

History and Civilization
International System(s): Politics,
Economy, and Governance in the XX
Century world
Introduction
START: 16:15

Global Governance
2025/202
Dr Aleksandra Komornicka

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The International System between Crisis and Revolution

"The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear."



BY DR. ANDREY KORTUNOV JANUARY 1, 2024

'The rules-based international system is collapsing before our eyes, giving free rein to the uninhibited expression of hatred and desire for revenge'

Can the international order survive Trump 2.0?

As Trump takes aim at global norms and institutions, the question of what parts of the post-Cold War order can be saved – and for whom – requires urgent attention.

At G20 meeting, India's Modi says 'global governance has failed'

Gaza, Asia, and the Crisis in Global Governance

Response to Russian invasion of Ukraine exposes an international system unfit to deal with global crises

U.S. Press

COMMENTARY

EMISSARY

The Death of the World America Made

Donald Trump's war on multilateralism is misguided and dangerous.

The Observer view of US foreign policy: A dangerous new international order is unfolding
Observer editorial



AMERICAS

The International System between Crisis and Revolution

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BY DR. ANAND KORTHIKAR | NOVEMBER 1, 2024

'The rules-based international system is collapsing before our eyes, giving free rein to the uninhibited expression of hatred and desire for revenge'

Can the international order survive Trump 2.0?

As Trump takes aim at global multilateral institutions, the quest for the next parts of the post-Cold War order can be saved – and for whom – requires urgent attention.

How international systems (world orders) come to be and how do they collapse?

Gaza, Asia, and the Crisis in Global Governance

Response to Russian invasion of Ukraine exposes an international system
unfit to deal with global crises

U.S. PRESS

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- Political and economic international systems
- Shifting distribution of power
- Origins of conflicts and their resolution
- Challenges to international systems
- History as a debate

General Module

Prof. Aleksandra Komornicka: “International System(s): Politics, Economy, and Governance in the XX Century world” – 8 CFU

Special Module 1

Prof. Lorenzo Trombetta: “History of the Arab-Islamic Middle East: A Historical Perspective on Contemporary Challenges” – 2 CFU

Special Module 2

Prof. Jacopo Cellini: "Religion(s) and International Politics: The Ever-Changing Relationship" – 2 CFU

General Module: International System(s): Politics, Economy, and Governance in the XX Century World

Topic 1: Empires and colonialism 1870-1945

Topic 2: The collapse of the “Concert of Europe” 1870-1914

Topic 3: The end of the First World War and the making of the Versailles system 1914-1929

Topic 4: The failure of the Versailles system and the Second World War, 1929-1939

Topic 5: The end of the Second World War, Pax Americana, Cold War

Topic 6: Cold War in Asia

Topic 7: The rise of the Global South

Topic 8: The end of the Cold War and the dawn of the New World Order

General Module: **International System(s): Politics, Economy, and Governance in the XX Century world**

Textbook and Materials:

- Antony Best, Jussi M. Hanhimäki, Joseph A. Maiolo and Kirsten E. Schulze, *International History of the Twentieth Century and Beyond* (London: Routledge, 2025) Chapters 1-4, 6-9, 11-12, 14, 16, 19
- Catherine Schenk, *International Economic Relations since 1945* (London: Routledge, 2011) Chapters 1-5
- Matthew G. Stanard, *European Overseas Empire, 1879–1999: A Short History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2018) Chapters 1-2.

Schedule: General Module (might undergo changes)

23 February: Intro lecture
24 February: Lecture 1
24 February: Intro seminar
25 February: Lecture 2
26 February: Seminar Q1

2 March: Seminar Q2
3 March: Seminar Q3, Q4
4 March: Lecture 3
5 March: Lecture 4

9 March: Seminar Q5
10 March: Seminar Q6
11 March: Seminar Q7, Q8
12 March: Lecture 5

16 March: Seminar Q9
17 March: Seminar Q10
18 March: Lecture 6
19 March: Writing &
Presentation skills

23 March: Seminar Q11
24 March: Seminar Q12
25 March: Essay Re-cap &
Topics distribution

8-10 April: Mid-Term Exam

13 April: Lecture 7
14 April: Mid-Term Feedback
15 April: Seminar Q13
16 April: Seminar Q14
17 April: Lecture 8

20 April: Seminar Q15
21 April: Seminar Q16
22 April: Seminar Q17
23 April: Summary Lecture

End-Term Exam

Attending students assessment

- **Mid-Term Exam** (40%): written at home group paper covering the topics examined in the General Module until then (topics 1-6). Students will ballot one question from a given list and will answer it using the knowledge acquired from the lectures, the textbooks, and any other materials provided in class. Questions will be on broad topics and processes, not on specific events. After submitting the group paper, each group will be expected to defend their work and answer follow-up questions. The paper and the defense will result in a single grade for all group members.
- **Special Module 1 Essay** (20%): written paper concerning one of the issues learned in class.
- **End-Term Exam** (20% + 20%): oral exam on the first summer exam round and covering the remaining part of the General Module (topics 7-8) and the Special Module 2. Students will answer two questions: one question from a given list dealing with the remaining part of the general module and one question from the list provided during the Special Module 2 “Religion(s) and International Politics: The Ever-Changing Relationship”. Students will answer them using the knowledge acquired from the lectures, the textbooks, and any other materials provided in class. Questions will be on broad topics and processes, not on specific events.

Non-attending students assessment

- Oral exam (80%) Students will answer three questions: two questions from the General Module and one question from the Special Module 2 “Religion(s) and International Politics: The Ever-Changing Relationship”. Students will answer them using the knowledge acquired from the lectures, the textbooks, and any other materials provided in class. Questions will be on broad topics and processes, not on specific events.
- Written exam (20%) Written paper on one of the issues learned during the Special Module 1.
- To be completed in the same exam round

Partial resits

Partial resits will take place only on the second round of the summer exam session and only as an individual oral exam (also for the Mid-Term Exam). Resiting parts of the assessment is available for:

- Attending students who failed the Mid-Term Exam or rejected the grade of the Mid-Term Exam but passed the End-Term Exam.
- Attending students who failed the End-Term exam or rejected the grade of the End-Term Exam but passed the Mid-Term Exam.

Full resits

Full resit has a form of the Non-Attending Students Exam. It is required for:

- Attending students who failed both the Mid-Term Exam and the End-Term Exam or refuse the grades they got at both. These students will also lose the grade of the Special Module 1 Essay.
- Students who do not submit the Mid-Term Exam by the only deadline.
- Students who do not submit the Special Module 1 Essay by the only deadline.

Only in case of exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness, serious illness of a parent, bereavement) could a student be excused for the late submission of the Mid-Term Exam and the Special Module 1 Essay. The exceptional circumstance shall be proved by means of a written certificate provided and signed by a third person in their professional capacity and attesting the situation.

Full resit is also available in any exam round for all the students who would like to improve their grade.

!!!PLAGIARISM!!!

Plagiarism is unacceptable and may result in a Fail. The Examinations Board will be notified of all attempts at fraud or plagiarism. When fraud or plagiarism has been established, the Examination Board may impose serious sanctions.

Plagiarism entails:

- The use of quotations that are not clearly marked by quotations marks and/or the source of which is not referenced.
- The creative use of cutting and pasting or rearranging the work of another person (a text or the part of a text, whole sentences, or parts thereof, or rewritten parts of sentences), or translations of such works, from printed or internet sources.

Questions?

History and Civilization –
International System(s): Politics,
Economy, and Governance in the XX
Century world :
Where are We by 1871?

Dr Aleksandra Komornicka



Maastricht University

STATES

NORTH AMERICA

- Canada as a *Dominion* in the British empire (1867)
- USA: the Frontier and the extermination of Natives



Da Colombo a Bolivar, storia di un continente



SOUTH AMERICA

Mid-1800s: wave of independence from European colonial powers

ASIA

- JAPAN; KOREA;
CHINA



CENTRAL ASIA

- Persia
- Afghanistan
- Ottoman Empire
- Russian Empire



MIDDLE-EAST & THE GULF

- OTTOMAN EMPIRE
- Arabia



EUROPE

- Spain; Portugal; France; Netherlands; Belgium; UK
- Russian (empire); Austria-Hungary (empire)

New:

Italy (1861-70)

Prussia (1871)



KEY ROLE OF WESTERN EUROPE

- Unprecedented extension of Empires and capacity to connect large territories
- Industrial revolution and economic power spreading capitalism at global scale
- permanent tension between unity and conflict and its global repercussion via empires

---> (WEST) EUROPEAN HEGEMONY (and its collapse...)

KEY CONCEPTS

NATION

The nation is a product of history, it is not a 'natural' phenomenon.

The nation is...

- a political construction
- made of people speaking the same language and sharing a cultural heritage (an 'imagined community', but also a living body)
- The sense of creating a 'community' is largely the result of identity-building process typical of the 19th century □ nation as source of new legitimacy of states (rather than King/Gods)

the NATION-STATE

NATION-STATE and NATIONALISM

NATION-STATE is

- a 19th century European construction.
- a specific form of territorial entity

NATIONALISM is

- the ideology representing the aspiration to establish a nation against foreign and imperial domination (e.g. 19th century democratic national movements in Europe; 20th century anti-imperialistic national movements outside Europe),

But also (at the same time)

- the national and patriotic identities constructed from above by ruling elite through education, mobilization, public discourse etc.

Nationalism came before the nation: it forged the nation state, and it was subsequently a means for strengthening the state.

HISTORIANS' AGREED VIEWS

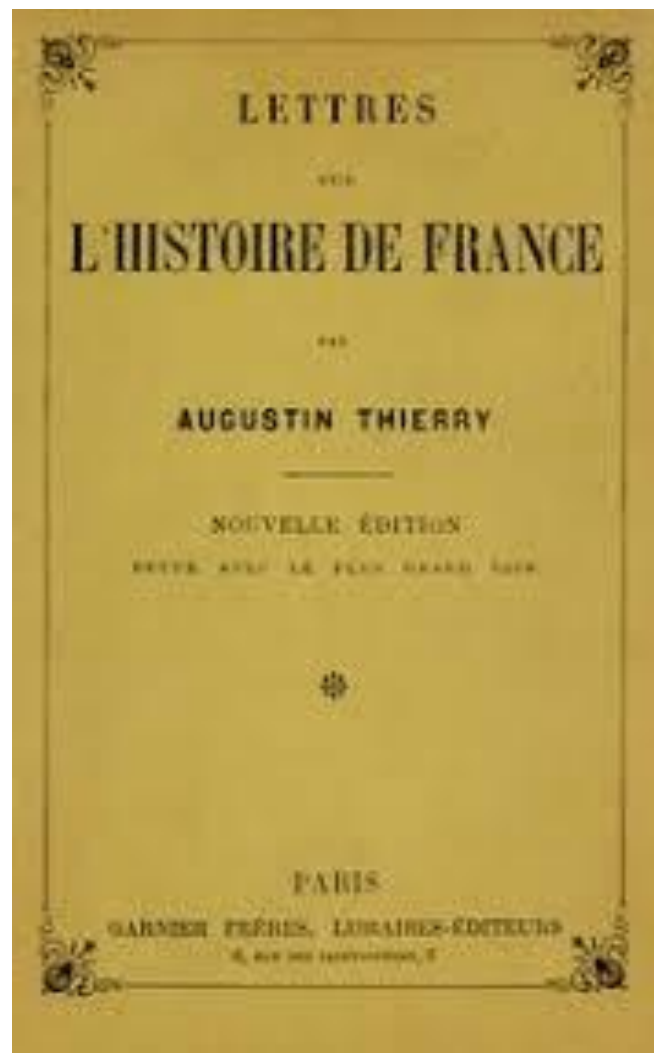
1. The nation is essentially a modern phenomenon, and as such it is not unchangeable, it has its own history and it may come to an end
2. National identity is not exclusive (though it may become so); it is only one among many collective and individual identities.
3. A nation-state is the central political institution of the 20th century and a global phenomenon.
4. A nation-state is quite often opposed to **empire**:
 - a) as a new polity much more compact and coherent in its social and cultural foundations (or pretending to be so)
 - b) as a counter-project in the non-European world to fight against European imperialism (for instance, the Arab states created after the 2nd WW).











Thanks!

- No textbook chapters for today, only your notes and these slides.
- **Tomorrow-** Lecture 1: Empires and colonialism 1870-1945 + Intro Seminar
- **Wednesday-** Lecture 2: The collapse of the “Concert of Europe” 1870-1914