

Hist 853
History and Security: Russia and Central Asia

Spring 2012, 7:00-9:50PM, Thursdays, EH 201 and Leavenworth

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This course will survey major issues and controversies in twentieth-century Russian, Soviet, and Central Asian history. There is no way to cover the breadth of the field in a single semester. As a result, this course is necessarily selective. Given its place as part of a security studies program, I have chosen to emphasize those historical issues most relevant to contemporary issues of national and international security.

No previous background in Russian history is assumed. That said, you will be reading in-depth monographs that do require a certain level of background knowledge. I recommend reading a good undergraduate textbook on Soviet history within the first week of the course to provide background. Good possibilities would be the relevant chapters of Riasanovsky's (now Riasanovsky and Steinberg's) *History of Russia* or MacKenzie and Curran's *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*. For treatments of Soviet history alone, try McClellan's *Russia: The Soviet Period and After*, Moss' *A History of Russia* (the post-1917 volume), Thompson's *A Vision Unfulfilled*, or Treadgold's *Twentieth-Century Russia*. You will also need a good basic understanding of Marxism.

Class meetings will be discussion-based. As you should expect in a graduate history course, the reading load is heavy and important. Make every effort to keep up with it and not to miss class meetings.

Your grade will be based on class participation and on one short and one longer paper. The short paper will be due early in the semester as a first check on writing and as an introduction to Marxist thinking (key to understanding Soviet politics). The longer paper, of approximately 20 pages, will cover some security-related topic in the context of its historical roots. I will discuss the nature and expectations involved in this assignment further in class.

BOOKS:

Required: Cohen, *Bukharin and the Bolshevik Revolution* (ISBN 0195026977)
Keep, *Last of the Empires* (ISBN 0192803190)
Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted* (ISBN 0195368630)
Odom, *Collapse of the Soviet Military* (ISBN 0300082711)
Pipes, *Concise History of the Russian Revolution* (ISBN 0679745440)

Roy, *The New Central Asia* (ISBN 0814775551)
Statiev, *The Soviet Counterinsurgency in the Western Borderlands* (ISBN 978-0521768337)
Tucker, *Stalin in Power* (ISBN 0393308693)
Tucker, *The Lenin Anthology* (ISBN 978-0393092363)

One of these two: 1) Glantz and House, *When Titans Clashed* (ISBN 0700608990)
2) Stone, *Soviet Union at War, 1941-1945* (ISBN 1848840527)

One of these two 1) Martin, *Affirmative Action Empire* (ISBN 0801486777)
2) Pipes, *Formation of the Soviet Union* (0674309510)

One of these three: 1) Niedermaier, *Countdown to War in Georgia* (ISBN 9781879944046)
2) Cornell and Starr, *The Guns of August 2008* (ISBN 9780765625083)
3) Asmus, *A Little War that Shock the World* (ISBN 978-0230617735)

We will be spending relatively little time on strictly military and foreign policy issues. I do on occasion offer a full graduate class in Soviet military history. As an introduction to the subject, I modestly recommend my *A Military History of Russia* (ISBN 0275985024). There's also *The Military History of the Soviet Union* (Kagan & Higham, eds.) for which I wrote the interwar chapters. I'm happy to supply a bibliography or reading list on particular topics of interest.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

January 19: Intro to class. Reading BEFORE class meeting: Pipes, *Concise History*, chaps. 1-2.

January 26: World War I. Reading: Pipes, *Concise History*, chap. 3, and EITHER Norman Stone, *The Eastern Front* OR Bruce Lincoln, *Passage Through Armageddon* OR Peter Gatrell, *Russia's First World War*.

February 2: The Russian Revolution. Reading: Pipes, *Concise History of the Bolshevik Revolution*, Chaps. 4, 6-11; Suny, "Toward a Social History of the October Revolution," *American Historical Review* 88.1 (February 1983), 31-52.

February 9: Marxism. Pipes, *Concise History*, Chap. 5; Tucker, *Lenin Anthology*, "Introduction," "What is to be Done?," and "Imperialism"; Frunze, "Unified Military Doctrine" and "Front and Rear in Future War" (Frunze readings at Professor Stone's website).

Monday, February 13: 1st paper due (5 pages). In the spirit of Frunze's analysis of the military doctrine of the powers of the 1920s, present a Marxist analysis of the military and foreign policy of the contemporary power of your choice.

- February 16: NEP. Reading: Pipes, *Concise History*, Chaps. 14-16; skim Cohen, *Bukharin*, Chaps. 1-4, read in full Cohen, *Bukharin*, Intro, Chaps. 5-9.
- February 23: Nationality Policy. Reading: Yuri Slezkine, "The USSR as a Communal Apartment, or How a Socialist State Promoted Ethnic Particularism," *Slavic Review* 53.2 (1994), 414-453; and EITHER Pipes, *The Formation of the Soviet Union* OR Martin, *Affirmative Action Empire*.
- March 1: Stalinism. Cohen, Chap. 10; Tucker, *Stalin in Power*, Chaps. 4-9, 11-13, 15-19; Fitzpatrick, "New Perspectives on Stalinism," *Russian Review* (October 1986)
- March 8: Soviet Union at War. Reading: Glantz and House, *When Titans Clashed* OR Stone, ed., *The Soviet Union at War, 1941-1945*.
- March 15: Soviet Counterinsurgency. Reading: Statiev, *Soviet Counterinsurgency in the Western Borderlands*; Baumann, *Russian-Soviet Unconventional Wars in the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Afghanistan* (Leavenworth Papers), Chap. 3.
- March 22: NO CLASS. Spring Break.
- March 29: Khrushchev and Brezhnev. Reading: Keep, *Last of the Empires*, Chaps. 1-16; Odom, Chaps. 1-5.
- April 5: Collapse of Communism. Reading: Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted* and Keep, *Last of the Empires*, Chaps. 17ff.
- April 12: Collapse of Communism: The Military Dimension. Reading: Odom, *Collapse of the Soviet Military*, Chaps. 6-Conclusion.
- April 19: New Russia. Reading: Goldman, *Petrostate: Putin, Power, and the New Russia*, and Andrei Shleifer and Daniel Treisman, "A Normal Country," *Foreign Affairs* Mar/Apr 2004; Michael McFaul and Kathryn Stoner-Weiss, "The Myth of the Authoritarian Model," *Foreign Affairs* Jan/Feb 2008.
- April 26: Post-Soviet Central Asia. Reading: Roy, *The New Central Asia* OR Ahmed Rashid, *Jihad: The Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia*
- May 3: The Ossetia War. Reading: ONE of the following: A. Niedermaier, ed., *Countdown to War in Georgia* OR Cornell and Starr, *The Guns of August 2008: Russia's War in Georgia* OR Asmus, *A Little War that Shook the World*.
- Final paper due Thursday, May 10, at 5:00PM.