56.
- Wood, *Empire of Capital*, 9-137.

March 12: Spring break

March 19: Decolonization (111)

- Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 47-65, 113-40.
- Christian Reus-Smit, "Struggles for Individual Rights and the Expansion of the International System," *International Organization* 65.2 (Spring 2011), 207-42.
- Erik Gartzke and Dominic Rohner, "The Political Economy of Imperialism, Decolonization, and Development," *British Journal of Political Science* 41.3 (July 2011): 525-56.

III. BEYOND EUROPE

March 26: East Asia (144)

- Hui, *War and State Formation*, 1-7, 24-34, 54-108, 149-223.

April 2: Middle East (116)

- Timur Kuran, "Institutional Causes of Economic Underdevelopment in the Middle East: A Historical Perspective," in *Institutional Change and Economic Behavior*, ed. János Kornai, László Mátyás, and Gérard Roland (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), 64-76.
- Abbas Kelidar, "States without Foundations: The Political Evolution of State and Society in the Arab East," *Journal of Contemporary History* 28.2 (April 1993): 315-39.
- Giacomo Luciani, "Allocation vs. Production States: A Theoretical Framework," in *The Arab State*, ed. Hazem Beblawi and Giacomo Luciani (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990), 65-84.
- Michael N. Barnett, "Sovereignty, Nationalism, and Regional Order in the Arab States System," *International Organization* 49.3 (Summer 1995): 479-510.
- Ian S. Lustick, "The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers: Political 'Backwardness' in Historical Perspective," *International Organization* 51.4 (Autumn 1997): 653-83.

April 9: Africa (123)

- Joseph E. Inikori, "The Struggle against the Transatlantic Slave Trade," in *Fighting the Slave Trade: West African Strategies*, ed. Sylviane A. Diouf (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2003), 170-198.
- Jeffrey Herbst, "War and the State in Africa," *International Security* 14.4 (Spring 1990): 117-39.
- Christopher Clapham, *Africa and the International System: The Politics of State Survival* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), 77-105.
- William Reno, "How Sovereignty Matters: International Markets and the Political Economy of Local Politics in Weak States," in *Intervention and Transnationalism in Africa: Global-Local Networks of Power*, ed. Thomas M. Callaghy, Ronald Kassimir, and Robert Latham (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 195-215.

April 16: Americas (129)

- Mahoney, *Colonialism and Postcolonial Development*, 1-35, 120-202, 229-52.

April 23: Prospects (135)

- Wright, *Nonzero*, 3-10, 54-64, 87-89, 124-239.