History 28 Nations and Nationalism in Eastern Europe: 1848-1998

The historical construction of nationalist identities, social movements, and self-proclaimed nation states in East-Central Europe out of multi-ethnic communities and multicultural Empires, from the revolutions of 1848 to the contemporary break up of Yugoslavia.

Course Requirements:

The course will be conducted primarily as a discussion class. Although I will lecture on background material, particularly in the first half of the semester, it is imperative that you come to class fully prepared. This means reading AND reflecting on the day’s assignment well in advance of class discussion! Occasionally I will distribute study guides and maps to help you focus your thoughts about the readings. In addition, you should be aware that the history department has implemented the following draconian policy on attendance: “Students are required to attend all classes for the successful completion of the course. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.” Please let me know in advance of any unavoidable absences (or illnesses). Written Requirements for the class include:

1) A take-home Midterm Exam due no later than Friday October 8 at noon in the History Department Office.
2) Active Participation in class Discussions
2) One 7-page (1,750-2,000 words) analytic paper on the period 1914-1939, due no later than Monday November 22 at noon.
3) One 7-page (1,750-2,000 words) research or analytic paper on a (narrow!) subject of your choice, due no later than December 15.
4) A short take-home Final Examination essay on Andic’s Bridge Over the Drina, due no later than the last day of final exams.

I will provide possible paper topics for the both papers, however, I encourage you to develop your own topic based on your particular interests and in consultation with me. You must have communicated your carefully constructed topic for the second paper to me no later than November 30. PLEASE PLAN CAREFULLY. Since the bulk of the written work for the class is due in the second half of the semester you must think ahead, and occasionally you may want to complete an assignment before the actual deadline.
Maps

I strongly recommend that you familiarize yourselves quickly with the historical geography of the regions we’ll study. Basic maps will be available to you on Blackboard in the “course documents” section. There are also several excellent atlases in McCabe and on the web.

Readings:

The following titles have been ordered for you at the College Bookstore:

I. Andric, Bridge Over the Drina
M. Bucur and N. Wingfield, eds., Staging the Past. The Politics of Commemoration in Habsburg Central Europe
E. Hoffman, Shtetl
I. Livezeanu, Cultural Politics in Greater Romania
B. Pauley, The Habsburg Legacy, 1867-1939
J. Rothschild, East Central Europe Between the Two World Wars
J. Rothschild & N. Wingfield, Return To Diversity

All books are also available on general reserve. In addition, the other required readings for the course marked with an asterisk in the syllabus will be available to you on Blackboard under the “course documents” section. Once you are registered for the class you have access to Blackboard.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

T 8/31  Introduction to the Course

Th 9/2  The Feudal and Absolutist Legacies: Lands, Cultures, States

Reading:  B. Pauley, The Habsburg Legacy, pp. 1-5
           *P. Judson, Exclusive Revolutionaries, 11-28
           *I Deak, The Lawful Revolution, pp. 1-9

T 9/7  1848: the Birth of Politics (and Political Nationalisms)

Reading:  *P. Judson, Exclusive Revolutionaries, pp. 29-68
          *S. Pech, The Czech Revolution of 1848, ch. 5
Th 9/9 
**Nations and Nationalism: Some Critical Perspectives**

Reading:  
*R. Brubaker, Nationalism Reframed, pp. 13-22*  
*P. Judson, “Introduction,” in Judson & Rozenblit, Constructing Nationalities, pp. 1-6 (18)*  
*J. King, Budweisers into Czechs and Germans, pp. 1-11*

T 9/14 
**Liberalism, Society, and Reform**

Reading:  
B. Pauley, The Habsburg Legacy, pp. 5-31  
*I. Deak, Assimilation and Nationalism in East Central Europe During the Last Century of Habsburg Rule”*  

Th 9/16  
**Mobilizing Around Nationalism in the Habsburg Monarchy 1**

Reading:  
*P. Judson, Frontiers, Islands, Forests, Stones: Mapping the Geography of a German Identity, in P. Yeager, ed. The Geography of Identity*  
N. Wingfield, “Statues of Joseph II as Sites of German Identity” in Staging the Past, pp. 178-201

T 9/21  
**Mobilizing Around Nationalism in the Habsburg Monarchy 2 (And the Empire Strikes Back)**

Reading:  
*C. Albrecht, “Pride in Production: The Jubilee Exhibition of 1891 and Economic Competition Between Czechs and Germans in Bohemia,” in Austrian History Yearbook 24 (1993)*  
D. Unowsky, “Reasserting Empire: Habsburg Imperial Celebrations after the Revolutions of 1848,” in Staging the Past, pp. 13-45

Th 9/23  
**The Nationalization of Society**

Reading:  
J. King, “The Nationalization of East Central Europe. Ethnicism, Ethnicity, and Beyond,” in Staging the Past, pp. 112-142
T 9/28 Eastern European Jews: Emancipation, Immigration, Ethnicity, Violence

Reading: *M. Rozenblit, Reconstructing a National Identity: The Jews of Habsburg Austria During World War I, chapter 1
E. Hoffman, *Shtetl*, pp. 20-158

Th 9/30 The New Balkan States and the Erosion of Stability: 1866-1914

Reading: B. Pauley, *The Habsburg Legacy*, 32-42

T 10/5 War in the East

*V. Liulevicius, Warland on the Eastern Front. Culture, National Identity and German Occupation in World War I*, pp. 1-9; 151-172; 278-281
M. Bokovoy, “Scattered Graves, Ordered Cemeteries: Commemorating Serbia’s Wars of National Liberation, 1912-1918,” in *Staging the Past*, pp. 236-252

Th 10/7 The War at Home

*M. Healey, Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire. Total War and Everyday Life in World War I*, 31-61

FALL BREAK

T 10/19 Revolution and Reaction

H, Kohn, “Was the Collapse Inevitable?” in Austrian History Yearbook 3, part 3 (1967)

**Th 10/21** Independent Eastern Europe: Nation States or Nationalizing States?

Reading:
B. Pauley, The Habsburg Legacy, pp. 100-127
J. Roth, The Bust of the Emperor, pp. 45-70

**T 10/26** Empires Collapse, Historians Moralize

Reading:
S. Wank, “The Habsburg Empire”
I. Deak, “The Habsburg Empire”
C. Keydar, “The Ottoman Empire”
(All three articles are from M. von Hagen, ed. After Empire: Multi-ethnic Societies and Nation Building: The Soviet union and the Russian, Ottoman, and Habsburg Empires)

**Th 10/28** Nationalizing Minorities (Majorities?) in Interwar Europe: Romania

Reading:
I. Livezeanu, Cultural Politics in Greater Romania, pp. 1-187

**T 11/2** When Nationalization Fails (You Get Fascism and More Anti-Semitism)

Reading:
I. Livezeanu, Cultural Politics in Greater Romania, pp. 189-312

**Th 11/4** Between Democracy and Dictatorship 1: Czechoslovakia

Reading:
J. Rothschild, East Central Europe Between The Two World Wars, pp. 73-135
C. Paces, “Religious Heroes for a Secular State: Commemorating
Jan Hus and Saint Wenceslas in 1920s Czechoslovakia,” in Staging the Past, pp. 209-232

**T 11/9**  **Between Democracy and Dictatorship 2: Poland**

Reading:  J. Rothschild, East Central Europe Between The Two World Wars, pp. 27-72  
E. Hoffman, Shetl, pp. 159-200  

**Th 11/11**  **World War II and German Occupation in the East**

Reading:  B. Pauley, The Habsburg Legacy, pp. 142-161  
J. Rothschild and N. Wingfield, Return to Diversity, pp. 25-75

**T 11/16**  **It’s Not Just the Nazis (Histories of Revenge, Side Switching, Ethnic Cleansing, and Population Transfers, 1939-1945)**

Reading:  *T. Zahra, “Reclaiming Children for the Nation: Germanization, National Ascription, and Democracy in the Bohemian Lands, 1900-1945,” in Central European History 37/4  
*E. Harvey, Women and the Nazi East (short excerpt)


Reading:  E. Hoffman, Shetl, pp. 201-258  

**T/11/23**  **Transitions to Communism**

Reading:  J. Rothschild and N. Wingfield, Return to Diversity, pp. 75-146

**Th 11/25**  **THANKSGIVING**
T 11/30    Undercover Nationalism? Society and Economy Under Communism
Reading:    J. Rothschild and N. Wingfield, Return to Diversity, pp. 147-226

Th 12/2    Nationalisms Refigured: The Revolutions of 1989 and their Aftermath
Reading:    J. Rothschild and N. Wingfield, Return to Diversity, pp. 227-263

T 12/7    Bosnia, Kosovo: Recent or Ancient Legacies of Nationalism?
Reading:    J. Rothschild and N. Wingfield, Return to Diversity, pp. 263-302