

GEOGRAPHY 450

THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD

Purpose

The making of the modern world, the process of modernization, has been in its expression an intensely geographic one: one of overseas expansion, of the creation of new geographic divisions of labor, of dramatic transformations of natural environments, of urbanization, colonialism and what we have come to know more recently as globalization. In turn the conditions for these changes have been processes of capitalist development, state formation, the creation of the global polity and new forms of consciousness. It is the objective of this course to trace out these changes in world geography and to link them to these underlying processes, though with attention to the way in which those processes have in turn been altered by their encounter with new geographical contexts.

Textbooks to be Assigned

David Arnold (1996) *The Problem of Nature*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Alan Thomas et al. (1994) *Third World Atlas*. London: Taylor and Francis.

Anthony Giddens (1990) *The Consequences of Modernity*. Stanford, Ca: Stanford University Press

Assessment

There will be two quizzes, each worth 15% of the final grade; a midterm and a final will each contribute 35% to the final grade. Questions will be primarily short answer and short essay in character.

Course Outline

The course is divided into ten modules. On average each will take up approximately one week of course time. Some will be longer and some shorter, however.

1. Pre-Columbian Worlds and the Coming of Modernity

The geography of the pre-Columbian world and how it was overturned; the voyages of discovery and their conditions; the rise of cartography; creating the pre-conditions for the birth of capitalism.

Reading:

J M Blaut (1992) "The Theory of Cultural Racism." *Antipode* 24:4, 289-299.

J M Blaut (1987) "Diffusionism: A Uniformitarian Critique." *Annals, Association of American Geographers*, 77, 30-47.

A Gunder Frank (1998) Introduction to *ReOrient: Global Economy in the Asian Age*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press

http://csf.colorado.edu/authors/Frank.A_Gunder/reorient-intro.html

2. The Formation of the World Market

The centrality of markets to the formation of modernity and to modernization; markets and capitalism; Adam Smith vs. Karl Marx on the origins of capitalism; its relation to servile forms of labor; the changing geography of capitalist development; capitalist development as always global.

Reading:

E J Hobsbawm (1975) "The World Unified" in *The Age of Capital 1848-1875*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson.

K Marx and F Engels "Manifesto of the Communist Party". Pp. 469-83 in R C Tucker (1972) *The Marx-Engels Reader*. New York: Norton.

K Marx (1976) "The Secret of Primitive Accumulation". Chapter 26 in *Capital Volume 1*. Penguin Books: Harmondsworth, Middlesex.

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch26.htm>

A Smith (1776) Chapter 1, Book 1 (“Of the Division of Labor”), Chapter 2, Book I (“Of the Principle Which Gives Occasion to the Division of Labor”) and Chapter 1, Book III (Of the Natural Progress of Opulence”) of *The Wealth of Nations*.

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/smith-adam/works/wealth-of-nations/book01/ch01.htm>

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/smith-adam/works/wealth-of-nations/book01/ch02.htm>

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/smith-adam/works/wealth-of-nations/book03/ch01.htm>

R Barff (1995) “Multinational Corporations and the New International Division of Labor”. Chapter 4 in R J Johnston, P J Taylor and M J Watts (eds.), *Geographies of Global Change*. Oxford: Blackwell.

S Whatmore (1995) “From Farming to Agribusiness: The Global Agro-Food System”. Chapter 3 in R J Johnston, P J Taylor and M J Watts (eds.), *Geographies of Global Change*. Oxford: Blackwell.

K R Cox (2002) “The Politics of Globalization and its Illusions.” Chapter Ten of *Political Geography: Territory, State and Society*. Oxford: Blackwell.

D Massey (1979) “In What Sense a Regional Problem?” *Regional Studies* 13, 233-243.

3. Creating the Modern Polity

The distinctive form of the modern state and its relation to nationalism; the modern state as molecular unit of the global polity; the formation of the modern polity; the geographic unevenness of the modern polity.

Reading

K R Cox (2002) “Political Geographies of Imagined Communities: The Nation”. Chapter 6 of *Political Geography: Territory, State and Society*. Oxford: Blackwell.

S M Roberts (1995) "Global Regulation and Trans-state Organization". Chapter 8 in R J Johnston, P J Taylor and M J Watts (eds.), *Geographies of Global Change*. Oxford: Blackwell.

C Tilly (1992) "States and their Citizens." Chapter Four of *Coercion, Capital and European States AD 990-1992*. Oxford: Blackwell.

K. Polanyi (1941) "Societies and Economic Systems." Chapter 4 in Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*. New York: Rinehart.(online)

<http://members.tripod.com/~taodesigns/polyani/polyani44IV.html>

F Block (2001) "Introduction" to new edition of K Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*. Boston: Beacon Press. (online)

http://sociology.berkeley.edu/faculty/evans/polanyi_intro.pdf

4. Diasporas

Diasporas and their geographies, international and intranational; diasporas and their politics: race and nation formation, class and gender; the urban as crucible of diaspora politics; the Chinese and the Irish diasporas; 'the empire strikes back'.

Reading

K R Cox (2002) "A World of Difference". Pp. 207-230 of *Political Geography: Territory, State and Society*. Oxford: Blackwell.

R King (1995) "Migrations, Globalization and Place." Chapter 1 in D Massey and P Jess (eds.), *A Place in the World?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

R Meegan (1995) "Local Worlds." Chapter 2 in J Allen and D Massey (eds.), *Geographical Worlds*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The Indian diaspora: <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/southasia/Diaspora/diaspora.html>

The Chinese diaspora:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/pages/easc/curriculum/china/1995/geography/lesson2/l2.htm>

[for my use only]

http://www.huayinet.org/culture/culture_chinese_diaspora.htm

[my use only]

On the British diaspora: <http://www.oup.co.uk/isbn/0-19-820563-5>

5. Imperialism, Colonialism and Neo-Colonialism

The changing form of empire and their material conditions: from loot and slaves to free labor colonies; the changing form of colonialism; settler societies and the politics of decolonization; neo-colonialism and dependency theory.

Reading

G Stedman Jones (1973) "The History of US Imperialism". Chapter 10 in R Blackburn (ed), *Ideology in Social Science*. London: Fontana.

K R Cox (2002) "The Politics of Colonialism and Dependency." Pp.296-318 in *Political Geography: Territory, State and Society*. Oxford: Blackwell.

R First (1983) "Colonialism and the Formation of African States". Section 2.6 in D Held et al (eds.), *States and Societies*. New York: New York University Press.

E Mandel (1983) "The Nation State and Imperialism". Section 6.2 in D Held et al (eds.), *States and Societies*. New York: New York University Press.

K Good (1976) "Settler Colonialism: Economic Development and Class Formation." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 14:4, 597-620.

Overview on imperialism, nationalism and colonialism:

http://globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange3/current/lectures/gn_colonial/colonial.html

On settler societies [FOR MY REF]

http://www.gu.edu.au/centre/cmp/6_1_Introduction.html

[FOR MY REF AGAIN]:

<http://www.palgrave.com/bilton/students/Casestudies/Ethnicity.pdf>

On nationalism and colonialism:

<http://216.239.39.100/search?q=cache:H9XsPPkmM-MC:www.politicsandgovernment.ilstu.edu/S2Sjournal/3%2520-%2520nationalism,%2520independence,%2520and%2520colonialism%2520-%2520kite.doc+COLONIALISM+NATIONALISM&hl=en&ie=UTF-8>

6. *Transforming Nature*

Pre-modern human impacts on the environment; the global spread of species and cultivars and the disruption of local ecological systems; the geographical elongation of food chains and the challenge to sustainability; the globalization of disease; redefining nature as a consumption good: zoos, suburbanization and tourism.

Reading

- A Cliff and P Haggett (1995) "Disease Implications of Global Change." Chapter 13 in R J Johnston, P J Taylor and M J Watts (eds.) *Geographies of Global Change*. Blackwell: Oxford.
- W B Meyer and B L Turner (1995) "The Earth Transformed: Trends, Trajectories, and Patterns." Chapter 18 in R J Johnston, P J Taylor and M J Watts (eds.) *Geographies of Global Change*. Blackwell: Oxford.
- A Findlay (1995) "Population Crises: The Malthusian Specter." Chapter 10 in R J Johnston, P J Taylor and M J Watts (eds.) *Geographies of Global Change*. Blackwell: Oxford.
- P Claval (1998) "Ecological Mechanisms and Regional Organization." Pp. 85-94 in *An Introduction to Regional Geography*. Blackwell: Oxford.
- D Harvey (1978) "The Relation to Nature." Pp. 26-29 in K R Cox (ed.) *Urbanization and Conflict in Market Societies*. London: Methuen.
- A T Grove and O Rackham (2000) *The Nature of Mediterranean Europe: An Ecological History*. New Haven: Yale University Press (extracts only).

<http://www.uvm.edu/~jmoore/envhst/bwelch/Welch3.html>

7. Consciousness and the Rise of Abstract Thought

Modernity and the rise of abstract thought; empty space and empty time; the biologization of social problems – social darwinism, malthusianism, space as ecological support; abstract thought vs. indigenous, more local, knowledges and the hubris of science.

Reading

D Harvey (1990) “Between Space and Time: Reflections on the Geographical Imagination.”
Annals, Association of American Geographers 80, 418-34.

A Giddens (1990) *The Consequences of Modernity*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press
(Chapter 1 only).

A Giddens (1981) Extract from “Time, Labour and the City”. Pp.128-135 of Chapter 6 of
Contemporary Critique of Historical Materialism. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University
of California Press.

J C Scott (1998) *Seeing Like a State*. New Haven: Yale University Press. [Chapters 1, 3 and 9
only]

8. The Globalization of Culture?

The globalization of culture as a chronic feature of modernity; its material roots; culture wars, local and global; the dialectic of homogenization and differentiation; the illusions of cultural imperialism.

D Mitchell (2000) “Culture Wars” and “From Values to Value and Back Again: The Political Economy of Culture”: pp.3-12 and Chapter 3 from *Cultural Geography*. Blackwell: Oxford.

K Robins (1995) “The New Spaces of Global Media”. Chapter 15 in R J Johnston, P J Taylor and M J Watts (eds.) *Geographies of Global Change*. Blackwell: Oxford.

S Mintz (1979/80) “Time, Sugar and Sweetness” *Marxist Perspectives* 2:4, 56-73.

K R Cox (2002) “And the Cultural”. Pp. 351-59 in *Political Geography: Territory, State and Society*. Blackwell: Oxford.

9. Geographies of Uneven Development

Changing patterns of global hegemony; the construction of the 'third world' and the 'West'; the politics of uneven development and the fallacies of developmentalism; alternative paths to development: the Asian Tigers and the Soviet Union.

Reading

- D Harvey (1985a). "The Geopolitics of Capitalism." Chapter 7 in D. Gregory and J. Urry (eds.), *Social Relations and Spatial Structures*. London, Macmillan.
- P J Taylor (1989) "The Error of Developmentalism in Human Geography." Chapter 5.1 in D Gregory and R Walford (eds.) *Horizons in Human Geography*. Barnes and Noble: Totowa NJ.
- P Knox and J Agnew (1998) "Industrialization: The Path to Progress?". Chapter 10 in their *The Geography of the World Economy*. London: Edward Arnold.
- T Nairn (1983) "Nationalism and the Uneven Geography of Development". Section 2.5 in D Held et al (eds.), *States and Societies*. New York: New York University Press.
- J Allen and C Hamnett (1995) "Uneven Worlds." Chapter 6 in Allen and Hamnett (eds.) *A Shrinking World?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

10. Modernization in Question (Whose World Is It Anyway?)

The idea of progress and its critique; post-colonial and feminist theory; post-modernism and the critique of grand narratives; the dialectic of the local and global.

Reading

- E Said (1996) Extract from *Orientalism*. Pp. 414-421 in J Agnew, D Livingston and A Rogers (eds.) *Human Geography: An Anthology*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- S Hall (1995) "New Cultures for Old." Chapter 5 in D Massey and P Jess (eds.), *A Place in the World?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- D Massey and P Jess (1995) "Places and Cultures in an Uneven World." Chapter 6 in Massey and Jess (eds.), *A Place in the World?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

B Beeley (1995) "Global Options: Islamic Alternatives". Chapter 4 in J Anderson, C Brook and A Cochrane (eds.), *A Global World?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.