

History 198 Explorations in Global History

The Rise of Modern Asia



Poster for the 1930 Sea and Air Exhibition in Tokyo

This class deals with the transformation of Asia over the last century and a half. In that time India has gone from a British colony to the world's largest democracy, China has gone through at least three revolutions and Japan has become a world power twice. Part of the story of Asia's transformation is anti-imperialism: ending the political and economic domination of outsiders. Part of it is also the economic and social transformation of Asian societies. We will be covering the development of Asia from about 1850 to the present, focusing on the largest of the Asian societies (India, China, and Japan) but also looking at their neighbors and at the global context of Asian modernization.

Books

There is no textbook for this class. Our books are Ghosh, Amitav. *The Glass Palace: A Novel*. Random House, 2002., a historical novel tracing a trans-national Indian family to the end of World War Two and Guha, Ramachandra. ed. *Makers of Modern Asia*. Belknap Press, 2014. a collection of short biographies of Asian political leaders.

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The syllabus and pretty much everything you will need for the class are on D2L

Week 1 8/27 Introduction to the course and to Asia. Nature of states in Asia and outside. Identity, religion, and economics and all the things that can define people before the nation.

Labor Day

Week 2 9/5 Companies and Empires Battle of Plassey, Treaty of Nanjing. We will examine the early history of European imperialism in Asia and what it means to be Early Modern.

-Read Mandalay from *Glass Palace*

Week 3 9/10 Sepoy and Taiping rebellions. Asia strikes back. Around 1850 there were a series of violent episodes across Asia that radically changed Asia's relationship with the outside world and how Asian societies worked.

-Read Ratnagiri from *Glass Palace*

Week 4 9/17 The Age of Reform. Modernizing Asia as seen from above. Meiji and building a new Japan. King Mongkut the reformer. Collaboration and what it means. We will mostly focus on elite and government attempts to deal with the West

Week 5 9/24 Migration and coolies and Guano. Modernizing Asia as seen from below. We will look at the flow of Asian labor around the world and how ordinary people responded to political and economic change.

-Read The Money Tree from *Glass Palace*

First exam

Week 6 10/1 Rammohan Roy and Liang Qichao. Asians understand the world and Asia. We will look at how Asian intellectuals (i.e. people who wrote books) understood Asia's transformation.

-Read Wedding from *Glass Palace*

Week 7 10/8 Cotton, Opium and Tea. The economics of imperialism. Zaibatsu and industrialization in Japan, Raw materials and the transformation of Asian economies.

-Read Morningside from *Glass Palace*

Week 8 10/15 Gandhi and citizenship and religion. What does it mean to be part of a nation? Are all Hindus Indian? We will look at how Asians created imagined communities with and without the nation.

-Read Gandhi from *Makers of Modern Asia*

Optional biography Matsura Isami

Week 9 10/22 Ho and Chiang and various forms of party-led revolution. Leninist parties tried to transform Asian societies in the pre-war period, and we will look at how they tried to do this and how well it worked.

--Read Chiang Kai-shek and Ho Chi Minh from *Makers of Modern Asia*

Optional biography- Li Chenggan

Second Exam

Week 10 10/29 The China Incident, the Pacific War, World War Two and the end of colonial Asia. The 1937-1952 period saw a lot of violence and chaos. We will try to understand this and how it changed Asia.

-Read The Front from *Glass Palace*
Optional biography-Yoshida Nobuko

Week 11 11/5 Export Led growth and the License Raj: theories of economic development. We will look at different plans for economic development, their successes and failures and their impact on states and ordinary people.

-Read Jawaharlal Nehru from *Makers of Modern Asia*
-Read The Glass Palace from *Glass Palace*

Week 12 11/12 Mao, Sukarno Party-states and blood Postwar Asia saw a number of bloody attempts to create a pure society, and we will look at how Asian leaders used violence to create the populations they wanted and what came of these efforts

-Read Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Sukarno, from *Makers of Modern Asia*

Thanksgiving

Week 13 11/26 Democracy, what is it and who needs it? What is the right model of political development for Asian societies to be following? Is Democracy the wave of the future, or just a passing fad?

-Read Deng Xiaoping and Indira Gandhi from *Makers of Modern Asia*
Optional biography Zhao Ruiqin

Week 14 12/3 Asia Modern Transnational Asia from UBC to Amitav Ghosh to Padma Lakshmi to Jackie Chan to Chou Tzu-yu.

-Read Lee Kuan Yew and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto from *Makers of Modern Asia*

Grades

-Weekly quizzes and other quizzes 30%

Each weekend we will have an on-line multiple choice quiz, usually opening Friday after class and closing Sunday night. This will cover all the things we talked about last week and the things from the readings for the upcoming week, so be sure you have done the readings before you take the quiz. These quizzes and all the other small assignments we will do are part of your quiz grade.

-Two mid-term exams (multiple choice) 15% each

-Final exam (multiple choice) 20% This will mostly cover the last part of the class, but may have some things from the earlier parts of the class as well.

-*Glass Palace* paper 10% You will each write a short paper on one of the sections of this book. Guidelines are on D2L.

-Two short papers on *Makers of Modern Asia* 5% each. You will each write a couple of short papers on the biographies in the Guha book. Although you don't have to use them, I have also put a few other short biographies of non-political figures on the syllabus. You could use these for your short papers. Guidelines are on D2L.

Grading Scale

90%+ =A

80-89.999% =B

70-79.999% =C

60-69.999% =D

60% or less =F

Attendance policy-- You are expected to come to class every day, but the point is not just to come to class, but to come having done your reading and being ready to talk about it. That said there is no penalty for not coming to class besides the fact that you will not learn anything. If you are not in class it is your responsibility to get the notes and find out what we did and be ready for any upcoming assignments.

-All work is due in class on the date announced. Late work may be turned in without penalty with a medical or other excuse. Unexcused late work will be marked down one grade a day (90 becomes 85, etc.).

Academic dishonesty-- All students are required to abide by the University's policies on Academic Integrity, as found in the catalog.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report incidents of sexual violence shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator. The only exceptions to the faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project.

Faculty members are obligated to report sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred to the Department of Human Services (1-800-932-0313) and University Police (724-357-2141).

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at: <http://www.iup.edu/social-equity/policies/title-ix/>

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