

HH1003 Asia-Pacific in Global History: From 1800

Semester 2, AY 2020/21

Academic Unit: 3

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HSS05-22

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SSCTOB2

Online Lecture: Tue, 14:30-16:30

Tutorials: Wed, The Hive
T1: 15:30-16:30 LHS-TR+31 by Jan YAP
T2: 14:30-15:30 LHS-TR+30 by ZHOU Taomo

I. Course Description

The history of Asia, global history, and interdisciplinary history are three key areas of the NTU History curriculum. This course will familiarize you with aspects of each of those key areas and their entanglements. It will provide you with an insight into the historical processes that shaped the modern Asia-Pacific, how these processes were connected to global developments such as colonialism, capitalism and migration. It is intended to introduce students to the history in modern times and to the Asia-Pacific as a region, not just as a collection of disparate nation-states. For this purpose, the instructor will draw a distinction among “East Asia,” “South Asia,” and “Southeast Asia” through four overlapping chronological phases: under pre-modern Asian connectivity between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries; under Western imperialism in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; under the two World Wars in the first half of the twentieth century; and during the Cold War. Each week we shall concentrate on East Asia, South Asia or Southeast Asia within this historical framework, examining what changes took place and how people reacted to those changes. The Tuesday lectures will address these questions broadly, while the tutorial meetings on Wednesdays will provide opportunities for students to respond.

II. Learning Objectives

1. Investigate and explain the role of a range of broader historical processes in the formation of the political, cultural, and societal formation of modern Asia and how these processes connect to global developments
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources pertaining to the political, cultural, and societal formation of modern Asia
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how to appropriately acknowledge and build upon the work of others
4. Articulate evidence-based historical arguments about the formation of modern Asia in both written and oral form

5. Present historical ideas and evidence regarding the formation of modern Asia in a variety of media

III. Assessment

- a. **Weekly Online Quizzes (25%).** Except for weeks 1& 13, there will be online quiz each week on the NTULearn. The quizzes will be available at 4:30pm on Wednesdays. Please complete before 11:59pm on the following Monday. Please complete within 30 minutes in ONE SETTING (cannot save and resume).
- b. **Tutorial Participation (10%).** You are required to be present and ready to participate in each tutorial class, having completed the week's readings and attended the lecture on zoom the previous day. Both the readings AND lectures will be tested on the final exam.
- c. **Two Essays (20*2=40%).** 800 words. Papers are to be written in response to the discussion questions listed in the syllabus and should be based primarily upon the texts which are required reading each week. You may consult other texts (and we will be happy to suggest relevant items), but you are not required to read any more than the assignments in preparing for discussions or in writing papers. Due dates: March 8 11:59pm for Essay 1; April 19 11:59pm for Essay 2. Please submit both in Word document to the NTULearn.
- d. **Final Take-Home Assignment (25%).** The questions will be released on NTU on 20 April. The answers are due through Turnitin by 11:59pm, 26 April, 2021.

IV. Reference Books

Rhoads Murphey, with Kristin Stapleton, *A History of Asia*, 7th edition (London and New York: Routledge, 2014).

V. Course Schedule:

Week 1 Introduction

Tue Jan 12 Lecture

Introduction: background information on the geography and culture of the Asia-Pacific; the politics of the production of knowledge; course outline and assessment.

Further readings:

- Catherine B. Asher and Cynthia Talbot, *India before Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 1-24.
- Barbara D. Metcalf and Thomas R. Metcalf, *A Concise History of Modern India* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), pp.1-28.
- Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (W. W. Norton, 1999), pp. 1-48.

Wed Jan 13 Tutorial

No meeting this week

Week 2 East Asia: A Sinocentric World under Siege?

Tue Jan 19 Lecture

Keywords: The Manchus, The Opium Wars, Treaty Ports and the Taiping Rebellion

Assigned Readings:

- Murphey, *A History of Asia*, 300-309, 327-343.

Further Reading:

- Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, pp. 49-132.

Wed Jan 20 Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: What motivated peasants and other non-elites in China to participate in collective action during the 19th century? Can peasant rebellions ever be nationalistic or are they always localized and traditional in their goals?

Assigned Readings:

- Frederic Wakeman, *Strangers at the Gate* (1966), 3-58.

Week 3 Southeast and South Asia: The Age of Commerce Disrupted?

Tue Jan 26 Lecture

Keywords: Maritime Trade, Age of Commerce, East India Company (EIC), The Mughal Empire decline and the establishment of British dominance

Assigned Readings:

- Murphey, *A History of Asia*, 245-262.
- Anthony J.S. Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680: Volume 2 Expansion and Crisis* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988), 267-303, 326-330.

Further Readings:

- Anthony J.S. Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680: Volume 1 The Lands Below the Winds* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988), 1-10, 62-119, 120-152.
- C.A. Bayly, *Indian Society and the Making of British Empire* (Cambridge University Press, 1988), Introduction, Chapter 2 and 3.

Wed Jan 27 Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: Did the arrival of Western imperial powers the cause for the decline of polities in South and Southeast Asia in the 17th century? Can Western colonialism be exploitative in design but beneficial to the colonies in outcome?

Assigned Readings:

- Jules Ferry, *On French Colonial Expansion* (1884)
- Dadabhai Naoroji, *The Benefits of British Rule* (1871)
- Rudyard Kipling, *The White Man's Burden* (1899)
- "Oxford University accused of backing apologists of British colonialism", *The Guardian*, 22 Dec 2017,

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/dec/22/oxford-university-accused-of-backing-apologists-of-british-colonialism>

Week 4 South Asia & Southeast Asia: Resistance and Collaboration

Tue Feb 2 Lecture

Keywords: Imperial Ideologies; Modern Colonial States; Race, Rule, and Resistance

Assigned Readings:

- Murphey, *A History of Asia*, 266-294, 315-324.

Further Readings:

- Barbara D. Metcalf and Thomas R. Metcalf, *A Concise History of Modern India* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), Chapter 3.

Wed Feb 3 Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: How do Asian elites appropriate parts of an imperial idea or technology? Do you consider them nationalists?

Assigned Readings:

- Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geobody of a Nation* (1994) 1- 19, 62-80.
- King Chulalongkorn's Speech on Reform.
- R. A. Kartini, "Give the Javanese Education!" in *Letters from Kartini* (1992), 529-547.

Week 5: East Asia: Pan-Asianism and the Japanese Empire

Tue Feb 9 Lecture

Keywords: Pan-Asianism, westernization, modernization, The first Sino-Japanese War, the Russo-Japanese War, end of Qing empire

Assigned Readings:

- Murphey, *A History of Asia*, 359-370.

Further Readings:

- Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 11-223.

Wed Feb 10 Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: Did the Japanese ideology of Pan-Asianism help Asian countries achieve independence from and equality with the West? Did Japan liberate the people of Asia from Western imperialism?

Assigned Readings:

- Fukuzawa Yukichi, *Datsu-A Ron* (1885)
- Pang Yang Huei, "A Tangled Web of Wartime Collaboration & Survival in Singapore: A Chinese Farmer's Experience," in *Reflections and Interpretations, Oral History Centre 25th Anniversary Publication*.

- Subhas Chandra Bose, “To Delhi, to Delhi” and “Give me blood, and I promise you freedom” (1944)

Week 6: Southeast and South Asia: Decolonization and Nationalism

Tue Feb 16 Lecture

Keywords: Imagined communities, print capitalism, Southeast Asian Identity Formation, Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere

Assigned Readings:

- Benedict Anderson, “Japan: ‘The Light of Asia,’” in Josef Silberstein ed., *Southeast Asia in World War II: Four Essays* (New Heaven, CT: Yale University Southeast Asia Studies, 1966), pp. 13-50

Wed Feb 17 Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: What made anti-colonial resistance effective? Were the two world wars an evil necessity to forge a sense of “nationhood” among the colonized peoples of Asia?

Assigned Readings:

- “The Japanese Blueprint for Southeast Asia,” in Harry J. Benda and John A. Larkin eds., *The World of Southeast Asia: Selected Historical Readings* (New York: Harper& Row, Publishers, 1967), pp. 219-223. [on NTULearn]
- Jose P. Laurel, “Inaugural Address,” October 14, 1943, in Benda and Larkin, *The World of Southeast Asia*, pp. 235-238.
- Letter from Tomas Confesor to Fermin Caram, February 20, 1943, in Benda and Larkin, *The World of Southeast Asia*, pp. 238-242.
- Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *The Mute’s Soliloquy* (NY: Hyperion East, 1999), “Death in a Time of Change” and “Working for the Japanese,” pp. 153-191.

Week 7: Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities during the Cold War

Tue Feb 23 Guest Lecture by Ms. Kathleen Ditzig, PhD Candidate, School of Art, Design, and Media, NTU

Wed Feb 24 Tutorial

Visit to the ADM Gallery exhibition “In Our Best Interests: Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities during a Cold War”

<http://www.afrosoutheastasia.com/>

Question for Discussion and Essays: Was the common experience of colonial subjugation a strong enough cause to bring unity among Afro-Asian countries?

Assigned Readings:

- Vijay Prashad, *The Darker Nations: A People’s History of the Third World* (New York and London: The New Press, 2007), xv-xix, 31-50.
- Kathleen Ditzig and Carlos Quijon Jr. “The Colours of World-Making: Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities during a Cold War” & “Compelling Coordinates: Maphilindo and Afro-Southeast Asia Geopoetics”

Week 8 Science in Asia

Tue Mar 9 Guest Lecture by Ms. Jan Yap, MA candidate, History Programme, NTU
Wed Mar 10 Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: How do science and nationalism relate to each other?

Assigned Readings:

- Hiromi Mizuno, *Science for the Empire: Scientific Nationalism in Modern Japan* (Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 2009), 143-172.
- Jiri Hudecek, "Ancient Chinese Mathematics in Action: Wu Wen-Tsun's Nationalist Historicism after the Cultural Revolution," *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* 6, no. 1 (2012): 41–64.

Week 9 East Asia: The Cold War & Maoism

Tue March 16 Lecture

Keywords: The Korean War, Land Reform, the Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution

Assigned Reading:

- Murphey, *A History of Asia*, 382-409

Wed March 17 Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: What were the goals of the Communist Revolution in China? Was the revolution successful in achieving these goals?

Assigned Readings:

- Anita Chan, Richard Madsen, and Jonathan Unger, *Revolution to Globalization* (University of California Press, 2009), 13-37, 103-140.

Week 10 Southeast Asia: Mass Violence and Chinese Identities

Tue March 23 Lecture

Keywords: 1965-1966 mass violence in Indonesia, the Chinese diaspora

Guest Lecture by Mr. Randy Mulyanto, Freelance Journalist

- John Roosa, *Buried Histories: The Anticommunist Massacres of 1965-1966 in Indonesia* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2020), pp. 1-27. [E-Book via NTU library]

Wed March 24 Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: How did the Cold War change racial identities in Asia? Was Southeast Asian political activity during the Cold War formed around a common national community, or was it formed against an ideology (such as communism or capitalism)?

Assigned Readings:

- Vincent Bevins, "How 'Jakarta' Became the Codeword for US-Backed Mass Killing," *The New York Review of Books*, May 18, 2020, <https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2020/05/18/how-jakarta-became-the-codeword-for-us-backed-mass-killing/>

- Tintin Wulia, “The Name Game,” *Inside Indonesia*, October 12, 2008, <https://www.insideindonesia.org/the-name-game>
- Rani P. Collaborations, “Chinese Whispers,” <https://thechinesewhispers.com/>
- Randy Mulyanto, “An Act of Remembrance,” *South China Morning Post*, May 15, 2019. <https://files.journoportfolio.com/users/14955/uploads/56446802-585d-4225-8b98-2c5c5ce53356.pdf>

Week 11 The Asian Economies: Urbanization, Migration and Capitalism

Tue March 30 Lecture

Keywords: neoliberalism, Deng Xiaoping and Reform and Opening in China, the Asian Tigers, export-processing zones

Assigned Readings:

- Sunil S. Amrith, *Migration and Diaspora in Modern Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2011), 117-150.

Wed March 31 Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: What kind of “developments” do internal and international migration bring to individuals and Asian nations?

Assigned Readings:

- Leslie Chang, *Factory Girls* (Random House, 2008), Chapters 2 & 3.
- Andrew Liu, “How Asia Got Crazy Rich: Toward a Materialist History of Crazy Rich Asians,” *N+1*, September 14, 2018, <https://nplusonemag.com/online-only/online-only/how-asia-got-crazy-rich/>

Week 12 The Asian Borderlands: China and Southeast Asia

Tue April 6 Guest Lecture by Professor Enze Han, The University of Hong Kong

Wed April 7 Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: How did Asian states consolidate their control over borderland regions in the climate of the Cold War? Did they take advantage of the Cold War geopolitics? Or were their efforts of state building and nation building in the borderlands at the mercy of Cold War geopolitics?

Assigned Readings:

- Enze Han. *Asymmetrical Neighbors: Borderland State Building between China and Southeast Asia*. New York: Oxford University Press. 2019, chapters 4 and 5.

Week 13 Review Session

Tue April 13 Individual Consultations on the Final Research Paper & Exam

Wed April 14 Individual Consultations on the Final Research Paper & Exam