Evolution of Global Political Order

Winter 2015
MA (IRES)

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Course objectives:

This course is a continuation of another one - Evolution of European Political Order - taught in the Fall semester. It aims at providing students with an understanding of the evolution of European political order into a global arrangement. The main objective is to familiarise students with the ways of theorising the changes and challenges (both analytical and normative) involved in such territorial expansion. The course covers the period from the First World War up to the end of the Cold war. As with the ‘European order’ course, the emphasis is not on history as such, but the various ways of theorising historical change. Students thinking of taking this course are not required, and yet strongly encouraged, to take the Evolution of European Political Order one.

By the end of the course students are expected to:

• acquire an appreciation of the role of historical understanding in international relations theorising
• familiarise themselves with the various approaches to the study of international history
• develop an understanding of the main nodal points in the evolution of global political order

Learning outcomes:

Since, to repeat, this is not a ‘history’ course, students are not expected to learn any straightforward sequence of events. Nor are they expected to be equally interested in all the specific historical ‘moments’ discussed throughout the course. Rather, the main outcomes of the course should be as follows:

• an understanding of the mutually constitutive (and paradoxical) character of the relationship between ‘politics’, ‘public sphere’ and ‘freedom’: there is no human freedom outside of the public sphere; there is no public sphere without (or prior to) politics; there is no politics without (or prior to) public sphere; politics is freedom
• an understanding of the relationship between ‘politics’ and ‘power’: power acquired or maintained by means which are not ‘political’ is no longer ‘power’ but ‘force’ and force alone is never enough for the protection or enlargement of the public sphere
- an understanding of the relation between political power and political order, especially on the global scale where a variety of differently construed public spheres coexist and interact with each other, often drawing on force in these coexistence and interaction.

**Requirements:**

Active participation in the seminar - 10%
Presentation - 15%
3 position-papers - 10% each
Final essay (circa 5,000 words) - 45%

**Course outline:**

**Week 1 ‘The Problem of Order’**

Seminar 1
Introduction

Seminar 2

**Week 2 Out of Europe**

Seminar 3

Seminar 4

**Week 3 The ‘twenty years largely wasted’**

Seminar 5

Seminar 6

**Week 4 The End of Politics?**
Seminar 7

Seminar 8

Week 5 Fascism and Totalitarianism
Seminar 9
Michael Mann, Fascists (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004): 11-91
Seminar 10

Week 6 The Holocaust
Seminar 11
Seminar 12

Week 7 Post-WWII Settlement
Seminar 13
Seminar 14

Week 8 Cold war
Seminar 15
Stanley Hoffmann, ‘Will the Balance Balance at Home?’ Foreign Policy, 1972, 7: 60-87.
Seminar 16

**Week 9 The end of the cold war**

*Seminar 17*


*Seminar 18*


**Week 10 Post-cold war settlement?**

*Seminar 19*


*Seminar 20*


**Week 11 ‘The Problem of Order’ revisited**

*Seminar 21*


*Seminar 22*


**Week 12**

Concluding discussion