

Recent European History

History 346 / IR 346

Spring 2008

MWF, 10:10 am – 11:00 am, HSS 248

Prof. Benjamin Martin

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Introduction

In this survey of Europe's Twentieth Century we will explore key problems of one of the most tumultuous eras in human history. Amid two World Wars, multiple revolutions, and the explosive force of new political ideologies and new cultural and social trends, Europe went from being the world's master to a bombed-out wasteland. Using historical literature, fiction, and film, we will investigate the causes of World War I, the Russian Revolution, the tensions and creativity of the interwar period, the rise of Fascism, and the military and moral catastrophe of World War II and the Holocaust. We will also explore Europe's extraordinary history after World War II, during which the Cold War, decolonization, 1968 social revolts, the collapse of Communism, and the process of European integration have brought Europe to the improbable outcome of being among the wealthiest, most equitable, and most stable places on Earth—but no longer master of the world's affairs. What does the story of Europe's "fall and rise" have to tell us about the choices facing the world today?

Requirements

Key requirements for this course are your careful reading, active participation in class discussions based on weekly readings, and two writing assignments. The first five-page paper is due on Monday, March 3; the second is due on Monday, April 28. There will be a map quiz (on February 15), a midterm exam (on March 14), and a final exam (on Friday, May 23 at **8 am**). The assignments will be weighted roughly as follows:

Map Quiz: 5%

First Paper: 15%

Midterm Exam: 15%

Second Paper: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Participation: 15%

All assignments must be completed to pass the course. Papers are to be submitted in class at 10:10 exactly. Late papers will be penalized one full grade for every 24 hours late or fraction thereof (e.g., a B paper turned in late will receive a grade of C). Papers submitted more than three days (72 hours) after the deadline will receive a grade of F regardless of quality.

Regular attendance is necessary to succeed in this course; the readings alone will not be sufficient. Attendance will be taken at every session. More than two unexcused absences will seriously affect your grade; more than four will make it impossible for you to pass. Please notify me in advance (by email is best) if you are unable to attend class or unable to complete an assignment on time. Otherwise, I will not accept work turned in late. Absences and late work will be accepted in the case of illness, family emergency, or university-excused absences. You may be required to provide evidence for your reason of absence (such as a doctor's note).

Graduate Students: Readings marked as “optional” are required for you. Please meet with me after the first class session to discuss additional requirements.

Withdrawals, Incompletes

Withdrawal procedures are your responsibility. Please contact me as early as possible if problems arise. I will not initiate an Incomplete on your behalf; an emergency-only Incomplete must be requested, to be completed within one year.

Disability Services

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact me at the beginning of the semester. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (Student Services Building 110; (415) 338-2724 (voice/TTY); Fax: (415) 338-1041; e-mail: dprc@sfsu.edu) is available to facilitate whatever accommodations are necessary.

Scholastic Honesty

Your work for this course must conform to University policies concerning scholastic honesty. Scholastic dishonesty will result in an “F” for the assignment and/or for the course. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating on assignments or examinations, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one’s own anything done by another), submitting the same or substantially similar papers for more than one course without prior consent of all instructors concerned, sabotaging another’s work, and unauthorized collaboration (such as substantial rewriting of an essay by another) on assignments or exams. You are encouraged to work together in preparing for discussions and other group activities, reviewing for exams, and improving their writing, but should not contribute substantial content to other students’ papers. All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Chair and College Dean.

WARNING

This syllabus is for informational purposes only. It is not a final statement of the policies, assignments, or schedule for this course. *Only the online course materials can be considered authoritative, and these are subject to change at any time.* Students are responsible for checking the online course materials regularly (at least three times a week) for any changes.

Texts

The following books are for sale in the campus bookstore. All are required reading. They will also be available on reserve in the SFSU library.

Felix Gilbert and David Clay Large, *The End of the European Era, 1890 to the Present*, 5th ed. (Norton, 2002) ISBN 13: 978-0393976427

James Joll and Gordon Martel, *The Origins of the First World War* (3rd ed, Longman, 2006) ISBN 13: 978-0582423794

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (OUP, 2001) ISBN 13: 978-0192802040

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion and the Final Solution in Poland* (Harper Perennial, 1998) ISBN 13: 978-0060995065

Primo Levi, *Survival at Auschwitz* (Touchstone, 1996) ISBN 13: 978-0684826806

Georges Perec, *Things and A Man Asleep* (David R Godine, 2002) ISBN 13: 978-1567921571

Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, and Prague* (Vintage, 1993) ISBN 13: 978-0679740483

Other short readings will be made available to you through a coursepack or online.

The following books are also available for optional purchase:

Detlev Peukert, *The Weimar Republic: The Crisis of Classical Modernity* (Hill and Wang, 1993)
ISBN 13: 978-0809015566

Mary Fulbrook, *Europe since 1945* (OUP USA, 2001) ISBN 13: 978-0198731788

Lecture Schedule

1. Friday, Jan 25 Introduction: the European problem

Week 1: Introduction: Where is “Europe”?

2. Mon, Jan 28 Geography, culture, and the 19th century political legacy
Readings: Gilbert, 3-35

3. Wed, Jan 30 Climate Change Teach-in

4. Fri, Feb 1 1900: Cultural Change and Domestic Tensions
Readings: Gilbert, 35-65; Joll, Ch. 5 (“The Primacy of Domestic Politics,” 109-145); F. T. Marinetti, Futurist Manifesto

Week 2: World War I

5. Mon, Feb 4 Europe in the World before 1914: Imperialism
Readings: Gilbert, 65-94; Optional: Joll, Ch. 7 (“Imperial Rivalries”)

6. Wed, Feb 6 Towards War: The European Arms Race and Alliance System
Readings: Gilbert, 95-104; Joll, Introduction, Conclusion, Ch. 3 (“The Alliance System and the Old Diplomacy,” 42-69); optional: Ch. 6 (“The International Economy”)

7. Fri, Feb 8 WWI. From Outbreak to Stalemate
Readings: Gilbert, 105-129; Joll, Chapter 2 (“The July Crisis, 1914,” 10-42), Ch 4 (“Military, Armaments, and Strategy,” 69-109)

Week 3: World War I: the Search for a New International Order

8. Mon, Feb 11 WWI. The Experience
Readings: Gilbert, 130-143; Joll, Ch. 8 (“The Mood of 1914,” 199-233); Ernst Jünger, “The Great Battle,” from *Storm of Steel* (224-256)

9. Wed, Feb 13 WWI. Endings and Consequences
Readings: Gilbert, 143-169; Ernst Jünger, “Fire”; Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*

10. Fri, Feb 15 The League of Nations in Europe and in the World
Map quiz
Readings: Gilbert, 173-177; A. Fleury, “The League of Nations: Toward a New Appreciation of its History,” in M. F. Boemeke et al., eds., *The Treaty of Versailles: A Reassessment after 75 Years* (Cambridge, 1998), pp. 507-522

Week 4: Post-Imperial Orders, 1

11. Mon, Feb 18 Russian Revolution 1
Readings: Gilbert, 177-185; Fitzpatrick, first half
12. Wed, Feb 20 Russian Revolution, 2
Readings: Fitzpatrick, second half
13. Fri, Feb 22 Weimar Germany, 1
Readings: Gilbert, 169-173, 186-191; Peukert, 19-51

Week 5: Post-Imperial Orders, 2

14. Mon, Feb 25 Weimar Germany, 2
Readings: Gilbert, 224-234; Peukert, 79-85, and Conclusion (274-280)
15. Wed, Feb 27 East-Central and Southern Europe: Nationalities and Minorities
Readings: Review Gilbert, 154-167; TBA
16. Fri, Feb 29 Greeks, Turks, and Armenians
Readings: Naimark, *Fires of Hatred*, Introduction and Chapter 1 (1-56)

Week 6: The 1920s: Stability (?), Creativity, Revolt

17. Mon, March 3 Precarious Stability; the Age of Europeanism
First paper due
Readings: Gilbert, 191-205; R. White, "The Europeanism of Coudenhove-Kalergi," in *European Unity in Context: The Interwar Period*, edited by Peter M. R. Stirk, (London: Pinter, 1989): 23-40.
18. Wed, March 5 Cultural Revolt, Right and Left
Readings: Peukert, 95-106, 164-184; selections from Griffin, *Oxford Fascism Reader* (TBA); Optional: Zeev Sternhell, "Introduction: Fascism as an alternative political culture," in *The Birth of Fascist Ideology* (Princeton, 1995)
19. Fri, March 7 No Class

Week 7: Fascism and Nazism

20. Mon, March 10 Fascist Italy: a new model?
Readings: Gilbert, 205-215; Benito Mussolini, "Doctrine of Fascism"
21. Wed, March 12 Nazi Germany: Origins and Ideologies
Readings: Gilbert, 235-241, 248-263; Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (selections); Optional: Burliegh and Wippermann, *Racial State*, 23-43 ("Racial ideologies in Germany")
22. Fri, March 14 Midterm Exam

Week 8: The Clash of Systems

23. Mon, March 17 Nazism in Practice, 1933-1938
Readings: Gilbert, 263-275; Burliegh and Wippermann, *Racial State*, 44-74 ("Racism as State Policy")

In-class viewing: *Triumph of the Will*

24. Wed, March 19 The USSR under Stalin
Readings: Fitzpatrick, 93-172
25. Fri, March 21 The Spanish Civil War
Readings: Gilbert, 290-297; Web readings TBA; also
see: "Visual Front," collection of Spanish Civil War Posters, at:
<http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/speccoll/visfront/index.html>

Spring Break (March 24-31)

Week 10: World War II: Hitler's New Order in Europe

26. Wed, April 2 From German Expansionism to World War II
Readings: Gilbert, 297-304, 311-348
27. Fri, April 4 The Reality of Nazi Europe, 1939-1945
Readings: Mark Mazower, "Hitler's New Order," in *Dark Continent*, 138-181

Week 11: The Holocaust

28. Mon, April 7 The Holocaust: Ideology
Readings: Browning, *Ordinary Men* (first half)
29. Wed, April 9 The Holocaust: Perpetrators
Readings: Browning, *Ordinary Men* (second half)
30. Fri, April 11 The Holocaust: Victims
Readings: Levi, *Survival* (entire)

Week 12: Post-War Reconstruction in the Shadow of the Cold War

31. Mon, April 14 Occupied Germany and the Origins of the Cold War
Readings: Gilbert, 349-367; Churchill vs. Stalin (web reading:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/churchill-iron.html>;
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1946stalin.html>); Optional: Fulbrook, 1-13
32. Wed, April 16 A Divided Europe: Reconstruction in East and West
Readings: Gilbert, 372-407; Optional: Fulbrook, Ch. 2
33. Fri, April 18 Economic Recovery and Social Change, 1950-1968: Western
Europe
Readings: Judt, *Postwar*, 324-353; optional: Fulbrook 53-92 (Kaelble, Social History)

Week 13: Eastern European Consolidation; Western European Decolonization

34. Mon, April 21 Economic Recovery and Social Change, 1950-1968:
Eastern Europe
Readings: Gilbert, 434-443; Tony Judt, *Postwar*, 165-181: Optional: Fulbrook, 95-145
(Eichengreen, Economy)

35. Wed, April 23 Decolonization, 1: The Case of Algeria
Readings: Gilbert, 241-248, 367-371, 408-414; Alistair Horne, *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962* (1977), selections; FLN Declaration
(<http://www.historicaltextarchive.com/sections.php?op=viewarticle&artid=10>);

36. Fri, April 25 Decolonization, 2: The New Europeans
Readings: J. Proctor, ed., *Writing Black Britain 1948-1998: An Interdisciplinary Anthology* (Manchester University Press, 2000), selections; Optional: Fulbrook, Ch. 7 (240-274)

Week 14: Social Revolt and Cultural Change

37. Mon, April 28 1968: Revolt in Paris and Prague
Second Paper Due
Readings: Gilbert, 444-451; Georges Perec, *Things* (first half); Optional: Fulbrook, Ch. 5 (Culture), 146-186.

38. Wed, April 30 A New Politics: 1970-1988
Readings: Finish Perec, *Things*; Gilbert, 451-469, 482-493, 508-509

39. Fri, May 2 The End of Communism in Russia
Readings: Gilbert, 509-513, 517-532, 584-594; Optional: Katerine Verdery, "What was Socialism and Why Did it Fail?" in *What was Socialism and What Comes Next?* (Princeton, 1996): 19-38

Week 15: 1989: Europe's Peaceful Revolutions

40. Mon, May 5 The End of Communism in Europe, 1
Readings: T. Garton Ash, *Magic Lantern*, 11-77 (Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin); Optional: Gilbert, 532-558

41. Wed, May 7 The End of Communism in Europe, 2
Readings: T. Garton Ash, *Magic Lantern*, 78-156 (Prague, Conclusions); Gilbert, 558-561

42. Fri, May 9 European Integration since 1989
Readings: Gilbert, 513-516, 562-584, 606-618; Cris Shore, *Building Europe: The Cultural Politics of European Integration*, 1-12; Optional: Shore, Chapter 2 and Conclusion (40-65, 206-234)

Week 16: Europe Since 1990: Looking Back, Looking Forward

43. Mon, May 12 Back where we started? The Wars of Yugoslav Succession
Readings: Judt, *Postwar*, 665-685; Optional: Gilbert, 557-558, 594-605

44. Wed, May 14 Europe in the post-9/11 World
Readings: Kagan, "Of Paradise and Power," *Policy Review* (June-July 2002); Rifkin, *The European Dream* (selections)

Friday, May 23, **8 am**: Final Exam, in this classroom