

HISTORY 608  
CRN: 25931  
Tuesdays, 2-4:50p.m.  
375 McKenzie Hall (345 MCK backup)

Prof. Goodman  
353 McKenzie Hall  
Office Hours:  
Mon. 1:30-3:15pm

## **COLONIALISM AND CHINA**

This class is designed with two goals in mind: 1) navigating various theoretical approaches to colonialism and interrelated processes, and 2) examining the diverse features of colonialism in Chinese historical experience.

Colonialism, according to Jurgen Osterhammel, is “a phenomenon of colossal vagueness.” For the purposes of this class, we will interpret colonialism broadly, together with imperialism. If colonialism commonly refers to foreign settlement and direct governance, and imperialism generally conveys foreign administration of territories without significant settlement and by means of indirect forms of domination, these distinct usages are not always consistent, nor are the historical differences they signal always significant in practice. In the case of China, we are confronted with a gamut of colonial and semi-colonial formations, ranging from true colonies to treaty-ports, to “spheres of influence,” each term describing distinctive local enclaves that were superimposed upon the considerably larger—and largely sovereign—territorial body of China. These colonial and semi-colonial “contact-zones” were dominated by various and frequently multiple foreign powers, including Portugal, Britain, France, the U.S., Italy, Japan, and Germany. Each followed a different chronology and encompassed a constellation of distinctive political regimes and social and economic practices.

Theorists of colonialism have variously portrayed colonies as sites of exploitation, through which European powers extracted land, labor, and resources; as domains of fantasy, economic and sexual opportunity, where imagined Others facilitated the construction of the European bourgeois self; and as laboratories of modernity. In recent decades, historians have tended to shift from a primary focus on subjugated peoples that assumed that “what it meant to be European, Western and capitalist was one and the same,” to a more nuanced approach that questions the dichotomy of colonizer/colonized and examines instead interactions of engagement, intimacy, inequality, and opposition.

This class begins with recent comparative consideration of Qing empire and European colonialism. We will then consider the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century colonial encounters that shaped China’s modern interactions with Europe, the U.S. and Japan. We will consider the specificity of individual encounters—the way particular groups appropriated, resisted or shaped the categories, institutions, and networks created by colonizing practices—as well as the ways in which the colonizing projects of different states at different times may have influenced each other, giving rise to common colonial structures. We will approach these diversities and commonalities through a variety of thematic and analytic lenses.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

The emphasis of this class is on collective examination and discussion of readings. Your engaged and thoughtful participation in class discussion, accordingly, will account for 50% of your grade, including brief presentations and facilitation of discussion. Three written papers are also required.

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS**

Please note that you should take care to leave yourself sufficient time for critical digestion of the readings (all readings other than those marked “reference” are required). The number of assigned pages may be deceptive, particularly when the readings consist of a variety of articles. In every case you should plan to come to class ready to discuss each author’s theoretical approach and analysis. Additionally you should try to consider how each reading may complicate and be integrated into our ongoing discussions of colonialism and China.

### **Week I (Jan. 5): Thinking about Colonialism, Imperialism, Orientalism, and China**

Readings (for discussion at January 5 meeting):

D.K Fieldhouse, *Colonialism, 1870-1945*, pp. 1-24 (London, 1981). [Blackboard]

Jurgen Osterhammel, *Colonialism: A Theoretical Overview* (Princeton, Marcus Wiener Publishers, 1997), pp. 15-22. [Blackboard]

Karl Marx, Selections from *The Communist Manifesto* (1848), and “On Imperialism in India,” [Blackboard]

Sun Yat-sen, “San Min Chu I (The Three Principles of the People): Lecture 2 (1924) [Blackboard]

Arif Dirlik, “Chinese History and the Question of Orientalism,” *History and Theory* 35, 4 (Dec 1996): 96-118. [Blackboard]

#### *Reference:*

Aijaz Ahmad, “Marx on India: A Clarification,” *In Theory: Class, Nations, Literatures* (1992), pp. 221-243; Jurgen Osterhammel, *Colonialism: A Theoretical Overview*, (1997).

### **Week 2 (January 12): Qing Empire and Comparisons with European Colonialism**

Peter Purdue, “Comparing Empires: Manchu Colonialism,” *International History Review* 2 (1998) 255-61. [Blackboard]

Nicola Di Cosmo, “Qing Colonial Administration in Inner Asia,” *International History Review* 2 (1998): 287-309. [Blackboard]

Michael Adas, "Imperialism and Colonialism in Comparative Perspective," *International History Review*.2 (1998): 371-88. [Blackboard]

William Rowe, "Education and Empire in China's Southwest: Ch'en Hong-mou in Yunnan," in Benjamin Elman, et. al., eds., *Education in Late Imperial China*, pp. 417-48. [Blackboard]

Emma Teng, *Taiwan's Imagined Geography: Chinese Colonial Travel Writing and Pictures, 1683-1895* (Harvard East Asian Monographs, 2004), pp. 1-30, 173-193

Reference:

*China Marches West: The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia* pp. 1-11; 270-299; 409-461; 518-557 (2005)

Laura Hostetler, *Qing Colonial Enterprise: Ethnography and Cartography in Early Modern China* (University of Chicago Press, 2001).

### **Week 3 (January 19): The Changed Global Order of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Translingual and Human Circulations**

Lydia Liu, *Translingual Practice: Literature, National Culture, and Translated Modernity*, preface and pp. xv-76.

Lydia Liu, ed., *Tokens of Exchange*, "Legislating the Universal: The Circulation of International Law in the Nineteenth Century," and Alexis Dudden, "Japan's Engagement with International Terms," in Liu, pp. 127-185.

Philip Kuhn, Chapter 2, "Early Colonial Empires and Chinese Migrant Communities," and Chapter 3, "Imperialism and Mass Emigration," in *Chinese among Others: Emigration in Modern Times* (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008), pp. 55-104 and 107-150. [in bookstore]

Reference:

Rebecca Karl, *Staging the World: Chinese Nationalism at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*, pp. 83-176.

### **Week 4 (January 26): Semi-Colonial and Colonial Encounters**

Bryna Goodman, "Improvisations on a Semi-Colonial Theme, or, How to Read a Celebration of Transnational Urban Community," *Journal of Asian Studies*, November 2000, pp. 889-926. [Blackboard]

John M. Carroll, *Edge of Empires: Chinese Elites and British Colonials in Hong Kong* [at bookstore]

## **Week 5 (February 2): Precoloniality, Ethnography, and Colonial Formations**

George Steinmetz, *The Devil's Handwriting: Precoloniality and the German Colonial State in Qingdao, Samoa, and Southwest Africa*, (University of Chicago Press, 2007), preface, and pp. 1-239. [at bookstore]

**Week 6 (February 9)** Steinmetz, pp. 243-518

## **Week 7 (February 16) Material Circulations II: Opium**

Karl Marx, "Chinese Socialism," "Revolution in China and in Europe," "The Case of the Lorcha 'Arrow,'" "Opium and the Anglo-Chinese War." [Blackboard]

Timothy Brook and Bob Wakabayashi, *Opium Regimes: China, Britain, and Japan, 1839-1952*. 1-266. [At bookstore]

## **Week 8 (February 23) Colonialism and Regimes of Modernity**

Ruth Rogaski, *Hygienic Modernity: Meanings of Health and Disease in Treaty-Port China* (University of California Press, 2004).

Sabine Fruhstuck, *Colonizing Sex: Sexology and Social Control in Modern Japan*, Chapter 1: "Erecting a Modern Health Regime"

*Reference:*

Timothy Mitchell, *The Rule of Experts: Egypt, Technopolitics and Modernity*

## **Week 9 (March 2): Colonialism, Gender and Anti-Imperial Nationalism**

Franz Fanon, "Algeria Unveiled" [Blackboard]

Partha Chatterjee, "Women and the Nation," in *The Nation and its Fragments: Colonial and Post-Colonial Histories* (Princeton, 1993), pp. 135-57. [Blackboard]

Emma Teng, "An Island of Women," in *Taiwan's Imagined Geography* (Harvard East Asian Monographs, 2004), pp. 173-193

Dorothy Ko, "Gigantic Histories of the Nation in the Globe: The Rhetoric of Tianzu, 1880s-1910s," and "The Body Inside Out," in *Cinderella's Sisters: A Revisionist History of Footbinding* (University of California Press, 2005), pp. 1-68.

## **Week 10 (March 9): Nationalism, Colonialism, and Sovereignty: Manchukuo, Colony or Nation-state?**

Prasenjit Duara, *Sovereignty and Authenticity: Manchukuo and the East Asian Modern* (2004).