



HIST 1361 - Spring 2014

Empire and Nation: Violence and Cosmopolitanism in the Eastern Mediterranean, 1856-1922

With Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Syria and Egypt in crisis, the Eastern Mediterranean has once again caught the world's attention. This course offers a historical perspective to current developments by examining the deep social, political, and cultural processes that transformed the Eastern Mediterranean from the mid-19th century Ottoman Reforms to the 1922 Greco-Turkish exchange of populations and the Egyptian Revolution of 1919. It explores the interconnected processes of social restructuring, cultural interaction, ethnic strife and sectarian violence and questions the common image of the Eastern Mediterranean as at once a model of cosmopolitan conviviality and an archetype of unbridled violence. Topics include: the modernization of the Ottoman Empire, colonial power in Egypt, the rise of Balkan and Near Eastern nationalisms, communal life and urban coexistence in the port-cities, the multiple presences of the West and its images of the Orient, the Balkan Wars and population movements, and, finally, present-day nostalgic reconstructions of the fin-de-siècle Mediterranean in popular and elite culture.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00-10:50 am, Sciences Library 518

Professor Paris Papamichos Chronakis

Sharpe House 102B (130 Angell Street)

Fridays 11:00-12:30 and by appointment

Goals

1. Investigate the multiple aspects of modernity in a radically changing environment.
2. Familiarize students with the discourses of the period as well as key theoretical concepts of historians.
3. Develop skills of comparative analysis and interpretation of the multicultural universe of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Assignments

The requirements of the course are active and thoughtful participation in class discussions and successful, punctual completion of written assignments. Informed and productive questions, comments, and criticisms concerning the week's readings are expected on the Friday discussion sessions. Posted questions on the readings and quizzes will be part of the sections. There will be two longer papers [one historiographic essay (7 pp.) and one research paper (13-15 pp.)].

Grading

Historiographic essay: 35%

The historiographic essay should be 7 pp. in length and should be a discussion of 3-4 works (articles, essays, monographs) dealing with a particular topic. Students are invited to ask for guidance in searching for works that match their interests.

Research paper: 35%

The research paper should be 12-15 pp. in length and argumentative in nature. Students should speak with me well in advance if you have a particular topic you would like to pursue. Papers should draw from, cite, and engage with the arguments of a variety of sources, including course readings or other sources

Participation (including questions and quizzes): 30%

Due Dates

28 February (11 pm): Topic proposal for historiographic essay (1 p. plus bibliography) due by email.

21 March (11 pm): Historiographic essay (6-7 pp.) due by email.

9 April (11 pm): Topic proposal for research paper (1 page plus bibliography) due by email.

May 10 (11 pm): Final research paper (13-15 pp.) due by email.

Assessment

Student performance will be assessed according to three criteria:

1. Quality of written assignments and engagement with the key concepts and events analyzed in the course;
2. Active participation in the sections demonstrating critical engagement with course material;
3. Attendance and punctuality.

Class Blog

Every week students will be expected to post three thoughtful and analytical questions **by 10pm on Thursday**. Ideal questions will deal with all readings and engage with the authors' arguments.

Document report

Occasionally, I will provide students with a small set of archival documents and/or images. Please summarize and analyze the story these documents tell in the context of other course readings (maximum 350 words).

* Attendance is mandatory. It is not only essential for your own edification but also for securing a good final grade. Absence does NOT constitute a reason for not handing in assignments, except in the case of severe illness, religious holidays or serious emergencies. If, for no serious reason, work is handed in late, this will result in a lower grade. The same applies to frequent late arrivals. If there are any exceptional circumstances that might affect your performance or attendance, please let me know at once. (This includes religious holidays). **Students with multiple unexcused absences or excessive lateness may not pass the course.**

Laptop use must be reduced to the minimum and should be confined to note taking. Failure to comply with this basic rule may result in a lower class participation grade.

Introductory texts

These texts provide important background information

Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922* (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

James L. Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A history* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

Thomas Gallant, *Modern Greece* (London, 2001)

WEEK 1

22 January. Introduction to the course

24 January. Beginnings: the disintegration of an Ottoman Mediterranean

- Sukru Hanioglu, *A brief History of the late Ottoman Empire* (Princeton, 2008), Chapter 1 ('The Ottoman Empire at the turn of the nineteenth century'), pp. 6-41.

WEEK 2

27 January. Mediterranean states I: The Ottoman Empire between reform and absolutism

- (Background reading) A.L. MacFie, *The End of the Ottoman Empire* (London, 1998)
- The Ottoman Empire: A World of Difference (documentary)
- Sir Edwin Pears, *Life of Abdul Hamid* (New York, 1917), Chapter VII ('Abdul Hamid's daily life'), pp. 107-115.

29 January. Mediterranean states II: Reform in Egypt. Catching up with modernity

- (Background reading) Afaf Lutfi al-Sayyid-Marsot, *A history of Egypt* (Cambridge 2007), Chapter 4 ('The beginning of the state system, 1805-1922), pp. 65-97.
- Michael, J. Reimer, 'Colonial Bridgehead: social and spatial change in Alexandria, 1850-1882', *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 20/4 (1988), pp. 531-553.
- Timothy Mitchell, *Colonizing Egypt* (Berkeley 1991), Chapter 3 ('An appearance of order'), pp. 63-95.

31 January. Discussion

WEEK 3

3 February. Mediterranean states III: The British in the Ionian, Cyprus and Egypt

- Gallant, Thomas W. 2002. *Experiencing Dominion: Culture, Identity and Power in the British Mediterranean* (Notre Dame, 2002), Chapter 3 ('Creating "Western Civilization" on a Greek Island'), pp. 57-74.
- Lisa Pollard, *Nurturing the nation. The family politics of modernizing, colonizing and liberating Egypt*, Chapter 3 ('Domesticating Egypt: the gendered politics of the British Occupation'), pp. 73-99.

5 February. Mediterranean states IV: Greece between Europe and the Ottoman Empire

- Background reading: Thomas Gallant, *Modern Greece* (London, 2001), Chapter 3 ('Building the Modern State 1833-1897'), Chapter 4 ('Constructing the modern Nation: irredentism, nationalism and identity in 19th century Greece').
- Edmond About, *Greece and the Greeks of the present day* (London, 1858) (excerpts)
- Kostas Kostis, 'The formation of the state in Greece, 1830-1914', in Faruk Birtel (ed.), *Citizenship and the nation-state in Greece and Turkey* (London, 2005), pp. 18-36.

7 February. Discussion

WEEK 4

10 February. The Mediterranean economies. Evolution without development?

- Background reading: Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922* (Cambridge, 2005), Chapter 7 ('The Ottoman economy'), pp. 126-141.
- Resat Kasaba, *The Ottoman Empire and the World Economy. The Nineteenth Century* (New York, 1988), Chapter 4 ('Growth in the Periphery: western Anatolia, 1840-1876'), pp. 87-106; Chapter 5 ('The Great Depression and beyond'), pp. 107-112; Conclusion, pp. 113-116.
- Costas Lapavistas, 'Social and Economic Underpinnings of Industrial Development: Evidence from Ottoman Macedonia', *Journal of European Economic History*, 35/3 (2006), pp. 661-710.

12 February. Religions and Politics

- Philip Carabott, 'Politics, Orthodoxy and the language question in Greece. The Gospel riots of November 1901', *Journal of Mediterranean Studies* 3/1 (1993), pp. 117-138.
- Benjamin Fortna, "Islamic Morality in Late Ottoman 'Secular' Schools," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 32/3 (2000), pp. 369-393.

14 February. Discussion

WEEK 5

17 February. No class

19 February. Orientalisms East and West

Topic proposal for historiographic paper (1 p. plus bibliography) due in class

- [Edward Said on Orientalism \(documentary\)](#)
- Pierre Loti, *Aziyade* (Paris, 1879)
- Ussama Makdisi, 'Ottoman Orientalism', *The American Historical Review* 107/3 (2002), pp. 768-796.

21 February. Discussion

WEEK 6

24 February. Modernizing the Oriental city

- Eleni Bastea, *The creation of modern Athens* (Cambridge, 2000), Chapter 4 ('Planning new Athens'), pp. 69-104.
- Jens Hanssen, *Fin de Siecle Beirut* (Oxford, 2005), Introduction & Chapter 7 ('Public morality and social marginality'), pp. 1-23 & 193-212.

26 February. Communities and in-betweens: Greeks and Jews, Levantines and Dönme

- Leon Sciaky, *Farewell to Salonica* (New York, 1948) (excerpts)
- Sarah Abrevaya Stein, 'The permeable boundaries of Ottoman Jewry', in Joel S. Migdal (ed.), *Boundaries and belonging* (Cambridge, 2004), pp. 49-70.

28 February. Discussion

Topic proposal for historiographic essay (1 p. plus bibliography) due by email.

WEEK 7

3 March. The poet and the cosmopolitan city. The Alexandria of Cavafy

- C.P. Cavafy, *The collected Poems* (Oxford, 2007) (exerpts)
- Robert Mabro, 'Alexandria 1860-1960: the cosmopolitan identity', in Anthony Hirst and Michael Silk (eds.), *Alexandria, Real and Imagined* (London), pp. 247-262.
- David Ricks, 'Cavafy's Alexandrianism', in Anthony Hirst and Michael Silk (eds.), *Alexandria, Real and Imagined* (London), pp. 337-351.

5 March. A connecting sea: peoples and ideas on the move

- Vangelis Kechriotis, 'Educating the nation: Migration and acculturation on the two shores of the Aegean at the turn of the twentieth century', in Meltem Toksoz & Biray Kulluoglu (eds.), *Cities of the Mediterranean: From the Ottomans to the Present Day* (London, 2010), pp. 139-156.
- Malte Fuhrmann, 'Down and out on the quays of Izmir: 'European' musicians, innkeepers, and prostitutes in the Ottoman port-cities', *Mediterranean Historical Review* 24/2 (2009), pp. 169-185.

7 March. Discussion

WEEK 8

10 March. Gender troubles: men, women, and modernity

- Akram Khater, "'House" to "Goddess of the House": Gender, Class and Silk in 19th-Century Mount Lebanon', *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 28 (1996), pp.

325-348.

- Efi Avdela & Angelika Psarra, 'Engendering "Greekness": Women's Emancipation and Irredentist Politics in Nineteenth-Century Greece', *Mediterranean Historical Review*, 20/1 (2005), pp. 67-79.

12 March. Classes: the bourgeoisie and the working-class

- Christina Koulouri, 'Voluntary associations and new forms of sociability: Greek sports clubs at the turn of the 19th century', in Philip Carabott (ed.), *Greek Society in the Making, 1863-1913. Realities, Symbols and Visions* (Ashgate, 1997), pp. 145-160.
- Sükrü Ilicak, 'Jewish socialism in Ottoman Salonica', *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, 2/3 (2002), pp. 115-146.
- Ilham Khuri-Makdisi, *The Eastern Mediterranean and the Making of Global Radicalism, 1860-1914* (Berkeley, 2010), Chapter 5 ('Workers, labor unrest and the formulation and dissemination of radical leftist ideas'), pp. 135-164.

14 March. Discussion

WEEK 9

17 March. Imperial ideologies: Ottomanism

- Selim Deringil, "The Invention of tradition as public image in the late Ottoman Empire, 1808 to 1908", *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 35/1 (1993), pp. 1-27.
- Selim Deringil, *The Well Protected Domains. Ideology and the Legitimation of Power in the Ottoman Empire, 1876-1909* (London, 1998), Chapter 1 ('Symbolism of Power in the Hamidian Regime'), pp. 16-43.

19 March. National ideologies: the Macedonian Question

- Mark Mazower, *Salonica, city of ghosts* (London, 2004), Chapter 12 ('The Macedonian Question, 1878-1908'), pp. 253-271.
- Georgios Agelopoulos, 'Perceptions, Construction, and Definition of Greek National Identity in Late Nineteenth-Early Twentieth Century Macedonia'. *Balkan Studies* 36/2 (1995), pp. 247-263.
- Henry Brailsford, *Macedonia, its Races and their Future* (London, 1906), pp. 36-39, 42-58, 111-171, 191-219.

21 March. Discussion

Historiographic essay (6-7 pp.) due by email

WEEK 10

31 March. Revolutionary politics I: The 1908 Young Turk Revolution

- Palmira Brummett, "Dogs, Women, Cholera, and Other Menaces in the Streets: Cartoon Satire in the Ottoman Revolutionary Press, 1908-11," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 27/4 (1995), pp. 433-460.
- Michelle Campos, *Ottoman brothers: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in early twentieth-century Palestine* (Stanford, 2011), Chapter 1 ('Sacred Liberty'), pp. 20-58.
- Consular reports of the British consul in Salonica

2 April. Revolutionary politics II: The 1909 Goudi Revolution in Greece

- Background Reading: Thomas Gallant, *Modern Greece* (London, 2001), Chapter 6 ('National malaise and Venizelos's rise to power'), pp. 116-125.

- Mark Mazower, 'The Messiah and the Bourgeoisie: Venizelos and Politics in Greece, 1909-1912', *The Historical Journal* 35/4 (1992), pp. 885-904.

4 April. Discussion

WEEK 11

7 April. The disintegration of the Ottoman ecumene I: The Balkan Wars

- Background reading: Richard C. Hall, *The Modern Balkans. A History* (London, 2011), pp. 72-79.
- George F. Kennan, (ed.), *The Other Balkan War: A Carnegie Endowment inquiry in retrospect with a new introduction and reflections on the present conflict* (Washington DC, 1993 [1914]) (excerpts).

9 April. The disintegration of the Ottoman ecumene II: The First World War

Topic proposal for research paper (1 page plus bibliography) due by email

- The Greedy Heart of Halide Edib (documentary film)
- (Background reading) Sukru Hanioglu, *A Brief History of the late Ottoman Empire* (Princeton 2008), Chapter 6 (sections: 'The Ottoman Empire in the Great War'; 'The economy'; 'The collapse of the Empire'), pp. 177-182, 188-197.
- Donald Bloxham, 'Determinants of the Armenian Genocide', in Richard G. Hovannisian (ed.), *Looking Backward, Moving Forward: Confronting the Armenian Genocide* (Transaction Publishers, 2003), pp. 25-50.

11 April. Discussion

WEEK 12

14 April. Unmixing people I: The Greco-Turkish War, 1919-1922

- Stratis Doukas, *A prisoner of war's story* (Athens, 1929)
- Erik Jan Zürcher, 'Greek and Turkish refugees and deportees 1912-1924' (2003), 7 pp.
- Film: *Smyrna: The destruction of the cosmopolitan city 1900-1922* (director: Maria Iliou)

16 April. Unmixing people II: The Egyptian Revolution of 1919 and the coming of nationalisms in the Middle East

- Lisa Pollard, *Nurturing the nation* (Berkeley, 2005), Chapter 10 ('"Reform on Display": The family politics of the 1919 Revolution'), pp. 166-204.
- Joel Beinin and Zachary Lockman, '1919: Labor Upsurge and National Revolution', in *Workers on the Nile* (Princeton, 1988), pp. 83-120.

18 April. Discussion

WEEK 13

21 April. Legacies of empire

- Erik Jan Zürcher, 'The Ottoman Legacy of the Kemalist Republic', in Touraj Atabaki (ed.), *The State and the Subaltern. Modernization, society and the state in Turkey and Iran* (London, 2007), pp. 95-110.
- Efi Avdela, 'Class, ethnicity, and gender in post-Ottoman Thessaloniki. The great tobacco strike of 1914', in Billie Melman (ed.), *Borderlines. Genders and identities in war and peace, 1870-1930* (London, 1998), pp. 421-438.

23 April. Imperial nostalgias? Memorializing the Eastern Mediterranean

- Georgios Agelopoulos, 'Political practices and multiculturalism: the case of Salonica', in Jane Cowan & Keith Brown (eds.), *Macedonia. The politics of identity and difference* (London, 2000), pp. 140-155.
- Alev Cinar, 'National History as a Contested Site. The Conquest of Istanbul and Islamist Negotiations', *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (2001), pp. 364-391.
- [The Magnificent Century \(2011\), Episode 1.](#)

25 April. Discussion & Conclusions

WEEK 14

Reading Period

10 May. Final research paper (12-15 pp.) due. Please submit electronically.