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21H.504 East Asia in the World
Spring 2003

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Fall 2008

M, W 9:30-11:00 a.m.

HASS-D, Category 5, CI-H

Instructor: Ian Chapman

21H.504 EAST ASIA IN THE WORLD 1500-2000

Description

This subject examines the interactions of East Asia with the rest of the world and the relationships of each of the East Asian countries with each other, from 1500-2000. The primary focus is on China and Japan, with some reference to Korea, Vietnam and Central Eurasia. We ask how international diplomatic, commercial, military, religious, and cultural relationships joined with internal processes to direct the development of East Asian societies, and we address perceptions and misperceptions of each other by East Asians and foreigners.

The course sweeps over large regions of time and space. It aims to put the contemporary discussion of globalization into historical perspective by examining the long-lasting interactions of East Asian countries with each other and the rest of the world. These connections were economic, political, cultural, and psychological. Topics include: global silver and trade flows, warfare and military technology, imperial domination and revolutionary resistance, and the role of historical memory, as in Nanking or Hiroshima. Sources include historical documents, pictures, films, and memoirs.

Requirements

*** Class participation (25%)**

Each class includes both lecture and discussion. Your participation grade takes account of punctual attendance; familiarity with, and reflection on, the assigned readings; and active and thoughtful participation in discussion

*** Mid-term and final tests (10%)**

There will be 2 short tests during class, on basic geography, persons, and events.
Mid-term: 10/15; Final: 12/3

*** Assignments (65%)**

2 x 5 page papers (14% each), one to be revised and resubmitted (graded separately: 7%). Student and instructor will discuss which one is to be revised.

1 x 10 page paper (25%), with short oral presentation (5%).

All written assignments are to be submitted by 5 pm on the due date. An electronic copy is to be submitted to the course website, and a printout left in my department mailbox.

Readings (for purchase and on reserve)

Timothy Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure*

Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*

Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*

Michael Schaller, *The United States and China in the Twentieth Century*

Kenneth Pomeranz and Steven Topik, *The World that Trade Created*

John Dower, *Embracing Defeat*
Akira Iriye, *China and Japan in the Global Setting*
James Mann, *About Face*

Additional readings will appear on the course website or be handed out in class.

A note on plagiarism

Using someone else's work without acknowledgment is plagiarism. If you are guilty of this, you will at the least get a failing grade on the paper, and at worst fail the course and be taken to the Committee on Discipline. Later, I will give you more detailed instructions on how to cite sources and how to avoid unintentional plagiarism.

For extra help with writing and speaking

The Writing and Communication Center (12-132) offers you free professional advice from published writers about all types of academic, creative, and professional writing, as well as about oral presentations. Go to <http://web.mit.edu/writing> and click on the yellow sunburst. If you cannot find an open appointment slot, do not despair. There are always cancellations on the day of the appointment. Click on the Wait List (the blue strip that says? Is the time that you want already reserved?). Whenever a cancellation occurs on that day, you will be automatically notified by email. Because several people might receive that same message, go online ASAP to schedule that open spot; 96% of clients who want an appointment end up with one if they use the Wait List. If you can't find an appointment, you can drop by the Center and sign up to be a drop-in client and/or try the Online Tutor at <http://web.mit.edu/writing/Center/onlinetutor.html> . The Center's hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and Sundays, 5:00-9:00 pm. Check the online scheduler for up-to-date hours.

Class Schedule

Introduction: General Themes

Sep 3 (Wed.)

Introduction, discussion

Topic 1: The Sixteenth Century Global Economy

Global silver flows in the wake of European discoveries; commercialization of China draws in silver from the New World and Japan. Transformations of Chinese culture by silver, printing, and coastal trade; the impact of the Mongols of the Northwest frontier. Reunification of Japan also promoted by money and firearms.

Sep. 8 (Mon.)

Andre Gunder Frank, *ReOrient: Global Economy in the Asian Age*, 52-56, 59-70, 104-117, 126-130.

Peter Perdue, "China in the Early Modern World: Shortcuts, Myths, and Realities"
(unpublished)

Sep. 10 (Wed.)

Timothy Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure*, "Summer": 153-237.

Pomeranz and Topik, *The World that Trade Created*:

"Making of market conventions," 3-20; "What did they know," course website (not in 2nd ed.); "Natural limits," 41-44 (not on course website); "Woods, winds...", 47-49; "Seats of government," 51-53 (not on course website); "People patterns," 59-62; "Triangular trade," 236-237 (not on course website)

Topic 2: Seventeenth Century Crises and Eighteenth Century Flourishing Ages

Collapse of Ming and rise of Manchus: a new example of Central Asian conquest. The Jesuit interlude in China: role of Jesuits in science, military technology, and philosophy East and West. Early Tokugawa stabilization and trends in thought.

Qing expansion into Central Asia, based on dynamic commercial and agrarian growth. Entry of Europeans to Canton. Palaces, populations, and New World crops. Negotiations with Russia fix the Central Asian frontier, and doom the Mongols. Genroku age in Japan; problems of fiscal and commercial growth.

Sep. 15 (Mon.)

Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*, Ch. 2: 55-91

Peter Perdue, "Centralization and Commercialization in Russia, Central Eurasia, and East Asia" (Ch. 16 of *Global Connections: Politics, Exchange, and Social Life in World History*, forthcoming)

Timothy Brook, *The Confusions of Pleasure*, "Fall": 237-262

Sep. 17 (Wed.)

Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*, Ch. 3: 92-128.

Peter Perdue, "Expansion, Reform, and Communication in the Agrarian Empires of Asia" (Ch. 19 of *Global Connections*)

[Sep. 22 (Mon.): Holiday]

Topic 3: Nineteenth Century Declines and Revivals

China's crises: internal or external? Role of opium trade vs. population pressure. Internal rebellions, fiscal exhaustion, opium's penetration, European imperial wars. Efforts at self strengthening, to increase wealth and power [fuguo qiangbing/fukoku kyohei] in both China in Japan in late 19th century. Japan's success after Meiji vs. China's failure. The crux: Sino-Japanese War of 1895.

Sep. 24 (Wed.)

Pomeranz and Topik, *The World that Trade Created*:

“Brewing up a storm,” 77-80; “Drug wars” (course website; not in 2nd ed.); “How opium made...,” 90-93; “California gold,” 111-114; “Fur and fashion,” 119-121 (not on course website); “Sugar Shock,” 126-128; “No islands...,” 160-163; “Bloody decades,” (course website; not in 2nd ed.); “World trade,” 215-216; “Fiber of fortune,” 228-230 (not on course website)

Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*, Ch. 4, 5: 129-205

***Sep. 26 (Fri): First paper due**

Sep. 29 (Mon.)

Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, 61-114.

Hane, *Peasants, Rebels, and Outcasts*, 173-204

Topic 4: Twentieth Century Upheavals

Japan's role as imperial power, after defeat of Russia in 1905. China's revolution; rise of nationalism, increasingly focused against Japan. US Open Door policy in China, but anti-immigration laws at home. First World War gives Japan further openings to advance in China [21 Demands], China's frustration at Versailles generates May 4th movement. Rise of Nationalist and Communist parties. Nanking decade [1927-37] as period of internationalization, cut off by Japanese invasion. Militarization of Japan, leading to autarchy, and war in China. Racial perceptions during the Pacific War.

Oct. 1 (Wed.)

Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*, Ch. 6: 207-246.

William Kirby, “The Internationalization of China: Foreign Relations at Home and Abroad in the Republican Era.” *China Quarterly* 150 (1997): 433-458.

Oct. 6 (Mon.)

Pomeranz and Topik, *The World that Trade Created*:

“Good earth,” 132-135; “Growing global,” 186-188; “Banking on Asia,” 195-197; “Feeding silkworms,” 243-245.

Akira Iriye, *China and Japan in the Global Setting*, 3-88.

Oct. 8 (Wed.)

Michael Schaller, *The United States and China in the Twentieth Century*, 1-104.

Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, 139-225

[Oct. 13 (Mon.): Holiday]

Oct. 15 (Wed.)

John Dower, *Japan in War and Peace*, 9-54, 257-300.

Kenneth B. Lee, *Korea and East Asia*, 141-169.

***Mid-term test**

Topic 5: Post-World War II Reform and Reconstruction

The Cold War pushes the PRC into Soviet embrace, and draws Japan into American alliance. Limited reforms of Japan under Occupation. Significance of the retention of the emperor in making Japan distinctive. Efforts at radical transformation in PRC, first with Soviet aid, then without. China's ultimate isolation during Cultural Revolution, followed by rapid opening and reform. US Japan relations during and after the Cold War.

Oct. 20 (Mon.)

Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*, Ch. 7: 247-282.

Schaller, *The United States and China in the Twentieth Century*, 104-120.

Oct. 22 (Wed.)

John Dower, *Embracing Defeat*, 33-64, 121-167, 254-273, 346-373, 443-484.

Kenneth B. Lee, *Korea and East Asia*, 171-181.

***Oct. 24 (Fri): Second paper due, 5 pages**

Oct. 27 (Mon.)

Akira Iriye, *China and Japan in the Global Setting*, 105-142.

Topic 6: The Cold War, Nationalist Struggles, and Economic Development

Nationalist reunification movements in Korea and Vietnam are seen as Soviet-Chinese expansionist moves, inducing U.S. intervention. Consequences for China, Japan, and Taiwan. Beginnings of the East Asian economic "miracles" in Japan, Korea, Taiwan.

Oct. 29 (Wed.)

John Dower, *Japan in War and Peace*, 155-207.

Schaller, *The United States and China in the Twentieth Century*, 121-139.

***Revision of paper 1 or 2 due**

Nov. 3 (Mon.)

Schaller, *The United States and China in the Twentieth Century*, 140-208.

Nov. 5 (Wed.)

Stanley Karnow, *Vietnam: A History*, Parts 1-3.

[Nov. 10 (Mon): holiday]

Topic 7: Post-Cold War Reevaluations

China's reforms and opening to global economy; the puzzling slowdown of Japan's economic growth; Korea's rapid economic boom and sudden crash; US reevaluations of economic and strategic alliances. 1989: A critical year in world history. The Asian Financial Crisis of 1997: A Year of No Significance? Asian values and Western ideologies.

Nov. 12 (Wed.)

Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, 245-291.

***Nov. 14 (Fri): Third paper proposal due**

Nov. 17 (Mon.)

Chalmers Johnson, *Japan: Who Governs: The Rise of the Developmental State*, 51-112

Nov. 19 (Wed.)

James Mann, *About Face*, chapters 2, 4, 5, 7, 9

Nov. 24 (Mon.)

James Mann, *About Face*, chapters 10, 11, 15, 17, 18

Topic 8: Contemporary Issues in the Light of History

The role of historical memory in international relations: e.g. Nanking massacre; CCP-KMT alliances vs. Japan. The conundrum of Taiwan PRC relations. Frontier Questions: Tibet and Central Asia.

Nov. 26 (Wed.)

Laura Hein and Mark Selden, *Censoring History*, 3-73, 150-172

Honda Katsuichi, *The Nanking Massacre*, 169-188, 196-204, 239-40

Tanaka Masaaki, *What Really Happened in Nanking: The Refutation of a Common Myth*, 42-51.

Dec. 1 (Mon.)

Lee Teng-hui, *The Road to Democracy: Taiwan's Pursuit of Democracy*, 115-159

Dec. 3 (Wed.)

Mahathir Mohammad and Ishihara Shintaro, *The Voice of Asia*

Michael Katz, *Japan: The System that Soured*, 3-46, 318-346

*** Final Test**

Research project presentations

Dec. 8 (Mon.)

Dec. 10 (Wed.)

***Dec. 12 (Fri): Third paper (10 pages) due**