

## History 866:

### Seminar in European Social History (War, Culture, and Society)

Semester II, 2004-5, T 1:20-3:20

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Office Hours: 4101 Humanities, MW 1:45-2:15; T 3:30-4:30, & by appt.

Europe at the end of the past century was both more prosperous and more democratic than at any time in its history. Yet unprecedented violence also defined Europe's twentieth century, from the two World Wars and the Holocaust to numerous civil wars, ethnic cleansing, and the Cold War. How have European society and culture been shaped by a century of war and violence? How have social and cultural factors shaped warfare, in the broadest sense of the term? The first question has been implicit in most research and teaching on modern European history, whereas the second has gained less attention. In either case, it is only recently that historians have examined such issues in more systematic or interdisciplinary fashion. In the case of World War I, we have numerous recent works on the interrelationship of war and society, including more scholarship on gender. In studies of the Holocaust, scholars have asked how "normality" at home and "abnormality" on the Eastern front were linked. Some historians have begun to focus on how patterns of consumption shaped the course of the Cold War, especially in the 1950s. But in other areas, as with the Spanish Civil War, or World War II, we have much less developed research on the socio-cultural dynamics of war. This seminar examines some of the best current research on the reciprocal relationships of war and society in twentieth century Europe. Germany plays a central role in the course but we also include much comparative material, and we consider several East European examples as well.

Assignments include required readings, class discussion, two class presentations, two short writing assignments of 3-4 pages each, and a final research project. All students are expected to complete the required readings for each week and are advised to acquaint themselves with as much of the supplementary reading as possible. Each week a student will make a brief (10 minutes maximum) presentation of the key concepts and questions of the required reading in class and pre-circulate by e-mail several discussion questions. Weekly discussants should also include electronic copies either of two informative reviews of the book we are reading, or of material that places the reading in its proper historiographical context. The two 3-4 page papers are critical responses to a topic raised by class readings and discussion, due on February 22 and April 5. In the last weeks of the semester, each student will make a short oral presentation based on a research project chosen in consultation with the instructor. Students choose **one option** for the final project, which is due on May 10:

1. A research paper of 20-25 pages on a topic suggested by course readings and chosen in consultation with the instructor.
2. A bibliographic/historiographical essay of roughly the same length on a topic suggested by course readings and chosen in consultation with the instructor.
3. A syllabus for an upper division undergraduate lecture course on "War, Culture, and Society in Twentieth-Century Europe," including a developed explication of course topics, readings, and assignments; total length should be 20-25 pages.
4. An annotated bibliography on "War, Culture, and Society in Twentieth Century Europe" of 20-25 pages.

Grading will be determined as follows:

Class discussion=20%

In-class presentation of class reading=10%

Two 3-4 page response papers=30%

In-class presentation of final project=10%

Final project=30%

Required and supplementary readings are listed below. In addition, there is a short bibliography of general texts available either in paperback or the UW library system; these readings will help orient students if they need background material on the general course of twentieth-century Europe. All required books are available for purchase at the Underground Textbook Exchange; the course reader is available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center. The required books and reader will also be available at College Library Reserves. Background and supplementary reading marked "CLR" are available on reserve, although some may be listed as "inactive." A few of these are e-books (e.g., NetLibrary, ACLS E-Book), which any UW student can read via MadCat. I highly recommend surveying recent periodical literature via MadCat electronic resources as well.

**Required reading (in order of assignment):**

\*In course reader

\*Robert L. O'Connell, "War: Institution without Portfolio," in *Columbia History of the Twentieth Century*, ed. Richard W. Bulliet (Columbia University Press, 1998), 248-61.

\*Michael Geyer, "The Place of the Second World War in German Memory and History," *New German Critique* 71 (1997): 5-40. Electronic version available through MadCat.

Stephane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, *14-18: Understanding the Great War* (Hill and Wang, 2002)

Aviel Roshwald and Richard Stites, eds., *European Culture in the Great War: The Arts, Entertainment, and Propaganda, 1914-1918* (Cambridge University Press, 1999)

\*Joanna Bourke, "The Body in Modern Warfare: Myth and Meaning, 1914-1945," in *What History Tells: George L. Mosse and the Culture of Modern Europe*, eds. Stanley Payne, et al (University of Wisconsin Press, 2004), 202-19.

\*Thomas Nevin, *Ernst Jünger and Germany: Into the Abyss, 1918-1945* (Duke University Press, 1996), 115-40.

\*Paul Lerner, *Hysterical Men: War, Psychiatry, and the Politics of Trauma in Germany, 1890-1930* (Cornell University Press, 2003), 223-48.

\*Richard Bessel, "Germany from War to Dictatorship," in *20<sup>th</sup> Century Germany: Politics, Culture and Society 1918-1990*, edited by Mary Fulbrook (Arnold, 2001), 11-35.

\*Bernd Widdig, *Culture and Inflation in Weimar Germany* (University of California Press, 2001), Ch. 8: "Witches Dancing: Gender and Inflation," 196-220.

\*Niall Ferguson, "The German Interwar Economy: Political Choice versus Economic Determinism," in *20<sup>th</sup> Century Germany: Politics, Culture and Society 1918-1990*, edited by Mary Fulbrook (Arnold, 2001), 36-57.

Michael Seidman, *Republic of Egos: A Social History of the Spanish Civil War* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2002)

Richard Steigmann-Gall, *The Holy Reich: Nazi Conceptions of Christianity, 1919-1945* (Cambridge University Press, 2003)

Omer Bartov, *Germany's War and the Holocaust: Disputed Histories* (Cornell University Press, 2003).

Jan T. Gross, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* (Princeton, 2001).

\*Antony Polonsky and Joanna B. Michlic, eds., "Introduction," in *The Neighbors Respond: The Controversy over the Jedwabne Massacre in Poland* (Princeton University Press, 2004), 1-43

\*Pieter Lagrou, "The Nationalization of Victimhood: Selective Violence and National Grief in Western Europe, 1940-1960," in *Life after Death: Approaches to a Cultural and Social History of Europe during the 1940s and 1950s*, edited by Richard Bessel and Dirk Schumann (Cambridge University Press, 2003), 243-57.

\*Robert Moeller, *War Stories: The Search for a Usable Past in the Federal Republic of Germany* (University of California Press, 2001), 88-122.

\*Atina Grossmann, "Trauma, Memory, and Motherhood: Germans and Jewish Displaced Persons in Post-Nazi Germany, 1945-1949," in *Life after Death: Approaches to a Cultural and Social History of Europe during the 1940s and 1950s*, eds. Richard Bessel and Dirk Schumann (Cambridge University Press, 2003), 93-128.

\*Corey Ross, *The East German Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives in the Interpretation of the GDR* (Oxford University Press, 2002), 69-96.

\*Paul Betts, "The Nierentisch Nemesis: Organic Design as West German Pop Culture," in *German History* 19, 2 (2001): 185-217. Electronic version available through MadCat.

\*Judd Stitzel, "On the Seam between Socialism and Capitalism: East German Fashion Shows," in *Consuming Germany in the Cold War* (Berg Publishers, 2003), 51-85.

Norman Naimark, *Fires of Hatred: Ethnic Cleansing in Twentieth-Century Europe* (Harvard, 2001)

### **Background Texts:**

Richard W. Bulliet, ed., *The Columbia History of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (1998). CLR.

Norman Davies, *Europe: A History* (1996). CLR.

Mary Fulbrook, *The Divided Nation: A History of Germany 1918-1990* (1992). NetLibrary.

Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991* (1994). CLR.

Lonnie R. Johnson, *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends* (1996). CLR.

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*. (1998). CLR.

John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Present* 2 vols. (1996); CLR.

Dietrich Orlow, *A History of Modern Germany, 1871 to Present* 5<sup>th</sup>. Ed. (2001); CLR.

Stanley G. Payne, *A History of Fascism, 1914-1945* (1995). NetLibrary.

Peter Rietbergen, *Europe: A Cultural History* (1998).

Joseph Rothschild and Nancy M. Wingfield, *Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe since World War II* 3<sup>rd</sup>. ed. (2000). CLR.

Donald Sassoon, *One Hundred Years of Socialism: The West European Left in the Twentieth Century* (1996). CLR.

Richard Vinen, *A History in Fragments: Europe in the Twentieth Century* (2001). CLR.

### **Course Schedule and Readings:**

Jan. 18: Introduction: War and Society in the Twentieth Century

Reading: O'Connell, 248-61; Geyer, 5-40

Supplementary:

David Stevenson, *Cataclysm: The First World War as Political Tragedy* (2004).

Niall Ferguson, *The Pity of War* (1998). CLR.

Gerhard Weinberg, *A World at Arms: A Global History of World War II* (1994).

ACLS E-Book.

Jan. 25: World War I as a Constitutive Event

Reading: Audoin-Rouzeau, entire book

Supplementary:

John Horne, ed., *State, society, and mobilization in Europe during the First World War* (1997). CLR.

Jay Winter and Jean Louis Robert, eds., *Capital Cities at War: Paris, London, Berlin 1914-1919* (Cambridge 1997); CLR.

Modris Eksteins, *Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age* (1989). CLR.

Feb. 1: Cultural Expression in World War I

Reading: Roshwald-Stites, entire book

Supplementary:

Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History* (1995); CLR.

George Mosse, *Fallen Soldiers: Reshaping the Memory of the World Wars* (Oxford University Press, 1990), Chs. 4-7; CLR.

Feb. 8: War and "New Men"

Reading: Bourke, 202-19; Nevin, 115-40; Lerner, 223-48

Supplementary:

Joanna Bourke, *Dismembering the Male: Men's Bodies, Britain, and the Great War* (1998). CLR.

Karen Hagemann and Stefanie Schüler-Springorum, eds., *Home/Front: The Military, War and Gender in Twentieth Century Germany* (2002). CLR.

Eric Leed, *No Man's Land: Combat and Identity* (1979). CLR.

Robert Whalen, *Bitter Wounds: German Victims of the Great War, 1914-1939* (1984).  
CLR.

Feb. 15: World War I and the Weimar Republic: Economics, Politics, Culture

Reading: Bessel, 11-35; Widdig, 196-220; Ferguson, 36-57

Supplementary:

Hans Mommsen, *The Rise and Fall of Weimar Democracy* (1996); CLR.

Detlev Peukert, *The Weimar Republic: The Crisis of Classical Modernity* (1989); CLR.

Theo Balderston, *Economics and Politics in the Weimar Republic* (2002). CLR.

Feb. 22: The Individual and the Spanish Civil War

Reading: Seidman, entire

Supplementary:

Stanley Payne, *Spain's First Democracy: The Second Republic 1931-36* (1993); CLR.

Paul Preston, *The Spanish Civil War* (1990); CLR.

Hugh Thomas, *The Spanish Civil War* (1986; 1994); CLR.

Mar. 1 : Nazism as "Holy War"?

Reading: Steigmann-Gall, entire

Supplementary:

Ian Kershaw, *The Nazi Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000); CLR.

Michael Burleigh, *The Third Reich: A New History* (2000); CLR.

Shelley Baranowski, *Confessing Church, Conservative Elites, and the Nazi State* (1986).

Donald Dietrich, ed., *Christian Responses to the Holocaust: Moral and Ethical Issues* (2003).

Mar. 8: World War II and Genocide (I)

Required: Bartov, entire

Supplementary:

Deborah Dwork, Robert Jan Van Pelt, *Holocaust: A History* (2002). CLR

Konrad Jarausch and Michael Geyer, *Shattered Past: Reconstructing German Histories* (2003), ch. 4..

Zygmunt Bauman, *Modernity and the Holocaust* (2000); CLR.

Mar. 15: World War II and Genocide (II)

Reading: Gross, entire; Polonsky & Michlic, 1-43

Supplementary:

beside supplementary reading for previous week, see Omer Bartov and Phyllis Mack, eds., *In God's Name: Genocide and Religion in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (Berghahn Books, 2001). CLR.

Mar. 22      Spring Recess

Mar. 29: World War II and European Memory Cultures

Reading: Lagrou, 243-58; Moeller, 88-122; Grossman, 93-128

Supplementary:

Rudy Koshar, *From Monuments to Traces: Artifacts of German Memory, 1870-1990* (2000), chs. 3 &4; CLR.

Jan-Werner Muller, ed., *Memory & Power in Postwar Europe: Studies in the Presence of the Past* (2002). CLR.

Apr. 5: The Cold War and Consumption, German Variation

Reading: Ross, 69-96; Betts, 185-217, Stitzel, 51-85

Supplementary:

Crew, *Consuming Germany in the Cold War*; remaining chs.

Susan Strasser et al, eds., *Getting and Spending: European and American Consumer Societies in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 1998), chs. 8, 14; CLR.

Uta Poiger, *Jazz, Rock, and Rebels: Cold War Politics and American Culture in a Divided Germany* (University of California, 2000); CLR.

Apr. 12: Ethnic Cleansing and Twentieth-Century Wars

Reading: Naimark, entire book

Supplementary:

Moeller, *War Stories*, Ch. 3; CLR.

Cathie Carmichael, *Ethnic Cleansing in the Balkans: Nationalism and the Destruction of Tradition* (2002). CLR.

Michael Mann, *The Dark Side of Democracy: Explaining Ethnic Cleansing* (2005). CLR.

Apr. 19      Student presentations

Apr. 26      Student presentations

May 3        Student presentations

May 10      Final projects due in 4101 Humanities, 1:20

