

Comparative Conflicts: Palestine/Israel, Algeria, South Africa and Ireland
History 302
Spring 2012

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Office: Rice 303

Class time: Thursday 1:00-2:50pm
Room: King 325.

Office Hours: MW 4-5:30pm
and by appointment.

What can we learn from a comparative perspective to conflicts? What factors shape the trajectory and solution of the various conflicts? What can comparative perspectives teach us about colonialism, particularly settler-colonialism? Relying on interdisciplinary approaches, this course will comparatively examine four formative conflicts in the twentieth century: Israel/Palestine, North Ireland, Algeria and South Africa. These conflicts are often mentioned together, and they involve similar issues of colonialism, decolonization and the post-colonial experience, including civil conflicts. Focusing on the case of Palestine/Israel and utilizing a variety of sources, we will elaborate on the history, society and political economy in these conflicts, analyze their differences and similarities in order to understand the dynamics of these conflicts. We will also explore important aspects of societies in conflict, including asymmetry of power and its role in conflict analysis, competing historical narratives, collective memory and political denial.

Course requirements and Grades:

- Participation (30%): attendance in mandatory. Unexcused absence for more than two classes could lead to failing the course. you are expected to do all assigned readings carefully, thoroughly and critically and actively participation in all class meetings;
- Introducing the Readings and paper (30%). Each student has to provide a 10-15 minute introduction to the readings and will then help to guide discussion. Presenters should begin by briefly summarizing the readings but then quickly move on to an analysis of their arguments and interventions. The function of the presentation is to jumpstart discussion, not to offer the final word on any one issue. They will submit an in-depth engagement (3 pages) with the readings of the week. You can sign-up for the class of your choice starting next week.
- Final paper (15 pages) (40%): first in draft form to be discussed by the class and then in final revised form.

You should plan to begin to formulate and research your paper early in the semester, in consultation with me. **You are required to submit a paper topic and tentative bibliography on March 23.** A complete draft of your paper, including notes and bibliography, must be completed and circulated by email to everyone in the class no later than **6 p.m. on May 7th**, so it can be discussed in class at one of our last three meetings. I must receive a revised final draft of your paper by **May 16th**.

Books for the class:

The following books are required and are available for purchase at the Oberlin Book Store:

- Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples*, (Cambridge: Cambridge

- University Press, 2004), 1-182.
- John Ruedy, *Modern Algeria*, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005). 1-155.
- William Beinart, *Twentieth-Century South Africa*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001). 1-140.
- All other readings will be accessible online or posted on Blackboard.

Additional Ground Rules:

- 1) Due dates and page-limit requirements are to be taken most seriously. I am not in the business of persecuting students if a genuine problem exists, but in principle I strongly dislike giving extensions. Normally, I take off 1/3 of a letter grade for every 24 hours a paper is overdue.
- 2) Three excuses for requesting extensions will never be acceptable: 1) a self-defined character flaw of procrastination; 2) extracurricular activities, including political activism; 3) work in other classes.
- 3) Papers must be double-spaced and have 1-inch margins. They must also be typed or word-processed (Times New Roman or similar, 12 point) with near letter quality resolution. I will return unread any illegible paper. No written work may be submitted electronically.
- 4) All written work at Oberlin College is covered by the **Honor Code**. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with its provisions.
- 5) All written work for the course must be completed in order to pass it.
- 6) Computers should be used in class only in matters pertaining to the class. Students are also advised not to engage in any activities in class not related to the class. This includes text messaging.
- 7) No permission is granted to upload ANY materials from this course on to a third party web site. Such materials are for the use of students in this class only.
- 8) Students with learning or other *disabilities* are advised to make proper arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (Jane Boomer in Peters Hall Rm. G-27/28) at the beginning of the term.

Syllabus

February 9: Introduction

- *George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant"

February 16: Comparative History

- *William H. Sewell, "Marc Bloch and the Logic of Comparative History." *History and Theory* 6(2) (1967), pp. 208-218.
- *Raymond Grew, "The Case for Comparing Histories." *The American Historical Review* 85(4)(1980), pp. 763-778.

- *Jürgen Kocka, "Comparison and Beyond." *History and Theory* 42 (2003), pp. 39-44.
- *Chris Lorenz. "Comparative Historiography: Problems and Perspectives." *History and Theory* 38 (1) (1999), pp. 25-39.
- *Ann Laura Stoler, "Tense and Tender Ties. The Politics of Comparison in (Post) Colonial Studies." *Itinerario* 27 (3-4) (2003), pp. 263-284.

February 23: Perspectives on Colonialism

- *Frederick Cooper, "Colonialism and Imperialism: Overview," in John Middleton, ed., *Encyclopedia of Africa South of the Sahara* (New York: Scribners, 1997), 316-21.
- *Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage, 1978), pp. 1-28
- *Frantz Fanon, "Concerning Violence," *The Wretched of the Earth*, trans. Cosntance Farrington (New York: Grove Press, 2004), pp. 35-106.
- *Frederick Cooper, *Colonialism in Question*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005). Conclusion, pp. 231-242.

March 1: Palestine/Israel

- Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 1-182.
- *Beshara Doumani, "Palestine Versus the Palestinians? The Iron Laws and Ironies of a People Denied," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 36, no. 4, pp. 49-64.

March 8: Algeria

- John Ruedy, *Modern Algeria*, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005), pp. 1-155.
- In Class: Film: *The Battle of Algiers* (1966)

March 15: South Africa

- William Beinart, *Twentieth-Century South Africa*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), pp. 1-140.
- In Class: Film: *Cry Freedom* (1987)

March 22: Ireland

- *J.J. Lee and Marion Casey, eds. "Making the Irish American: History and Heritage of the Irish in the United States," (New York: New York University Press, 2006), Chapter 2 "Modern Ireland", 63-147.
- In Class: Film: *In the Name of the Father* (1993)/*Hunger* (2008)

March 29: Spring Recess

April 5: Settler Colonialism

- *Gershon Shafir, Late Decolonization: Comparing South Africa, Northern Ireland and Israel/Palestine, *Theory and Research in Comparative Social Analysis*, paper 23 (2005).
- *Caroline Elkins and Susan Paderson, *Settler Colonialism in the Twentieth Century*, (New York: Routledge, 2005). Introduction, pp. 1-23.

- *Thomas Mitchell, *Native Vs. Settler: Ethnic Conflict in Israel/Palestine, Northern Ireland and South Africa*, (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2000), Introduction, pp. 1-13.
- Lorenzo Veracini, *Settler Colonialism: A Theoretical Overview* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010). Introduction and Ch. 3.
<http://ezproxy.library.nyu.edu:34960/pc/doi/10.1057/9780230299191>

April 12: Framing identities: Race and Class

- Ran Greenstein, *Genealogies of Conflict: Class, Identity, and State in Palestine/Israel and South Africa*, (Hanover: Wesleyan University Press, 1995), ch. 4, pp. 71-123.
- *Caroline Elkins and Susan Paderson, *Settler Colonialism in the Twentieth Century*, (New York: Routledge, 2005). Ch. 2, 9-10, pp. 41-58; 171-202.
- *Annie Coombes, ed., *Rethinking Settler Colonialism: History and Memory in Australia, Canada, Aotearoa New Zealand and South Africa*, (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2006). Ch. 10, pp. 193-208.
- Patricia M. E. Lorcin, "Imperialism, Colonial Identity, and Race in Algeria 1830-1870" *Journal of Science History*, 90, (1999), pp. 653-679.
- Gay Seidman, "Is South Africa Different? Sociological Comparisons and Theoretical Contributions from the Land of Apartheid," *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 25, (1999), pp. 419-440.

April 19: Framing identities: Gender

- Ellen Fleischmann, *The Nation and Its "New" Women.: The Palestinian Women's Movement, 1920 – 1948* (Berkeley :University of California Press, 2003).ch. 5 (pp. 115-136).
- Simona Sharoni, *Gender and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1995), ch. 3, 31-55.
- Simona Sharoni, "Rethinking Women's Struggles in Israel-Palestine and in the North of Ireland," in Caroline Moser and Fiona Clark, (eds). *Victims, Perpetrators or Actors: Gender, Armed Conflict and Political Violence*, London: Zed, 2001, pp. 85-98.
- Julie Peteet, "Male Gender and Rituals of Resistance in the Palestinian "Intifada": A Cultural Politics of Violence, *American Ethnologist*," Vol. 21, No. 1 (Feb., 1994), pp. 31-49
- Keith Breckenridge, "The Allure of Violence: Men, Race and Masculinity on the South African Goldmines, 1900-1950," *Journal of Southern African Studies* 24 #4, Dec. 1998, pp. 669-693.

April 26: Nationalism and decolonization

- *Thomas Mitchell, *Native Vs. Settler*, Ch. 3, pp. 39-68.
- *Ran Greenstein, *Genealogies of Conflict*, ch. 6, pp. 199-262.
- * Mona Younis, *Liberation and Democratization: The South African and Palestinian National Movements* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000), ch. 5, pp. 121-171.
- George Bornstein, The Colors of Zion: Black, Jewish, and Irish Nationalisms At the Turn of the Century, *Modernism/Modernity*; Sep 2005; 12, 3, pp. 369-384.
- *Joe Cleary, *Literature, Partition and the Nation-state: Culture and Conflict in Ireland, Israel and Palestine*, (Cambridge University Press. 2002), Ch. 5, pp. 186-225.

May 3: Colonial legacies and post-colonialism

- * Matthew Connelly, *A Diplomatic Revolution: Algeria's Fight for Independence and the Origins of the Post-Cold War Era* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), Conclusion, pp. 276-288.
- *Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 2006), "Stateless in Palestine", pp. 182-218.
- David Lloyd, *Anomalous States: Irish Writing and the Post-Colonial Moment*, (Duke University Press, 1993), "Violence and The constitution of the Novel", pp. 125-162.
- Bahir Abu-Manneh, "Palestinian Self-determination and the Israeli Occupation," and "A Colonial Disengagement" at:
<http://zcommunications.org/palestinian-self-determination-and-the-israeli-occupation-by-bashir-abu-manneh>
and <http://zcommunications.org/a-colonial-disengagement-by-bashir-abu-manneh>

May 10: Conclusions and Paper Presentations