

SYLLABUS

British Empire and Commonwealth
History 265
Rhodes College
Fall Semester 1998
Professor Lynn Zastoupil

Office: Clough 307
Office Hours: MWF 10:15-11:15 (and by appointment)
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce students to some of the main historical developments in the British Empire and Commonwealth during the period 1713-1970. During this time Britain gained, and lost, an empire unrivaled in human history. It is the objective of this course to understand some of the main reasons for British imperial expansion in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and the retreat from empire in the twentieth century. The impact of empire on British political, social and economic life will be considered, as will be the influence of British culture and institutions on the colonies. Imperial ideas, the growth of racial attitudes, and other intellectual issues and social problems associated with the empire will also be addressed. It is intended that students will leave the course with a firm understanding of the nature, extent, and importance of the British empire.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is a lecture course with substantial reading. Students will be expected to attend class regularly (no more than three unexcused absences are allowed), to pay close attention to lecture materials, and to be prepared to discuss all assigned readings. There will be a mid-term and a final examination, both of which will be largely essay. A research paper (8-12 pages long, using a minimum of 4 sources) must be completed by November 23. Students will also be graded on the basis of classroom participation, including one discussion session conducted over the Internet by a guest professor from South Africa. Students unable or unwilling to participate in class discussions may keep a journal of the assigned readings which may be turned in to be graded. Final grades will be determined as follows: journal/class participation - 25%; mid-term examination - 25%; research paper - 25%; final examination - 25%. All assignments must be handed in by class time on the date specified. All late papers will be automatically reduced by one letter grade.

BOOKS TO PURCHASE

Trevor Lloyd, The British Empire
Sidney Mintz, Sweetness and Power
Rudyard Kipling, Two Tales
D.R. Headrick, Tools of Empire
John Mackenzie, ed., Imperialism and Popular Culture
Mohandas Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, ed. A. Parel
Pádraig Ó'Malley, Uncivil Wars

COURSE OUTLINE

Week I Introduction

August 26 Introduction
August 28 Expansion of Europe

Week II Mercantilism

August 30 North America
Sept. 2 India and Theory of Mercantilism
Sept. 4 Slaves and Empire (Mintz, Chpt. 1-4)
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 3

Week III Political Revolutions in North America and India

Sept. 7 Labor Day recess
Sept. 9 North America
Sept. 11 India
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 4

Week IV Empire and Industrialism

Sept. 14 Commercial Revolution (N. McKendrick, "The Consumer Revolution of
Sept. 16 Free Trade and Anti-Imperialism
Sept. 18 Imperialism of Free Trade
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 5-6

Week V Reformers and Empire

Sept. 21 Abolition of Slavery
Sept. 23 Reforming India (T. Macaulay, "Minute on Indian Education" - on
Sept. 25 Missionaries
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 6 (cont.)

reserve)

Week VI Colonial Uprisings and Popular Imperialism

Sept. 28 1857 in India
Sept. 30 Jamaican Revolt
October 2 Popular Imperialism (Kipling, "The Man Who Would be King")
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 7

Week VII Irish Home Rule

October 5 The Irish Question
October 7 Home Rule and British Politics
October 9 MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Week VIII The New Imperialism

October 12 Opium Wars and China
October 14 Scramble for Africa
October 16 Tools of Empire (Headrick, all)
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 8

Week IX The Late-Victorian Enthusiasm for Empire

October 19 Fall recess
October 21 Intellectuals and Empire

October 23 Social Imperialism (A. Burton, Burdens of History, Chpt. 1, on reserve)
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 9

Week X Popular Imperialism and the Boer War

October 26 Popular Imperialism (Mackenzie, Chpt. 2-4, 6)
October 28 South African diamonds and gold
October 30 Boer War
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 10

Week XI Aftermath of Wars

November 2 Liberal Critique of Empire and Boer War
November 4 World War One and Ireland
November 6 World War One and the Commonwealth
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 10 (cont.)

Week XII Between the Wars

November 9 India (Gandhi [all], W. B. Yeats, "The Literary Movement in Ireland," on
November 11 Middle East
November 13 Popular Imperialism Before the War (Mackenzie, Chpt. 7-9, Orwell,
Background reading: Lloyd, Chpt. 11

Week XIII World War Two and Decolonization

November 16 Retreat from Asia and Africa
November 18 Middle East and Suez
November 20 Aftermath of Empire in South Asia
Background reading: Lloyd, pp.321-342, 347-360

Week XIV Aftermath of Empire

November 23 South Africa: Origins of Apartheid
Nov. 25, 27 Thanksgiving Recess

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE NOVEMBER 23

Week XV Aftermath of Empire II

November 30 South Africa: Hey-Day of Apartheid
December 2 South Africa (Internet discussion: readings on reserve)
December 4 Immigration and Racism
Background reading, Lloyd, pp.342-346

Week XVI Aftermath of Empire III

December 7 Northern Ireland (O'Malley, Intro., Chpt. 2, 5-8)
December 9 Review