

Political Science 123
Winter 2007
Office hrs: Wednesday, . 3-5:30

Professor Ellen Comisso
SSB 377
ecomisso@dss.ucsd.edu

POLITICS OF EMPIRE IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

To the degree empires are considered at all in contemporary political science, it is typically within the field of international relations, where the foreign and military strategies of the empire in question are the primary objects of attention. But empires also present very interesting internal problems of governance, making this particular form of political order of interest to those engaged in comparative politics as well. We begin with a consideration of how an "empire" differs from other forms of government (in particular, centralized states and federations). We will then consider some key issues of expansion and decline, but the primary focus in this course will be to compare the internal political orderings, i.e., the way in which large and varied territories and populations were governed by imperial authorities.

Five books have been ordered for this course. They are:

- Michael Doyle, *Empires*
- Peter Garnsey and Richard Saller, *The Roman Empire*
- Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*
- Niall Ferguson, *Empire: The rise and demise of the British world order and the lessons for global power*
- Barbara Jelavich, *Modern Austria: Empire and Republic*

For the most part, we will be reading selections from each book, with some occasional readings to supplement the texts. Those readings are in a reader/packet available at the UCSD bookstore. All materials will, of course, be on reserve at the Geisel Library.

Requirements and Evaluations: This course is designed to be a transition between the seminar given in Fall 2004 and larger lecture it is expected to become in the future. As such, it is a combined lecture/discussion class. Professor Comisso will lecture two-three days a week and hopefully we will be able to save at least some Fridays for discussion. Students are expected to have done the reading (about 100 pp. per week) and to participate in the discussions. Class participation will thus be a real factor in the final grade.

Students will be required to write a take-home midterm and a take-home final. Final grades will be based on a weighted average of the written assignments and class participation. You may be required to submit your papers through *turnitin.com*.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week I. What is an Empire?

- Charles Tilly, "How Empires End," in Karen Barkey and Mark von Hagen, eds., *After Empire*, pp., 1-12,
- Michael Doyle, *Empires*, Ch. 1 (pp. 19-51), Ch. 6 (pp. 123-41)
- Ronald Rogowski, review of *Empires* by M. Doyle, in *American Political Science Review* 83 (March 1989): 341-2. (On electronic reserve only)

Week II. Rome: From Republic to Empire

- Doyle, *Empires*, Chap. 4 (pp. 82-103); pp. 70-76 are helpful, but optional, reading;
- Peter Garnsey and Richard Saller, *The Roman Empire*, Parts I and II (pp. 5-83).

Week III. Rome: Governance (continued) and Decline

- Garnsey and Saller, *Roman Empire*, Part II (Ch. 5, pp. 83-101), Part III (Ch. 6, pp. 107-26); Part IV (pp. 163-96);
- Edward Gibbon, "General Observations on the Fall of the Roman Empire," in S. N. Eisenstadt, ed., *The Decline of Empires*, pp. 5-12;
- A. H. Jones, "The Social Political and Religious Changes During the Last Period of the Roman Empire," in Eisenstadt, *Decline*, pp. 67-75;
- A. H. Jones, "A Comparison of the Process of Decline in the Eastern and Western Parts of the Roman Empire," in Eisenstadt, *Decline*, pp. 159-64,

Week IV. The Ottoman Empire: Expansion and Rule

- Doyle, *Empires*, pp. 105-8
- Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*, Chaps. 2-4 (pp. 13-74), Chap. 6 (pp. 89-110); be sure to note the chronology given on pp. xvi-xxii which should help you situate yourself in the reading;
- Barbara Jelavich, *History of the Balkans*, Vol. 1, Chapter 1 (pp. 39-72; 113-126). This reading is optional, but may be helpful if you find Quataert confusing.

Week V. The Ottoman Empire: Causes of Dissolution

- Quataert, *Ottoman Empire*, Chapter 7 (pp. 110-32); Ch. 9 (172-92);
- John Lampe, "Imperial Borderlands or Capitalist Periphery? Redefining Balkan Backwardness," in D. Chiot, ed., *The Origins of Backwardness in Eastern Europe*, pp. 177-210—but you can skim everything after p. 191);
- Caglar Keyder, "The Ottoman Empire," in Barkey and von Hagen, *After Empire*, pp. 30-40
- Niall Ferguson, *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order*, pp. 256-65 (optional).

Week VI. The Habsburg Empire: Territorial and Institutional Evolution

- Barbara Jelavich, *Modern Austria*, pp. 3-72
- Jelavich, *History of the Balkans*, Ch. 2 (pp. 127-39, 161-4); Ch. 3 (pp. 165-8). Chapter 2 reading is optional; chapter 3 (comparing Habsburg and Ottoman empires) is required.

Week VII. The Habsburg Empire: Territorial and Institutional Devolution

- Jelavich, *Modern Austria*, pp. 62-150
- Norman Stone, *Europe Transformed, 1878-1919*, pp. 303-326 ("Austria-Hungary")
- Istvan Deak, "The Habsburg Empire," in Barkey and von Hagen, *After Empire*, pp. 129-41 (optional).

Week VIII. The British Empire: Founding and Growth

- Ferguson, *British World Order*, Introduction (pp. 1x-xxuv); Chapter 1 (pp. 1-45); Chapter 2 (pp. 45-56, 58-65; 83-92); Chapter 3 (pp. 94-128)

Week IX. The British Empire: Modes of Governance

- Ferguson, *British World Order*, Chapter 4 (pp. 137-84); Chapter 5 (186-96; 204-11; 2229-36); Chapter 6 (245-56; 270-302), Chapter 7 (256-65)

Week X. Has Empire Priced Itself out of the Market?

- Ferguson, *British World Order*, Chapter 6, Conclusion (pp. 245-319)
- P. J. Marshall, "Empire in Retrospect," *Cambridge Illustrated History of the British Empire*, pp. 370-80
- Gibbon, "General Observations on the Fall of the Roman Empire," above, week 3.