

University of Rochester – IR 213
Spring 2011
Mondays/Wednesdays – 3:25-4:40
B&L 315

Political and Economic Development in Post-Colonial Societies

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Course description: This course examines colonial legacies in post-colonial societies, with a focus on Latin America, Africa, and South Asia. Some of the central questions we will explore are: How have colonial ethnic censuses affected political stability in contemporary India? Is Africa's "growth tragedy" related to the arbitrary borders created by colonial powers in the late nineteenth century? Are countries in which ex-colonizers have settled in large numbers more likely to be richer today than countries with insignificant settler populations? By examining these questions in depth, we will develop a rigorous understanding of the role of history in political and economic life.

Attendance: This class is structured as a seminar course. Although I will occasionally lecture on some topics, much of our class time will be spent on discussing and critiquing the assigned readings. Regular attendance is thus expected. More than 2 unexcused absences might affect your attendance grade by half a letter grade. More than 5 accumulated absences will result in 0 % for the attendance portion of your overall grade. Note, an absence is considered excused when you have provided me a letter from your advisor attesting that your absence is on valid grounds.

Writing assignments: The writing assignments for the course will include 5 short papers (4-5 pages) and a cumulative final exam. Beyond these writing assignments, you will also participate in 2 group presentations. Please note, a written summary of the presentation should be circulated to the class a day in advance of the scheduled presentation date. No late assignment will be accepted unless you and I have mutually agreed upon an extension. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GIVEN A LOWER GRADE: one-third letter grade per day late.** Example: An "A" paper two days late will drop to a "B+".

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism: *"As members of an academic community, students and faculty assume certain responsibilities. One of those responsibilities is to engage in honest*

communication. Academic dishonesty is a serious violation of the trust upon which an academic community depends.

A common form of academic dishonesty is plagiarism. This is the use, whether deliberate or unintentional, of an idea or phrase from a source without proper acknowledgment of that source. The risk of plagiarism can be avoided in written work by clearly indicating, either in footnotes or in the paper itself, the source of any major or unique idea or wording that you did not arrive at on your own. Sources must be given regardless of whether the material is quoted directly or paraphrased. Another form of plagiarism is copying or obtaining information from another student. Submission of written work, such as laboratory reports, computer programs, or papers, which have been copied from the work of other students, with or without their knowledge and consent, also is plagiarism.”
<http://www.rochester.edu/College/CCAS/AdviserHandbook/AcadHonesty.html>

Plagiarized papers will not receive any points. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course and sanctions determined by the University’s Academic Honesty board.

Grading:

Attendance – 10 %
 Participation – 10 %
 Group presentation – 5 %
 Short papers – 35 %
 Final Exam – 40 %

Note: All reading materials for this class will be available electronically through Blackboard. Copies of the readings will also be on reserve at the library front desk. You are expected to have done the readings before coming to class. **Laptops will NOT be allowed in class.** I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, but you will be notified of any changes well in advance.

Course Calendar:

January 12: Introduction

January 17: Martin Luther King Day

No classes.

January 19: Concepts

Read:

Paul Pierson, “Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics,” *The American Political Science Review*, 94 (2), 2000, pp. 251-267.

January 24: Caste Conflict in India

Group Presentation

Skim:

Marc Galanter, *Competing Equalities: Law and the Backward Classes in India*, University of California Press, 1984, Ch.1 & Ch. 2.

January 26: The Ethnographic StateRead:

Nicholas B. Dirks, *Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India*, Princeton University Press, 2001, Ch. 3.

January 31: Nationalism and CasteRead:

Nicholas B. Dirks, *Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India*, Princeton University Press, 2001, Ch. 12.

Feb 2: The Legacies of the Caste CensusRead:

Laura Dudley Jenkins, *Identity and Identification in India: Defining the Disadvantaged*, RoutledgeCurzon, 2003, Ch. 5 & Ch. 6.

Feb 7: State Failure in Africa

Group Presentation

Skim:

R.D. Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy," *Atlantic Monthly*, February, 1994, 44-76.

Feb 9: The Scramble for AfricaRead:

Ieuan Griffiths, "The Scramble for Africa: Inherited Political Boundaries," *The Geographical Journal*, 152(2), 1986, 204-216.

Feb 14: Weak StatesRead:

Jeffrey Herbst, "War and the State in Africa," *International Security*, 14 (4), 1990, pp. 117-139.

Feb 16: Do Arbitrary Boundaries Really Matter?Read:

Pierre Englebert, Stacy Tarango and Matthew Pages, "Dismemberment and Suffocation: A Contribution to the Debate on African Boundaries," *Comparative Political Studies*, 35 (10), 2002, 1093-1118.

February 21: Long-run Economic Growth in Latin America

Group Presentation

Skim

Robert J. Barro, "Economic Growth in a Cross Section of Countries," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 106(2), 1991, 407-443. (See Introduction; Section I, Part A; Section III, Part E; Section IV)

February 23: Searching for the Heart of GoldRead:

James Lockart and Stewart B. Schwartz, *Early Latin America*, Cambridge University Press, 1983, Ch. 3.

February 28: Institutional PersistenceRead:

Coatsworth, John H. "Obstacles to Economic Growth in 19th-Century Mexico," *American Historical Review*, 83(1), 1978, pp. 80-100.

March 2: Institutions or Factor Endowments?Read:

Kenneth L. Sokoloff and Stanley Engerman, "Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Paths of Development in the New World," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 14(3), 2000, pp. 217-232.

March 5-March 13: Spring Break

No classes

March 14: Long-run Economic Growth in Africa

Group Presentation

March 16: Cocoa and the Damage DoneRead:

Robert Bates, *Essays on the Political Economy of Rural Africa*, Cambridge University Press, 1983, Ch. 3.

March 21: Institutional PersistenceRead:

William Reno, *Corruption and State Politics in Sierra Leone*, Cambridge University Press, 1995, Ch. 2 & Ch. 3.

March 23: Institutions or Germs?Read:

Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel*, New York, W.W. Norton & Co., 1997, Chapter 19.

March 28: The Partition Violence in South Asia

Group Presentation

Skim:

Yasmin Khan, *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*, Penguin Books, 2007, Introduction & Ch. 1.

March 30: Looking Inside the ViolenceRead:

Paul Brass, "The Partition of India and Retributive Genocide in the Punjab, 1946-47: Means, Methods, and Purposes," *Journal of Genocide Research*, 2003, 5(1), 71-101.

April 4: The Consociational StateRead:

Steven Ian Wilkinson, "India, Consociational Theory, and Ethnic Violence," *Asian Survey*, 40(5), 2000, 767-791.

April 6: Imposing DemocracyRead:

Jack Snyder, "Empire: A Blunt Tool for Democratization," *Daedalus* 134: 2 (2005): 58-71.

April 11: Civil-Military Relations in Africa and South Asia

Group Presentation

Skim:

Patrick J. McGowan, "African Military Coups D'état," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 2003, 41 (3), 339-370.

April 13: The "Martial Race" DoctrineRead:

Timothy Parsons, " "Wakamba Warriors are Soldiers of the Queen": The Evolution of the Kamba as a Martial Race, 1890-1970," *Ethnohistory*, 46(4), 1999, 671-701.

April 18: Persistence of the "Martial Race" DoctrineRead:

Steven Wilkinson, "Making India's Military Modern: The Indian Army's 'Martial Races' before and since Independence," Working Paper, Yale University, 2010.

April 20: The Warrior's CurseRead:

Donald Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*, University of California Press, 1985, Ch. 11.

April 25: Does the Culture of the Colonizer Matter for Economic Growth?Read:

David Landes, *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why some are so rich and some so poor*, W.W. Norton & Co., 1998, Ch. 19 & Ch. 20.

April 27: Does the Culture of the Colonizer Matter for Ethnic Conflict?

Read:

Robert Blanton, T. David Mason, and, Brian Athow, "Colonial Style and Post-Colonial Ethnic Conflict in Africa," *Journal of Peace Research*, 38(4), 2001, 473-491.