

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
Department of History

Pieter M. Judson
Office: Trotter 207
pjudson1@swarthmore.edu

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X 8136
Office Hours: T/Th: 11-12:30;
W 11-12

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

Is ethnic nationhood compatible with democratic practice? This course traces the historical construction of ethnic and nationalist identities, movements, and self-proclaimed nation-states out of diverse multi-lingual and religious communities in Central and Eastern Europe since the nineteenth century. The class focuses primarily on the century between the revolutions of 1848 and the rise of communist regimes after the Second World War.

Course Requirements:

The course will be conducted both as a lecture and discussion class. Although I will lecture on background material in order to set up some of the readings for you, (particularly in the first half of the semester), it is absolutely imperative that you come to class fully prepared to discuss the material assigned for each session. This is especially important because the written assignments for the class do not involve research, but rather your own critical analysis of the assigned texts read for class. You will want to read AND reflect on each day's assignment well in advance of class. Occasionally I will distribute study guides and maps to help you focus your thoughts about the readings. In addition, you should be aware of the history department's 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).

Requirements for the class include: Active participation in class discussions, occasional shock-therapy map quizzes, four take-home exam essays (three hours each) due on Friday February 26, Friday March 26, Friday April 30, and on the last day of final exams. In each case you will receive the essay questions one week before the exam. PLEASE PLAN AHEAD CAREFULLY!

Maps

I have ordered a set of inexpensive maps available for purchase at the bookstore. I strongly recommend that you familiarize yourselves quickly with the historical geography of the regions we'll study. This is no easy task, but it is important to your understanding of the history of the region. (If you think Ukraine is located where Croatia is, and you'd be surprised how many people do, the history of those two regions won't make any sense to you). Specialized maps will also be available to you on Blackboard in the "course documents" section. There are also several excellent atlases in McCabe and of course, on the web.

Readings:

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

Pieter Judson & Marsha Rozenblit, ed., *Constructing Nationalities in East Central Europe*
Irina Livezeanu, *Cultural Politics in Greater Romania*
Mark Mazower, *The Balkans. A Short History*
Tim Snyder, *The Reconstruction of Nations. Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999*

All books are also available on general reserve. 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 have registered for the class, you have access to Blackboard.

Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments

Tuesday	1/19	Introduction to the Course Map exercise
Thursday	1/21	Into the (Wild) East Reading: Mark Mazower, <i>The Balkans. A Short History</i> , Introduction *Larry Wolff, <i>Inventing Eastern Europe</i> , 1-11; 17-19; 40-43 *Peter Bugge, "Eastern Europe: Myths of Uneven Development" Maps
Tuesday	1/26	Early-Modern States and Empires

- Reading: Timothy Snyder, *The Reconstruction of Nations*, 1-5; 15-30
 *Pieter M. Judson, "Austria-Hungary, 1789-1914"
 Mazower, *The Balkans*, 3-76
- Thursday 1/28 **1848 Revolutions: The Birth of Politics and Political Nationalism**
- Reading: Robert Nemes, "The Revolution in Symbols: Hungary in 1848-1849," in *Constructing Nationalities*, 37-46.
 František Palacký, "Letter to Frankfurt," 11 April, 1848
- Tuesday 2/2 **Nations and Nationalism: Some Critical Perspectives**
- Reading: *Brubaker, "Ethnicity Without Groups" in *Ethnicity Without Groups*, 7-27
 Judson, "Introduction," *Constructing Nationalities*, pp. 1-6
 *Judson, *Guardians of the Nation: Activists on the Language Frontiers of Imperial Austria*, 1-11
 *Tara Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls. National Indifference and the Battle for Children in the Bohemian Lands, 1900-1948*, 1-12
- Thursday 2/4 **Laws and Institutions: From Individual Choice to Ascription**
- Reading: *Judson, *Guardians of the Nation*, 11-18
 *Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls*, 13-48
- Tuesday 2/9 **Nationalizing Public Space in the Habsburg Monarchy**
- Reading: *Judson, *Guardians of the Nation*, 42-65
 *Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls*, 1900-1948, 49-78
 Nancy Wingfield and Cynthia Paces, "The Sacred and the Profane: Religion and Nationalism in the Bohemian lands, 1880-1920" in *Constructing Nationalities*, 107-115
- Thursday 2/11 **Transforming the Masses: From Historic Gentry to Ethnic Peasant Nations**
- Reading: Snyder, *The Reconstruction of Nations*, 31-51; 122-132
 *Keely Stauter-Halsted, "Rural Myth and the Modern Nation: Peasant Commemorations of Polish National Holidays, 1879-1910," in *Staging the Past*, 153-172

- Tuesday 2/16 **Nationalism and Patriotism in the Habsburg Monarchy**
- Reading: Ernst Bruckmüller, "Patriotic and National Myths: National Consciousness and Elementary School Education in Imperial Austria," in Cole and Unowsky, ed., *The Limits of Loyalty. Imperial Symbolism, Popular Allegiances, and State Patriotism in the Late Habsburg Monarchy*, 11-35
- *Marsha Rozenblit, *Reconstructing a National Identity: The Jews of Habsburg Austria During World War I*, chapter 1
- Daniel Unowsky, "Staging Habsburg Patriotism: Dynastic Loyalty and the 1898 Imperial Jubilee" in *Constructing Nationalities*, 141-156.
- *Istvan Deak, *Beyond Nationalism. A Social and Political History of the Habsburg Officer Corps, 1848-1918*, 165-187
- Thursday 2/18 **Ottoman Decline and The New Balkan States**
- Reading: Mazower, *The Balkans*, 79-105
- Tuesday 2/23 **The Young Turks: Between Ottomanism & Turkish Nationalism**
- Reading: *Taner Akçam, *From Empire to Republic: Turkish Nationalism and the Armenian Genocide*, 64-107; 127-137
- Thursday 2/25 **The Balkan Wars and the Armenian Genocide**
- Reading: *Akçam, *From Empire to Republic*, 141-151; 158-175
- Tuesday 3/2 **War in the East**
- Reading: Alon Rachamimov, "Arbiters of Allegiance: Austro-Hungarian Censors During World War I," in *Constructing Nationalities*, 157-172
- Marsha Rozenblit, "Sustaining Austrian 'National' Identity in Crisis. The Dilemma of the Jews in Habsburg Austria, 1914-1919" in *Constructing Nationalities*, 178-185
- *Vejas Liulevicius, *The German Myth of the East*, 130-142
- Thursday 3/4 **The Home Front and the Breakdown of Society**

- Reading: *Tara Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls*, 79-95
 *Maureen Healey, *Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire. Total War and Everyday Life in World War I*, 31-61

SPRING BREAK

Tuesday 3/16 **The Empires Collapse (But Not Everyone Celebrates)**

- Reading: *Deak, *Beyond Nationalism*, 198-204
 Mazower, *The Balkans*, 108-111
 Rozenblit, "Sustaining Austrian National Identity in Crisis," in *Constructing Nationalities*, 184-188
 Wingfield and Paces, "The Sacred and the Profane: Religion and Nationalism in the Bohemian lands, 1880-1920" in *Constructing Nationalities*, 115-125

Thursday 3/18 **The Battle for the East Continues**

- Reading: Snyder, *Reconstruction of Nations*, 52-65; 133-139
 *Alison Frank, *Oil Empire: Visions of Prosperity in Austrian Galicia*, 205-236

Tuesday 3/23 **The Hard Work of Nationalizing in the New "Nation States" (or "what's democracy got to do with it?")**

- Reading: *Documents 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 from the *Miles Mission*, 1918-1919
 *Bugge, "The Making of a Slovak City: The Czechoslovak Renaming of Pressburg/Pozsony/Prešporok, 1918-1919," in *Austrian History Yearbook*, 2004, 205-227
 *Judson, *Guardians of the Nation*, 238-254
 *Joseph Roth, *The Bust of the Emperor*, 45-70

Thursday 3/25 **Crisis in the Inter-war Balkans**

- Reading: Mazower, *The Balkans*, 115-130
 Irina Livezeanu, *Cultural Politics in Greater Romania*, 1-13

Tuesday 4/30 **Nationalizing Minorities (Majorities?) in Interwar Romania**

- Reading: Irina Livezeanu, *Cultural Politics in Greater Romania*, 49-87; 129-187

Thursday 4/1 **When Nationalization Fails (You Get Fascism & More)**

Antisemitism)

Reading: Livezeanu, *Cultural Politics in Greater Romania*, 189-194; 203-208; 211-243; 245-248; 256-304

Tuesday 4/6 **Between Democracy and Nation 1: Czechoslovakia**

Reading: *Paces, "Religious Heroes for a Secular State: Commemorating Jan Hus and Saint Wenceslas in 1920s Czechoslovakia," in *Staging the Past*, 209-232
*Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls*, 107-141

Thursday 4/8 **Between Democracy and Nation 2: Poland**

Reading: Snyder, *The Reconstruction of Nations*, 65-72; 139-153

Tuesday 4/13 **War, German Occupation, and Holocaust in the East I**

Reading: *Mark Mazower, *Hitler's Empire*, 179-198
*Elizabeth Harvey, *Women and the Nazi East*, 152-174.
Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls*, 169-182
Snyder, *The Reconstruction of Nations*, pp. 73-89

Thursday 4/15 **War, German Occupation, and Holocaust in the East II**

Reading: *Kate Brown, *A Biography of No Place. From Ethnic Borderland to Soviet Heartland*, 192-225
Snyder, *The Reconstruction of Nations*, 154-178

Tuesday 4/20 **The Postwar Expulsions and "Population Transfers"**

Reading: Ben Frommer, "Getting the Small Decree: Czech national Honor in the Aftermath of the Nazi Occupation in *Constructing Nationalities*, 267-282
*Eagle Glassheim, "National Mythologies and Ethnic Cleansing: The Expulsion of Czechoslovak Germans in 1945," in *Central European History*, 37/4, 2000

Thursday 4/22 **No Class**

Tuesday 4/27 **Just when You Thought Things Had Changed: Postwar Pogroms**

Reading: Jan Gross *Fear. Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz*, 81-191

Thursday 4/29 **Bosnia and Kosovo: Recent or Ancient Legacies of Nationalism?**

Reading: *Tony Judt, *Postwar*, 665-685
Mazower, *The Balkans*, 147-156