

Fall 2007

History 353
Transnational History in Northeast Asia

Tu. 1:00-2:50
King 339

Professor Emer O'Dwyer
Rice 308, Tel. 5-6708

This course explores the history of China's Northeast ("Manchuria") as a site for challenging the boundaries imposed by histories of the nation-state. The histories of Japan, the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia will be interwoven to examine the region's transformation from sparsely populated Manchu homeland, to staging ground for Japanese imperialism, to scene of Mao Zedong's triumph over the Nationalists in the Chinese Civil War of 1945-49.

Goals and Expectations: The purpose of this course is twofold. In addition to charting the history of China's Northeast over three centuries, students are encouraged to develop an understanding of how history is written—from both ideological and practical standpoints. To this end, weekly readings combine primary and secondary source materials. Careful attention to argumentation and evidence will form the basis of weekly class discussion and critique. To advance understanding of how history is written in a practical sense, students will prepare a research paper (using both primary and secondary source materials) to be submitted at the end of the semester.

Required Texts: Required texts have been ordered in paperback at the Oberlin Bookstore (basement) and placed on reserve at Mudd Library.

1. Elliott, Mark C. *The Manchu Way: The Eight Banners and Ethnic Identity in Late Imperial China*. Stanford: Stanford University, 2001.
2. Young, Louise. *Japan's Total Empire: Manchukuo and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism*. Berkeley: University of California, 1999.

All other readings are available on Blackboard.

Assessment: The course grade will be based on the following:

- Oral Presentations (2): 15% each
- Final Paper 35%
- Class participation: 35%

Oral Presentations: Students will make two presentations over the course of the semester on assigned readings. At the first class meeting, each student should sign up for two presentations, making sure that at least one presentation falls *before* the midterm break following Week 7.

The presentation should last no more than 10-15 minutes during which time the presenter should formulate two or three key questions about the general topic and common readings assigned for that week. Presenters for any given week are encouraged to meet with one another in advance of class time to discuss common themes with a view toward integrating such themes into class discussion.

Final Paper: Students will write a final research paper of between 15 and 20 pages. Papers are due at **4 PM on Wednesday, December 19.**

Class Participation and Attendance:

Discussions are a central component of the course, and attendance is mandatory. Students are required to complete the assigned readings and come prepared for active engagement with the material.

Film Screening: Bernardo Bertolucci's "**The Last Emperor**" will be screened on **Monday, Oct. 29 at 7pm** (location: TBA). The film will also be available on library reserve to view on video if you cannot make the screening. It will be discussed in class in conjunction with the readings for the week.

Special Guest Lecture:

On **Friday, October 5 (12noon)**, Professor Louise Young will be on campus to give a talk on Japanese imperialism in prewar Manchuria. Location: TBA.

Honor Code: All students are expected to adhere to the Oberlin Honor Code on all written assignments.

Writing Assistance: Students are encouraged to avail of the writing skills workshops offered by the staff of Student Academic Services (SAS) located in Peters 118.

OFFICE HOURS:

Students are encouraged to come see the instructor with questions about any aspect of the course:

Tuesday 3 – 4:30 and Friday 2:30 – 4pm
Rice Hall, Room 308
Phone: 5-6708
E-mail: Emer.O'Dwyer@oberlin.edu

****N.B.** All e-mail correspondence will be answered between 5 and 8pm on the day received, unless special circumstances dictate otherwise.

PART I: FRAMEWORKS

Week 1, Sept. 4: Introduction

Maps.

Week 2, Sept. 11: Transnational History and “Manchuria”

Bender, Thomas. “Introduction: Historians, the Nation, and the Plenitude of Narratives,” in *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*, ed. Thomas Bender. Berkeley: University of California Press (2002): 1-21. **(Online in OBIS)**

Duara, Prasenjit. “Transnationalism and the Challenge to National Histories,” in *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*, ed. Thomas Bender. Berkeley: University of California Press (2002): 25-46. **(Online in OBIS)**

Dan Shao and Ronald Suleski. “Manchuria as a Borderland: History, Culture, and Identity in East Asia.” *East Asian History* (No. 30, December 2005): 1-5.

Olivier, Bernard Vincent. *The Implementation of China’s Nationality Policy in the Northeastern Provinces*. San Francisco, Mellen Research University Press (1993): 11-16.

Duara, Prasenjit. “Introduction,” *Sovereignty and Authenticity: Manchukuo and the East Asian Modern*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers (2003): 41-59.

Week 3, Sept. 18: Imperialism(s), Defined

Beasley, W.G. “Explanations of Imperialism,” in *Japanese Imperialism, 1894-1945*. Oxford: Oxford University (1987): 1-13.

Maier, Charles. “What is an Empire?” in *Among Empires*. Cambridge: Harvard University (2006): 24-77.

Wolfe, Patrick. “History and Imperialism: A Century of Theory, from Marx to Postcolonialism,” *American Historical Review* 102, no. 2 (1997): 388-420.

Gallagher, John and Ronald Robinson. “The Imperialism of Free Trade,” *Economic History Review*, 6 (1953): 1-15.

PART II: HISTORIES

Week 4, Sept. 25: (Qing China) Manchuria under the Manchus, 1600-1911

Elliott, Mark C. *The Manchu Way: The Eight Banners and Ethnic Identity in Late Imperial China*. Stanford: Stanford University (2001): 39-128; 175-209; 275-304; 345-61.

Presenters:

Christie, Dugald. *Thirty years in Moukden, 1883-1913, being the experiences and recollections of Dugald Christie*. Ed. by his wife. (London, Constable and Company Ltd., 1914): 4-20; 83-98; 109-115; 123-183.

Guy, R. Kent. "Who were the Manchus? A Review Essay." *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 61, no. 1 (Feb. 2002): 151-164.

Ho Ping-ti. "In Defense of Sinicization: A Rebuttal of Evelyn Rawski's 'Reenvisioning the Qing,'" *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 57, no. 1 (February, 1998): 123-55.

Crossley, Pamela K. and Evelyn S. Rawski. A Profile of the Manchu Language in Ch'ing History. *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*. Vol. 53, No. 1 (June, 1993): 63-102.

***Week 5, Oct. 2: (Japan) Railway Imperialism and the South Manchurian Railway Company (Mantetsu)**

Iriye, Akira. Japan's Drive to Great Power Status," in the *Cambridge History of Japan*, ed. Marius Jansen. Vol. 5 (1989): 721-82.

Gottschang, Thomas R. and Diana Lary. *Swallows and Settlers: The Great Migration from North China to Manchuria*. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies (2000): 1-68.

Myers, Ramon H. "Japanese Imperialism in Manchuria: the South Manchuria Railway Company, 1906-1933," in P. Duus, R.H. Myers, and M.R. Peattie, eds. *The Japanese Informal Empire in China, 1895-1937*: (1989): Ch. 4, pp. 101-32.

Primary Source: "Administration," and "Communications," in *Present Manchuria and Mongolia*. Dairen: South Manchuria Railway Company (1924): 1-20.

Primary Source: Matsuoka Yōsuke, "Manchuria, Its Past and Present," *Kaigai no Nihon [Japan Overseas]* (January 1930): 4-10.

Presenters:

Bix, Herbert. "Japanese Imperialism and the Manchurian Economy," *The China Quarterly* no. 51 (1972): 425-443.

Chou, Shun-hsin (1971). "Railway Development and Economic Growth in Manchuria," *The China Quarterly* 45: 57-84

**Reminder: Professor Louise Young will give a special guest lecture on Friday, October 5 at 12 noon.*

Week 6, Oct. 9 (Imperial and Soviet Russia) *The Russian Far East*

Wolff, David. *To the Harbin Station: the Liberal Alternative in Russian Manchuria, 1898-1914* (Stanford: Stanford University, 1999): 1-48; 78-115; 146-177.

Chernolutskaia, Elena. "Religious Communities in Harbin and Ethnic Identity of Russian Emigrés," *South Atlantic Quarterly* Vol. 99, no. 1 (2000): 77-96.

Schickman-Bowman, Zvia. "The Construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway and the Origins of the Harbin Jewish Community 1898-1931," in *The Jews of China: A Source Book and Research Guide*, ed. Jonathan Goldstein, 2:82. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe (1999): 187-199.

Bresler, Boris. "Harbin's Jewish Community 1898-1958," in *The Jews of China: A Source Book and Research Guide*, ed. Jonathan Goldstein, 2:82. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe (1999): 200-215.

Presenter:

Menquez, Alexander. "Growing up Jewish in Manchuria in the 1930s: Personal Vignettes," in *The Jews of China: A Source Book and Research Guide*, ed. Jonathan Goldstein, 2:82. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe (2000): 70-84.

Week 7, Oct. 16: (Republic of China) *Manchuria of the Warlords*

Enatsu, Yoshiki. *Banner Legacy: The rise of the Fengtian local elite at the end of the Qing*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan (2004): 91-113.

Ikei Masaru. "Japan's Response to the Chinese Revolution of 1911," *Journal of Asian Studies*, 25 (1966): 213-27.

Sheridan, James E. "The Warlord Era: Politics and Militarism under the Peking Government, 1916-28," in *Cambridge History of China*, ed. J. K. Fairbank, vol. 12, Republican China 1912-1949, Part 1. (1983): 284-321.

Lee, Chong-sik. *Revolutionary Struggle in Manchuria: Chinese Communism and Soviet Interest, 1922-1945*. Berkeley: University of California (1983): 1-50; 330-56.

Mitter, Rana. *The Manchurian Myth: Nationalism, Resistance, and Collaboration in Modern China*. Berkeley: University of California (2000): 1-71.

Presenters:

Young, John W. "The Hara Cabinet and Chang Tso-lin, 1920-1," *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 27, no. 2 (Summer, 1972), 125-42.

McCormack, Gavan. *Chang Tso-Lin in Northeast China, 1911-28: China, Japan, and the Manchurian Idea*. Stanford: Stanford University, 1977): 1-14; 250-257.

Fall Recess

PART III: MILITARY CONQUEST AND WARTIME IMPERIALISM, 1931-45

Week 8, Oct. 30: *The Manchurian Incident: A Military Solution*

Coox, Alan D. "The Kwantung Army Dimension," in *The Japanese Informal Empire in China, 1895-1937*, ed. Peter Duus, Ramon H. Myers, and Mark R. Peattie. Princeton: Princeton University (1989): 395-428.

Ogata, Sadako N. *Defiance in Manchuria: The Making of Japanese Foreign Policy, 1931-1932*. Berkeley: University of California (1964): 3-19; 37-89; 176-92.

Shimada Toshihiko. "The Extension of Hostilities, 1931-1932," Akira Iriye, trans., in *Japan Erupts: The London Naval Conference and the Manchurian Incident, 1928-1932*, James W. Morley, ed. New York: Columbia University (1984): 241-335.

Primary Source: Hergé (Remi Georges). *The Adventures of Tintin: The Blue Lotus*. Atlantic-Little, Brown, 1936.

Presenters:

Esselstrom, Erik W. "Rethinking the Colonial Conquest of Manchuria: The Japanese Consular Police in Jiandao, 1909-1937." *Modern Asian Studies*, vol. 39, no. 1 (2005): 39-75.

Wilson, Sandra. *The Manchurian Crisis and Japanese Society*. London: Routledge (2001): 30-74.

****Reminder: Screening of "*The Last Emperor*" at 7pm on Monday, Oct. 29.**

Week 9, Nov. 6: *Manchukuo*

Young, Louise. *Japan's Total Empire: Manchuria and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism* (1998): 3-180.

Ogata, Sadako N. "The Kwantung Army and the Establishment of Manchukuo," in *Defiance in Manchuria: The Making of Japanese Foreign Policy, 1931-1932*. Berkeley: University of California (1964): 118-33.

Presenter:

Yamamuro Shin'ichi. "Transforming Manchuria-Mongolia into a Paradise for Its Inhabitants: Building a New State and Searching for State-building Ideals," in *Manchuria under Japanese domination*. Translated by Joshua A. Fogel. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press (2006): 39-81.

Week 10, Nov. 13: Manzhouguo, Part 2

Young, Louise. *Japan's Total Empire: Manchuria and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism* (1998): 183-436.

Week 11, Nov. 20: Economic Consolidation and Continued Military Expansion

Iguchi Haruo. "Ayukawa's Involvement in Manchukuo," *Unfinished Business: Ayukawa Yoshisuke and U.S.-Japan Relations, 1937-1953*. Cambridge, Harvard University (2003): 31-55.

Li, Lincoln. "Introduction," in *The Japanese Army in North China, 1937-1941: Problems of Political and Economic Control*. New York: Oxford University (1975): 1-18.

Nakamura Takafusa. "Japan's Economic Thrust into North China 1933-38: Formation of the North China Development Corporation," in Akira Iriye, ed. *The Chinese and the Japanese* (Princeton, 1980): 220-53.

Primary Source:

Stewart, John R. *Manchuria Since 1931*. (New York: Institute of Pacific Relations, 1936): 7-53.

PART IV: BEARING WITNESS

Week 12, Nov. 27: Writing Manchuria

Spurr, David. "Introduction," and "Surveillance: Under Western Eyes," in *The Rhetoric of Empire: Colonial Discourse in Journalism, Travel Writing, and Imperial Administration*. Durham: Duke University (1993): 1-27.

Primary Source:

Yosano Akiko. *Travels in Manchuria and Mongolia* [Manmō Yōki]: *A Feminist Poet from Japan Encounters Prewar China*. trans: Joshua Fogel (2001): 1-60; 90-100.

Presenter:

Kuramoto Kazuko. *Manchurian Legacy: Memoirs of a Japanese Colonist*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press (1999): 1-114.

PART V: POSTWAR AND CIVIL WAR

Week 13, Dec. 4: Decolonization and Chinese Civil War and Korean War

Levine, Steven. *Anvil of Victory: The Communist Revolution in Manchuria, 1945-48*. New York: Columbia University Press (1987): 1-174; 237-248.

Watt, Lori. "Imperial Remnants: the Repatriates in Postwar Japan," in Caroline Elkins and Susan Pedersen, eds., *Settler Colonialism in the Twentieth Century: Projects,*

Practices, Legacies. (New York: Taylor and Francis, 2005): 243-255.

Week 14, Dec. 11: *Presentation of Individual Research Topics*

Students will present their research topic before seminar members, explain the question(s) guiding the research, and distribute an annotated bibliography of major primary and secondary sources.