

History 195 Comparative Anti-Colonialism

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East Hall 03
Office Hours, Wednesday 2pm-4pm, or by appointment
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Course Summary

This course offers a comparative study of "anti-colonialism", or the politics and ideologies aimed at ending European colonial rule in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Our study will span the decades from the 1850s to the 1970s, as we compare varieties of anti-colonial action in colonial India, the Dutch East Indies (especially Indonesia), Vietnam and Algeria. Special attention will be given to the role of social class in defining strategies of resistance, the tension between radicalism versus reformism, the history of European imperial competition, counterinsurgency, and the many coalitions that developed between colonial politicians and European anti-colonial activists. A number of small-group projects during the semester will culminate in the research paper at the end of the course.

Required books

William Dalrymple, *The Last Mughal* (New York: Vintage Books)
James T. Siegel, *Fetish, Recognition, Revolution* (Princeton: Princeton University Press)
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (London: Verso)
Hue-Tam Ho Tai, *Radicalism and the Origins of the Vietnamese Revolution* (Cambridge: Harvard)
Alistair Horne, *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962* (NYRB Classics)

Unit I

Weeks 1-4 India: Mutiny Rebellion, "Proto-nationalism", Restoration and Insurgency

Uncovering the roots of anti-colonial nationalism among the subalterns and among the indigenous elites

Week 1

Introduction
William Dalrymple, *The Last Mughal* (begin)

Week 2

William Dalrymple, *The Last Mughal* (complete)
Subhas Chakraborty ed., *Uprisings of 1857: Perspectives and Peripheries*
(excerpt)

Week 3

Rudrangshu Mukherjee, *Awadh in Revolt* (excerpt)
Eric Stokes, *The Peasant Armed* (excerpt)

Week 4

Ranjit Guha, *Dominance without Hegemony* (excerpt)
Partha Chatterjee, *Nation and its Fragments* (excerpt)

Unit II Indonesia, the Role of Elites and Anti-colonial Nationalism

Do we focus on social, economic or intellectual levels?: different explanatory strategies.

Week 5

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*
Presentation of research paper proposals

Week 6

Benedict Anderson, *Java in a Time of Revolution* (excerpt)

Week 7

Tikashi Shiraishi, *An Age in Motion, 1912-1926* (excerpt)

Week 8

James Siegel, *Fetish, Recognition, Revolution*

Unit III Vietnam and International Politics

How did anti-colonial nationalism operate in and through international politics?

Week 9

Hue-Tam Ho Tai, *Radicalism and the Origins of the Vietnamese Revolution*

Week 10

Ken Post, *Revolution, Socialism, Nationalism in Vietnam*
Outlines of research papers due.

Week 11

Shawn McHale, *Print and Power* (excerpt)
Sophie Quinn-Judge, *Ho Chi Minh: The Missing Years* (excerpt)

Week 12

Truong Buu Lam, *Colonialism Experienced*

Week 13

Paper presentations 1

Alistair Horne, *A Savage War of Peace*

Week 14

Paper presentations 2

Film: Gillo Pontecorvo, *Battle of Algiers* (1965)