

Hist 031

Department of History
University of Pennsylvania

Spring 2016

The Ascent of Europe

TR 1:30 – 3:00

Location MUSB 101 (Lerner Building)

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This course investigates the role European civilization has played, over the last 500 years, as an incubator of the world we inhabit today. Moving thematically across the era of Europe's global preeminence, we will trace the emergence of fundamental ideas, technologies, and practices that allowed Europeans to extend their influence - along with their languages and institutions - around the world. Topics range from the rise of nation-states, the scientific revolution, and modern mass warfare, to new forms of selfhood, the idea of secularism, and the attempt to create a European supra-state. Twice weekly meetings combine lectures and discussion, focusing on key historical problems and topics. This course satisfies the Sector II requirement for History and Tradition.

Texts: All required texts are available at the **Penn Book Center:**

John McKay et al., *A History of Western Society Since 1300* (11th edition)

W. Beik, *Louis XIV and Absolutism*

J. H. Elliott, *The Old World and the New, 1492-1650*

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution, 1917-1932*

Ernst Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*

J. Horn & L. N. Rosenband, et al. (eds.), *Reconceptualizing the Industrial Revolution*

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*

L. P. Wandel, *The Reformation: Towards a New History*

Supplemental readings will be provided via the course's Canvas website [C].

Assignments: Class members will complete four written assignments during the course of the semester: a 3-page paper (due 11 Feb.), an in-class midterm (3 March), a 7-page paper (due 14 April) and a take-home final examination (due May 6). Attendance and participation in all lectures are **required**. Part of the participation grade will encompass a brief (ca. one paragraph) reflection on assigned documents.

Grading:

Participation in lectures/discussions:	20%
Three-page paper:	10%
In-class midterm exam:	25%
Seven-page paper:	20%
Take-home final exam:	25%

Integrity: Students are expected to abide by the University of Pennsylvania Code of Academic Integrity, which can be found here:

http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/ai_codeofacademicintegrity.html

Schedule:

14 Jan. Renaissance: Reconceiving the Self (I)

- Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch. 12: “European Society in the Age of the Renaissance, 1350-1550”
Jerome Bruner, “Autobiography and the Self,” in” *Acts of Meaning* [C]
John Martin, “Inventing Sincerity, Refashioning Prudence: The Discovery of the Individual in Renaissance Europe,” *American Historical Review* 102 (1997): 1309-1342 [C]
Petrarch, “Letter to Posterity” & “Secret” [C]

19 Jan. The Emergence of a New Capitalism?

- Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch. 11: “The Later Middle Ages, 1300-1450”;
R. C. Allen, “Economic Structure and Agricultural Productivity in Europe 1300-1800” [C]
Jan Luiten van Zanden, “Taking Measure of the Early Modern Economy: Historical National Accounts for Holland in 1510-14: [C]

21 Jan. Reconquista and Authority: Reconceiving the State

- Readings: S. Payne, *A History of Spain and Portugal*, Vol. I, c. 6 [C]
C. Bishko, “The Spanish and Portuguese Reconquest, 1095-1492” [C]
Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Ch. 16-18 [C]
Thucydides, “The Melian Debate” in: *The Peloponnesian War* [C]

26 Jan. Technology and Power

- Readings: George Grantham, “Contra Ricardo: On the Macroeconomics of Pre-industrial Economies” [Canvas];
Michael Adas, *Machines as the Measure of Men*, Ch. 2 [C]

28 Jan. The Ottoman Empire

- Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch.14: “European Exploration & Conquest, 1450-1650 (pp. 426-432)
Andrew C. Hess, “The Ottoman Conquest of Egypt (1512)” [C]
ibid., “The Evolution of the Ottoman Seaborne Empire” [C]
De Giano, “On the Cruelty of the Turks” [C]

2 Feb. Exploration and Encounters: New Worlds

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch.14: “European Exploration & Conquest, 1450-1650 (pp. 432-461)
J. H. Elliott, *The Old World and the New, 1492-1650*, Ch. 1-2;
Inga Clendinnen, “Survival of Mayan Culture” [C]
Ibid., Yucatan Inquisition [C]

4 Feb. Exploitation and Integration: New Empires

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch.17: “The Expansion of Europe, 1650-1800”;
J. H. Elliott, *The Old World and the New, 1492-1650*, Ch. 3-4;
Inga Clendinnen “Cortes, Signs and the Conquest of Mexico” [C]
Michel de Montaigne, “On Cannibals” [C]

***** FIRST ESSAY ASSIGNED *****

9 Feb. Reformation: A New Cosmos

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch.13: “Reformations and Religious Wars, 1500-1600”
L. P. Wandel, *The Reformation*, Introduction, Pt. I-II

11 Feb. Religious War and Political Collapse: Reorganizing the State

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch. 15: “Absolutism and Constitutionalism, 1578-1725”;
W. Beik, *Louis XIV and Absolutism*, Pt. I “Louis XIV and French Absolutism” & Pt. II, c. 2 “The King and the Aristocrats at Court
L. P. Wandel, *The Reformation*, Pt. III, Conclusion;
John Calvin, “Dedication” and Bk. IV, c. 20 from *Institutes of the Christian Religion* [C]

***** FIRST ESSAY DUE *****

16 Feb. New World and New Science

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch.16: “Toward a New Worldview, 1540-1789, pp. 502-15”
David Landes, “What Room for Accident in History?” [C]

18 Feb. Enlightenment and Cosmopolitanism

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch.16, pp. 516-39 & Ch. 18: “Life in the Era of Expansion”
Anthony Pagden, “Human Rights, Natural Rights, and Europe’s Imperial Legacy” [C]
Lois Dubin, “Port Jews in the Atlantic World” *Jewish History* [C]
Denis Diderot, *Rameau’s Nephew* [C]

23 Feb. Slavery, Consumption, and the Global Economy

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch.17: “The Expansion of Europe, 1650-1800”
J. Horn & L. N. Rosenband, *Reconceptualizing the Industrial Revolution*, pp 21-46, 47-64, 65-86

25 Feb. Economic Take-off: Industrial Revolutions

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch.18: “Life in the Era of Expansion, 1650-1800”;
Jeff Horn & Leonard N. Rosenband, *Reconceptualizing the Industrial Revolution*, pp. 1-21, 87-106, 151-68, 201-28, 309-28
H. Melville, “The Tartarus of Maids” [C]

1 Mar. Enlightenment in Action? Revolutionary France

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch.19: “Revolutions in Politics, 1775-1815”
Bailey Stone, *Reinterpreting the French Revolution: A Global-Historical Perspective* (excerpts; available on-line via Franklin)

3 Mar. * IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAMINATION *****

8-10 Mar. SPRING BREAK: NO CLASSES

15 Mar. 1848: Revolutionary Europe

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch. 21: “Ideologies and Upheavals,” and Ch. 22: “Life in the Emerging Urban Society”

Jonathan Sperber, *The European Revolutions, 1848-1851*
(excerpts; available on-line via Franklin)

17 Mar. Popular Sovereignty: Who are “The People”?

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch. 23: “The Age of Nationalism, 1850-1914”
Ernst Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (1-62, 110-122, 137-143)

22 Mar. The Road to Total War (guest lecture by Prof. Peter Holquist)

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch.24: “The West and the World, 1815-1914” & Ch. 25: “War and Revolution, 1914-1919”
Soviet Government, “Decree on Peace” [C]
Woodrow Wilson, “Fourteen Points” [C]
Lord Curzon, “Indian Reforms” [C]

24 Mar. Specter on the Left: Communism

Readings: Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution, 1917-1932*

29 Mar. Specter on the Right: Fascism

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch. 26: “The Age of Anxiety, 1880-1940” and Ch. 27: “Dictatorships and the Second World War” (pp. 896-919)
Zeev Sternhell, *The Birth of Fascist Ideology: From Cultural Rebellion to Political Revolution* (excerpt) [C]

31 Mar. Total War 2.0

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch. 27: “Dictatorships and the Second World War” (pp. 920-933)
Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe’s Twentieth Century* (excerpt)

*** SECOND ESSAY ASSIGNED ***

5 Apr. Europe as Cradle of Secularism

Readings: Charles Taylor, *A Secular Age* (excerpts) [C]
Talal Asad, *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity* [C]

7 Apr. End of Empire: Decolonization

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch. 28: "Cold War Conflict and Consensus, 1945-1965"
Raymond Betts, *Decolonization* (excerpts) [C]

12 Apr. The Civilian Society: Europe as Welfare State

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch. 29: Challenging the Postwar Order, 1960-1991" (pp. 970-991)
James Sheehan, *Where Have all the Soldiers Gone? The Transformation of Modern Europe* (excerpt) [C]

14 Apr. European Integration: Laboratory of Globalization?

Readings: Perry Anderson, *The New Old World* (excerpt)

***** SECOND ESSAY DUE *****

19 Apr. Human Rights: Europe's Moral Redemption?

Readings: Mark Mazower, "The Strange Triumph of Human Rights, 1933-1950," *Historical Journal* vol.47, no.2 (June 2004), pp. 379-398 [C]
Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History* (excerpts) [C]

21 Apr. 1989: Communism's Ends

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch. 29: Challenging the Postwar Order, 1960-1991" (pp. 992-1005)
Timothy Garton Ash: *The Magic Lantern* (excerpts) [C]

26 Apr. Concluding Thoughts

Readings: John McKay et al., *History of Western Society*, Ch. 30: "Life in an Age of Globalization, 1990 to the Present"

***** FINAL EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED *****

6 May: * FINAL EXAMINATION DUE BY NOON *****