

A History of Military Occupation in the Middle East and Central Asia
University of West Georgia (Independent Study)

CRN 12755-HIST 4481/02

Room: TLC 3209

Wednesday: 2:30-3:30

Instructor: Dr. Aimee Genell
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U.S. Marines and Iraqis toppling a statue of Saddam Hussein in Bagdad, April 9, 2003

Course Description:

This independent study analyzes the theory and practice of military occupation in the Middle East and Central Asia from Napoleon in Egypt through the US invasion and occupation of Iraq. This course will consider the political, legal, and military aspects of occupation through comparative examination of a series of case studies. “Occupation” will be used a conceptual category to examine diverse phenomena in nineteenth and twenty-century international history including the expansion and collapse of modern empires and the rise of national states. It will consider the role of international law in imperial expansion, changes in the definition of sovereignty, as well as the transformative uses of military occupation in engineering the modern state. In addition to participation, students are required to write a term paper based upon original research of primary materials.

Course Requirements

Research Paper:

Students will produce an original research paper (10-12 pages). All research projects should be decided upon early in the semester and in consultation with the instructor. An outline of the research paper including a list of primary and secondary sources is due March 13. The Final paper is due April 29th.

Assessment

Class participation 25%

Research paper 75%

Recommended

Readings will be available on CourseDen and on reserve at the library.

Weekly Syllabus:

Jan. 16 - Introduction: The Uses and Varieties of Occupation

Discussion on CourseDen

Jan. 23 – Napoleon in Egypt

Simon Jackson, A. Dirk Moses, “Transformative Occupations in the Modern Middle East,” *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*, 8, 2(summer 2017): 231-246

Donald Malcolm Reid, *Whose Pharaohs? Archeology, Museums, and Egyptian National Identity from Napoleon to World War I*, chap. 1

Dror Ze’evi, “Back to Napoleon? Thoughts on the Beginning of the Modern Era in the Middle East,” *Mediterranean Historical Review*, Vol.19, No.1, June 2004, pp.73–94

Jan. 30 – Central Asia between Russia and the Ching Empires

David Brophy, *Uyghur Nation: Reform and Revolution on the Russia-China Frontier*, intro., chaps. 1-5, conclusion

Robert Crews, “Empire and the Confessional State: Islam and Religious Politics in Nineteenth-Century Russia,” *American Historical Review* vol. 108, no. 1 (February 2003): 50-83

Feb. 13 - The Ottoman Empire, International Law and “Effective Occupation”

Mark Mazower, “The Empire of Law,” in *Governing the World: The History of an Idea* (2013), 65-94

Ussama Makdisi, Ottoman Orientalism,” *The American Historical Review*, 107, 3(June 2002): 768-796

Thomas Kuehn, "Shaping and Reshaping Colonial Ottomanism: Contesting Boundaries of Difference and Integration in Ottoman Yemen, 1872-1919," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* (2007) 27 (2): 315-331

Recommended:

Christopher Michael Low, "Ottoman Infrastructures of the Saudi Hydro-State: The Technopolitics of Pilgrimage and Potable Water in the Hijaz," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 57, 4 (2015): pp. 942-974

Carl Schmitt, "The Last Pan-European Land-Appropriation (The Congo Conference of 1885)" in *The Nomos of the Earth*

M. Koskenniemi, *The Gentle Civilizer of Nations: the Rise and Fall of International Law, 1870-1960*, chapter 2 "Sovereignty: A Gift of Civilization: International Lawyers and Imperialism 1870-1914," (2001)

Feb. 20 – Iran between Russia and Britain

Abbas Amanat, *Iran: A Modern History*, intro., chap. 4-8

Feb. 27 – Interwar Variations: Central Asia under the Soviets

Francine Hirsch, *Empire of Nations: Ethnographic Knowledge and the Making of the Soviet Union*, part 1 & 2 (e-book)

<http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?vid=3&sid=624eed76-6421-43f0-b2af-2396652656af%40sessionmgr4009&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#AN=881682&db=nlebk>

Adeeb Khalid, *Making Uzbekistan: Nation, Empire, and Revolution in the Early USSR*, chap. 7-8 (e-book)

<http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?vid=1&sid=624eed76-6421-43f0-b2af-2396652656af%40sessionmgr4009&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#AN=1049465&db=nlebk>

Ali Igman, *Speaking Soviet with an Accent: Culture and Power in Kyrgyzstan*, chap. 1, conclusion (e-book)

<http://articles.westga.edu:2071/eds/detail/detail?vid=5&sid=3fcda5e1-82fc-433e-8cc5-fef576d83261%40sessionmgr101&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#AN=829384&db=nlebk>

March 13 - Interwar Variations: Afghanistan after Occupation

Faiz Ahmed, *Afghanistan Rising* - (available at the library)

March 18-22 Spring Break

March 27 - 1967 and the Occupied Territories

Neve Gordon, *Israel's Occupation*, chap. 1-2; 5

Eyal Weizman, *Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation*, introduction, ch. 1-5

U.N. Security Council Resolution 242

FILM: Ra‘anan Alexandrowicz, *Shilton Ha’Chok* [The Law in These Parts] (2011)

April 10 – The Soviet Invasion and Occupation of Afghanistan

Timothy Nunan, *Humanitarian Invasion: Global Development in Cold War Afghanistan*, selection

Robert Crews, *Afghan Modern: The History of a Global Nation*, chap. 7 “Revolutionary Dreams” (e-book – available at the library)

<http://eds.b.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?vid=1&sid=da2cc34f-a995-4a56-8ff1-85b3531514ac%40pdc-v-sessmgr03&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#AN=1086462&db=nlebk>

Mahmood Mamdani, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*, chap. 3

April 24 - America in Iraq

Ahmed Saadawi, *Frankenstein in Baghdad* (novel)

James Longley, “Iraq in Fragments,” (2006) FILM

William Langewiesche, “Welcome to the Green Zone: The American Bubble in Baghdad,” *The Atlantic Monthly*, (November 2004)

Recommended:

Nehal Bhuta, “Antinomies of Transformative Occupation,” *The European Journal of International Law*, vol. 16, no. 4(2005)