

## History 837: Modern Imperial Britain

Spring 2014

Tuesday, 11:00-12:55

Humanities 5257

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The seminar introduces students to some of the principal topics in the historiography of modern Britain and its empire. Using both older and recent work, we will look at the types of questions that have animated research in the field, the various approaches that historians have used to answer them. We will pay particular attention to the ways in which of Britain's political, cultural, and economic modernization have often been regarded as exemplary, and we will ask how new historiographical approaches have challenged or transformed our understanding of these trajectories.

### **Books:**

Jordanna Bailkin, [The Afterlife of Empire](#) (Berkeley, 2012)

John Brewer, [The Sinews of Power: War, Money, and the English State, 1688-1783](#) (Cambridge, MA, 1988)

Nicoletta Gullace, [The Blood of our Sons: Men, Women, and the Renegotiation of British Citizenship during the Great War](#) (New York, 2003)

Matt Haulbrook, [Queer London: Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis, 1918-1957](#) (Chicago, 2006)

Thomas Metcalf, [Ideologies of the Raj](#) (Cambridge, 1995).

Chris Otter, [The Victorian Eye: A Political History of Light and Vision in Britain, 1800-1910](#) (Chicago, 2008)

Roy Porter, [The Creation of the Modern World: The Untold Story of the British Enlightenment](#) (New York, 2000)

E. P. Thompson, [The Making of the English Working Class](#) (London, 1963)

James Vernon, [Politics and the People: A Study in English Political Culture, c. 1815-1867](#) (Cambridge, 1993)

-All books listed above and on the seminar schedule below have been place on reserve at the College Library. Journal articles (marked with a '\*') are available online.

### Requirements:

- Critical presentations (as needed)
- Learn@UW discussion board: a short paragraph, including a set of questions, to be posted by Monday 8:00pm (these comments are to be incorporated into the critical presentation the following day).
- 2x 5-p. historiographic essay on one week's readings (to be handed in on the day those readings are discussed).
- Review essay of two to three books (AHR or LRB style), or a bibliographical essay on a particular subject of your choice (great option for those planning a prelim field), roughly 7-8 pages; due 05/06.

All written assignments should be submitted in hard copy as well as electronically (through the DropBox feature at Learn@UW), 12 pt. double space 1" margins.

### **Schedule**

#### **1. 01/21 Introduction**

#### **2. 01/28 The Long Eighteenth Century**

Roy Porter, The Creation of the Modern World: The Untold Story of the British Enlightenment (New York, 2000), pp. 1-155, 383-423.

Steve Pincus, 1688: The First Modern Revolution (Yale, 2009), pp. 3-29, 49-90, 366-399.

JCD Clark, English Society: 1660-1832 (Cambridge, 2000), pp. 1-66.

#### **3. 02/04 Statecraft and imperial rule**

John Brewer, The Sinews of Power: War, Money, and the English State, 1688-1783 (Cambridge, MA, 1988), Introduction and pp. 1-166.

Miles Ogborn, Indian Ink: Script and Print in the Making of the English East India Company (Chicago, 2007), pp. 1-26, 157-197.

-Philip Stern, The Company-State: Corporate Sovereignty and the Early Modern Foundations of the British Empire in India (Oxford, 2011), 3-16.

#### **4. 02/11 Eighteenth-century political culture**

\*J H Plumb, "The Growth of the Electorate in England from 1600-1715," *Past and Present* (1969), 90-116.

Lewis Namier, The Structure of Politics at the Accession of George III (London, 1957), pp. 1-61.

-John Brewer, Party Ideology and Popular Politics at the Accession of George III (Cambridge, 1976), pp. 163-200.

-Kathleen Wilson, The Sense of the People: Politics, Culture, and Imperialism in England, 1715-1785 (Cambridge, 1998), 3-26, 137-205.

\*E. P. Thompson, "Eighteenth-Century English Society: Class Struggle without a Class?" Social History 3:2 (1978): 133-165.

#### **5. 02/18 Trade, manufacture, capitalism**

Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation (New York, 1944), 35-135.

Eric Hobsbawm, Industry and Empire: The Birth of the Industrial Revolution (New York, 1968), pp. 1-56.

\*Jan De Vries, "The Industrial Revolution and the Industrious Revolution," Journal of Economic History 54 (2): 249-270.

\*Cain and Hopkins, "Gentlemanly Capitalism and British Overseas Expansion" Part I (1688-1850), Economic History Review vol. 39, no. 4 (1986): 501-525.

Boyd Hilton, The Age of Atonement: The Influence of Evangelicalism on Social and Economic Thought, 1785-1865 (Oxford, 1988), pp. 1-71.

#### **6. 02/25 Class and Its histories**

E. P. Thompson, The Making of the English Working Class (London, 1963), at least preface, chaps I-VI, XI, XIII-XV.

Anna Clark, The Struggle for the Breeches: Gender and the Making of the British Working Class (Berkeley, 1995), 197-232.

Gareth Stedman Jones, "Rethinking Chartism," in his Languages of Class: Studies in English Working Class History, 1832-1982 (Cambridge, 1983), 90-178.

**7. 03/04 Liberalism: politics**

James Vernon, Politics and the People: A Study in English Political Culture, c. 1815-1867 (Cambridge, 1993), 1-104, 163-182, 291-339.

Elaine Hadley, Living Liberalism: Practical Citizenship in Mid-Victorian Britain (Chicago, 2010), 1-62.

Jon Lawrence, "Paternalism, Class, and the British Path to Modernity," in The Peculiarities of Liberal Modernity in Imperial Britain, edited by Simon Gunn and James Vernon (Berkeley, 2011), 147-164.

**8. 03/11 Liberalism: government**

Chris Otter, The Victorian Eye: A Political History of Light and Vision in Britain, 1800-1910 (Chicago, 2008), 1-134, 253-263.

\*Oliver MacDonagh, "The Nineteenth-Century Revolution in Government: A Reappraisal," Historical Journal 1:1 (1958).

Mary Poovey, Making a Social Body: British Cultural Formation, 1830-1864 (Chicago, 1995), 1-24, 98-114.

Patrick Joyce, The Rule of Freedom: Liberalism and the Modern City (London, 2003), 1-61.

***Spring Break***

**9. 03/25 Imperial practices and visions**

Thomas Metcalf, Ideologies of the Raj (Cambridge, 1995), 1-159.

Richard Price, Making Empire: Colonial Encounters and the Creation of Imperial Rule in Nineteenth-Century Africa (Cambridge, 2008), 267-295, 335-362.

Catherine Hall, Civilizing Subjects: Metropole and Colony in the English Imagination, 1830-1867 (Chicago, 2002), 1-22, 338-379.

**10. 04/01 Humanitarianism, development, internationalism**

Michelle Tusan, Smyrna's Ashes: Humanitarianism, Genocide, and the Birth of the Middle East (Berkeley, 2012), 1-39, 113-183.

\*Priya Satia, "Developing Iraq: Britain, India, and the Redemption of Empire and Technology in World War I," Past and Present 197 (2007).

Mark Mazower, Governing the World: The History of an Idea, 1815 to the Present (London, 2012), pp. 116-188.

\*Susan Pedersen, "Getting Out of Iraq – in 1932: The League of Nations and the Road to Normative Statehood," American Historical Review 115 (2010), pp. 975-1000.

**11. 04/08 War and democratic citizenship**

Nicoletta Gullace, The Blood of our Sons: Men, Women, and the Renegotiation of British Citizenship during the Great War (New York, 2003).

Sonya Rose, Which People's War? National Identity and Citizenship in Wartime Britain 1939-1945 (Cambridge, 2003), 1-28,71-106.

**12. 04/15 Sex and space**

Matt Haulbrook, Queer London: Perils and Pleasures in the Sexual Metropolis, 1918-1957 (Chicago, 2006), pp. 1-134, 221-271.

Judith Walkowitz, Nights Out: Life in Cosmopolitan London (Yale, 2012), 1-91.

**13. 04/22 Science and the search for the social**

Mike Savage, Identities and Social Change in Britain since 1940: The Politics of Method (Oxford, 2010), 1-21, 51-136.

\*Peter Miller and Nikolas Rose, "The Tavistock Programme: The Government of Subjectivity and Social Life," Sociology 22 (1988), 171-192.

\*Erik Linstrum, "The Politics of Psychology in the British Empire, 1898-1960," Past and Present 215 (2012), 195-233.

\*Chris Waters, "The Homosexual as a Social Being in Britain, 1945-1968," Journal of British Studies 51 (2012).

**14. 04/29 After empire**

Jordanna Bailkin, The Afterlife of Empire (Berkeley, 2012), 1-131, 202-242.

Wendy Webster, Englishness and Empire 1939-1965 (Oxford, 2005), 1-91.

**15. 05/06 Course conclusions.**