

Global Structures, Nationhood & States

Graduate Seminar

Dept of Sociology
Rutgers University
Fall 2002; 16.920.570.01
Tue 4:10-6:50
Lucy Stone Hall (Livingston Campus) A 256

Convenor: **József Böröcz**
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offc hrs: Thu, 3-4pm, 172 College Ave,
or by appt (use email for contact)

This is a graduate seminar in the historical sociology of the interconnections among some of the largest and most consequential social institutions. It is organised around such key concepts as 'imperialism', 'hegemony' and 'empire', 'colonialism' and 'coloniality', 'nationalist' and/or 'internationalist' projects for transcending the existing order, 'violent' vs 'nonviolent' strategies of resistance and change, and the state as a means and an end in such projects. The purpose of the course is gaining literacy, devising critique and deriving inspiration. You are expected to:

- come to class prepared, with an active interest in both macrosocial analysis, an investigative curiosity and a mature intellectual agenda relating to the issues at hand,
- present one or two 5-10-minutes-long, sharply focussed remarks introducing the given week's readings as a stimulus for class discussion (schedule of remarks will be assigned in first class meeting),
- bring a less-than-one-page list of problem items (the most clearly formulated critical questions you would pose to the authors if they were here) to each class, in as many copies as members of the class,
- contribute your unique perspective, erudition and experience to the discussions, and
- write a high-quality research paper on a relevant subject on time.

Grading is a judicious combination of your contribution to the discussions, your presentations, homeworks and your paper.

Paper: Write a research paper-maximum 4000 words' length-about a topic of your choice regarding the links among global structures, nationhood and statehood. Your task is to make some theoretical proposition and some empirical observation to bear on each other in a way that is novel and relevant to some literature in this area of research. Please submit **your one-paragraph topic statement by the time of the 6th class meeting-i.e., by 8 October 2002.** Please use my office hours for discussions of possible topics, problems and solutions as soon as they occur to you. **Deadline for the finished paper: 4pm, Wednesday, 11 December 2002.**

During the 2001-2002 academic year, commercial bookstores have driven the only reasonable bookstore in town out of "business." Therefore, the books have been ordered through the Livingston College Bookstore. You will also find them on Graduate Reserves in Alexander Library.

Schedule

3 September – Introduction: Issues and Approaches

Film to be shown in class: *Caravans of Gold* (UK-Nigerian, dir/prod.: Basil Davidson, 1984).

Homework (deadline = 10 September, bring to class in as many copies as people) Prepare two sets of viewer notes, each no more than one page (200 words), containing your considered reflections on the *Caravans of Gold* as follows:

How does the film contribute to understanding global structures, nationhood and statehood?

What are the main problems with the way in which the film addresses those issues?

10 September – Coloniality

Required Readings:

- Césaire, Aimé. 1990 [1950]. *Discourse on Colonialism*. Transl. by Joan Pinkham. New York: Monthly Review Press.
 - Amin, Samir. 1989. *Eurocentrism*. Transl. by Russell Moore. New York: Monthly Review Press.
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17 September – The Communist Manifesto, Read Postcolonially

Required Readings:

- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1999. [1848] *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. Pp. 87-124 in Prakash Karat (ed.) *A World to Win - Essays on the Communist Manifesto*. New Delhi: LeftWord Books.
- Karat, Prakash. 1999. "Introduction." Pp. 1-13. in *ibid*.
- Ahmad, Aijaz. 1999. "The Communist Manifesto: In Its Own Time, and in Ours." Pp. 14-47. in *ibid*.
- Habib, Irfan. 1999. "The Reading of History in The Communist Manifesto." Pp. 48-67. in *ibid*.
- Patnaik, Prabhat. 1999. "The Communist Manifesto After 150 Years." Pp. 68-86. in *ibid*.
- Engels, Frederick. 1999. [1888] "Preface to the English Edition of 1888." Pp. 125-30 in *ibid*.

24 September – **Imperialism**

Required Readings:

- Lenin, V.I. 2000.[1916] *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism. A Popular Outline*. Pp. 42-151. New Delhi, LeftWord Books.
 - Hobson, John A. 1965 [1902]. *Imperialism. A Study*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.
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1 October – **Underdevelopment and Inequality**

Required Reading:

- Amin, Samir. 1976. *Unequal Development*. New York: Monthly Review Press.
ONLY THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS:
4. The Origin and Development of Underdevelopment - Pp. 198-292.
5. The Contemporary social Formations of the Periphery - Pp. 293-386.
- Köhler, Gernot. 1998. "The Structure of Global Money and World Tables of Unequal Exchange." *Journal of World-System Research*, 4,2. Online at <http://csf.colorado.edu/jwsr/archive/vol4/v4n2a4.htm>.

Recommended Readings:

- Bata, Michelle and Al Bergesen (eds.) 2002. Double Special Issue on Inequalities, *Journal of World-Systems Research*, VIII. 1 (Winter) and 2 (Spring). Online at <http://csf.colorado.edu/jwsr/archive/vol8/number1/index.shtml> and <http://csf.colorado.edu/jwsr/archive/vol8/number2/index.shtml>.

Reminder: Your paper proposal is due next week!

8 October – **Hegemonies**

Required Reading:

- Arrighi, Giovanni. 1994. *The Long Twentieth Century. Money, Power and the Origins of Our Times*. New York: Verso.

15 October – **Global Formation**

Required Reading:

- Chase-Dunn, Christopher K. 1998. *Global Formation. Structures of the World-Economy. Updated Edition*. Boulder, CO: Rowman & Littlefield.
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22 October – **Chaos & "Governance"**

Required Reading:

- Arrighi, Giovanni & Beverly Silver (eds.). 1999. *Chaos & Governance in the Modern World System*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
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29 October – **"Sovereignty"**

Required Readings:

- Grovogui, Siba N'Zatioula. 1996. *Sovereigns, Quasi Sovereigns, and Africans*. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press.
 - Krasner, Stephen. 1999. "Globalization and Sovereignty." Pp. 34-52 in Smith, David A., Dorothy Solinger and Steven Topik (eds.) *States and Sovereignty in the Global Economy*. New York: Routledge.
 - Helleiner, Eric. 1999. "Sovereignty, Territoriality, and the Globalization of Finance." Pp. 138-157 in *ibid*.
 - Sassen, Saskia. 1999. "Embedding the Global in the National: Implications for the Role of the State." Pp. 158-71. in *ibid*.
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5 November – **Empire, à la manière postmoderne**

Required Readings:

- Hardt, Michael and Antonio Negri. 2000. *Empire*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP.

Film to be shown in class, in preparation for next week: *The Battle of Algiers* (Italian, dir. Gilles Pontecorvo, 1967)

12 November – **Violence, with Properly Specified Subject(s) and Object(s)**

Film to be shown in class: *Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask* (British, dir. Isaac Julien, 1995)

Required Readings:

- Fanon, Frantz. 1965 [1963]. "Concerning Violence." Pp. 35-106 in *The Wretched of the Earth*. Preface by Jean-Paul Sartre. Translated by Constance Farrington. New York: Grove Press.
- Guevara, Ernesto 'Che'. 1999 [1966]. "Epilogue." Pp. 219-44 in Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, *The African Dream. The Diaries of the Revolutionary War in the Congo*. Translated from the Spanish by Patrick Camiller. London: The Harvill Press.
- Gott, Richard. 1999. "Introduction." ix-xliii. in *ibid*.

Recommended Reading:

- Guevara, Ernesto 'Che'. 1999 [1966] the rest of *ibid*.
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19 November – **Nationalism and Nonviolence**

Required Readings:

- Gandhi, Mahatma. 1986 [1909]. *Hind Swaraj*. Pp. 199-270. in Raghavan Iyer (ed.) *The Moral and Political Writings of Mahatma Gandhi. Volume 1. Civilization, Politics, and Religion*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
 - Chatterjee, Partha. 1998 [1986] *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World. A Derivative Discourse?* Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press. ONLY THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS:
 - 1. Nationalism as a Problem in the History of Political Ideas. 1-35.
 - 2. The Thematic and the Problematic. 36-53.
 - 4. The Moment of Maneuvre: Gandhi and the Critique of Civil Society. 85-130.
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"Thanksgiving" break

3 December – **Postcoloniality: Nationhood and Statehood**

Required Reading:

- Chatterjee, Partha. 1993. *The Nation and Its Fragments. Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP.
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10 December -- **Open meeting: Touch-up work, summary and implications**