

Wilfrid Laurier University
History 348
International Relations to 1890

Winter 2010

Instructor: Dr. Robert K. Hanks
Lecture Room: 3-105
Time: TR 4:00-5:20 pm

Contact Information:

Office: 4-127
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:00 (or by appointment on TR)
E-mail: rhanks@wlu.ca or rob.k.hanks@gmail.com

Course Description:

This course analyzes the rise to worldwide ascendancy of the European International system from the origins of the French Revolution to the fall of Bismarck. It will focus on the rise and fall of the Great Powers and on the systematic evolution of international relations in Europe, but some attention will be also paid to the spread of the international system beyond Europe.

Getting in Touch:

Students are encouraged to consult with me during office hours, in chat sessions after class, or through e-mail. Please clearly identify all e-mail messages relating to this course with the course title and your name (i.e. "HI 348, Jones"). This will make it easier for me to give your e-mail priority attention. In general, I answer e-mail within 24 hours, and often sooner. Because of the threat posed by computer viruses, do not send unsolicited attachments.

Special needs:

Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact Laurier's Accessible Learning Office for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus. This course will make every effort to accommodate the needs of students working with Accessible Learning.

Course Texts:

McKay, Derek and H.M. Scott. *The Rise of the Great Powers, 1648-1815*. London and New York; Longman, 1983.

Rich, Norman. *Great Power Diplomacy, 1814-1914*. New York : McGraw-Hill, 1992.

These books can be purchased at Words Worth Books, 100 King Street South, Waterloo. Copies can also be obtained through Amazon.com, Amazon.ca, Alibris.com, and Abebooks.com. A copy of each book will also be placed on reserve in the Library.

Course Articles:

All of these are available on J-Store. Contrary to the normal rules of bibliography, they are listed in the order that we will use them in the course.

Rowlands, Guy. "Louis XIV, Vittorio Amedeo II and French Military Failure in Italy, 1689-96," *The English Historical Review*, Vol. 115, No. 462 (Jun., 2000), pp. 534-569.

Meehan-Waters, Brenda, "Catherine the Great and the Problem of Female Rule," *Russian Review*, 34 (30, July 1975), pp. 293-207.

Schroeder, Paul W. "Napoleon's Foreign Policy: A Criminal Enterprise," *The Journal of Military History*, Vol. 54, No. 2. (Apr., 1990), pp. 147-162.

Schroeder, Paul. "Did the Vienna Settlement Rest on a Balance of Power," *The American Historical Review*, 97 (3) (June 1992), pp. 683-706.

Posen, Barry R. "Nationalism, the Mass Army and Military Power," *International Security*, vol. 18, No. 2 (Fall 1993), pp. 80-124.

Useful Books on Reserve:

Blanning, T. C. W. *The origins of the French Revolutionary wars*. London: Longman, 1986. Call Number: DC220.B63 1986. An insightful introduction to the diplomacy of the French Revolution. Particularly useful in its treatment of ideology and the causes of inter-state warfare.

Bridge, Francis Roy and Roger Bullen. *The great powers and the European states system, 1815-1914*. London: Longman, 1980. Call Number: D363 .B75 1980. Another useful survey of the European International system.

Cassels, Alan. *Ideology and international relations in the modern world*. New York : Routledge, 1996. Potentially useful for essays on nineteenth century topics. Call number: JZ1242 .C327

Kennedy, Paul M. *The rise and fall of the great powers: economic change and military conflict from 1500 to 2000*. New York: Random House, 1987. Call Number: D210 .K46 1987. Has a great bibliography, as well as useful information on large-scale economic and military trends.

Rich, Norman. *Great power diplomacy, 1814-1914*. New York : McGraw-Hill, 1992. Call Number: D363 .R45. The best survey of our topic that is available. History majors should keep this on their shelves.

Rich, Norman. *Why the Crimean War? : a cautionary tale*. Hanover [N.H.] : Published for Brown University by University Press of New England, 1985. Call Number: DK215.R53 1985. A lucid analysis that argues that an attempt to achieve permanent diplomatic security through warfare is a dangerous illusion. This book was not read by anyone in the previous Bush administration.

Schroeder, Paul W. *The transformation of European politics, 1763-1848*. Oxford : Clarendon Press : Oxford ; New York : Oxford University Press, 1994 Call Number: D295 .T73. Schroeder is one of the great diplomatic historians of our times, and perhaps the most accomplished defender of Metternich. This book represents the culmination of his career.

Lecture Schedule

- 1) **Tues., Jan. 5** ----- Introduction. The Peace of Westphalia and the Balance of Power
- 2) **Thurs., Jan. 7** ----- Discussion: Scouting report of the Great Powers
- 3) **Tues., Jan. 12** ----- Louis XIV, part 1. Security vs. *Gloire*
- 4) **Thurs., Jan. 14** ----- Louis XIV, part 2. A Pyrrhic Victory?
- 5) **Tues., Jan. 19** ----- The Rise of the Flanking Powers: Britain and Russia
- 6) **Thurs., Jan. 21** ----- The Rise of Prussia and the War of Austrian Succession
- 7) **Tues., Jan. 26** ----- The Diplomatic Revolution and the Seven Years War
- 8) **Thurs., Jan. 28** ----- Catherine the Great and the Expansion of Russia
- 9) **Tues., Feb. 2** ----- The Collapse of Old Regime in France

10) Thurs., Feb. 4 ----- The French Revolution and the International System

11) Tues., Feb. 9 ----- The Rise and Fall of Napoleon, pt. 1.

12) Thurs., Feb. 11 ----- The Rise and Fall of Napoleon, pt. 2.

Reading Week: Feb 15-19

13) Tues., Feb 23 ----- The Congress of Vienna and Metternich's Europe

14) Thurs., Feb. 25 ----- The Western Question: the Rise of the United States

15) Tues., March 2 ----- The Eastern Question: the decline of the Ottoman Empire

16) Thurs., March 4 ----- The Revolutions of 1848

17) Tues., March 9 ----- The Crimean War

18) Thurs., March 11 ----- The Risorgimento

19) Tues., March 16 ----- Three Civil Wars

20) Thurs., March 18 ----- The Unification of Germany, part 1

21) Tues., March 23 ----- The Unification of Germany, part 2: The Franco-Prussian War

22) Thurs., March 25 ----- Liberalism vs. Realpolitik: Egypt, the Eastern Question and the Congress of Berlin

23) Tues., March 30 ----- The Bismarckian System

24) Thurs., April 1 ----- Course Review

Assignment and Mark Breakdown:

In-Class Participation----- 5 %

Term Paper Proposal----- 10% (Due: Tuesday, January. 26)

Book Review----- 20% (Due: Tuesday, Feb. 9)

Term Paper----- 35% (Due: Tuesday, March. 23)

Final----- 30% (TBA)

Grace Periods:

All assignments are officially due in class on Tuesdays. There will then be a two day grace period until class on the next Thursday (i.e. Jan. 28; Feb. 11; March 25). Any assignments handed in during the grace period will not be penalized. Any assignments handed in after class after the relevant Thursday will be assessed a late penalty.

Late Penalties:

There will be a blanket 5% deduction for your first late assignment. The second late assignment will be docked 10%. The third late assignment will be docked 15%. Extensions beyond the grace period will only be granted for medical reasons or for extraordinary emergencies. No paper will be accepted without prior approval of the essay proposal.

Late penalties will double if they are handed in after the next due date. (For example, if an essay proposal is handed in after the book review due date, its late penalty will be doubled).

No assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes unless an extension has been granted.

How to Hand In Assignments:

Assignments may be dropped off in class, during office hours, or in my mailbox on the fourth floor of the Woods building. For the purpose of assessing penalties, the cutoff time will be Thursday, 5:20 pm. In other words, I will check my mailbox immediately after class on the relevant date. Any assignments not in my hands at that point will be assessed a late penalty unless an extension has been granted.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious offence. Please see the Undergraduate Calendar for a complete definition of plagiarism. "Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism."

Assignment Descriptions:

Class participation: Students may earn class participation points by actively discussing readings in class; by taking part in general discussions; and by attending office hours to discuss their ideas for their essay proposal and other written assignments. Shy students who do not wish to talk in class can instead send short e-mail think pieces in response to lectures or discussions. Although 5 % may not seem like much, it may make the difference between a B or a B+, or

an A – and an A.

Term Paper Proposal:

A 300-500 word proposal for your essay topic, plus an **ANNOTATED** bibliography of at least 10 sources. This assignment will be graded on the quality of the proposal, the sources selected, and the quality of annotation. Annotations should identify and discuss the main argument or theme of each work, and should show evidence that you have read and thought about the source. Avoid bland generic sentences such as: “This source will help me understand my topic.”

Your bibliography should include at least: one monograph, one article from an academic journal (including J-Store and Project Muse), one internet source, and if possible, one substantial primary source (a major speech, memoir, diary, collection of letters, a collection of documents, etc.). No more than 30% of your sources should be web-based. The best internet sources are links to primary sources that are not available in our library system. The worst internet sources are generic articles from on-line encyclopedias (i.e. Wikipedia, etc.). Students are encouraged to spend as much time as possible doing research in the library system. It is impossible to write an adequate paper for this course based solely on web-based sources.

You may pick a topic from the suggestions (outlined below) or develop your own topic. All topics are subject to final approval from the instructor. It is important to do a good job on your essay proposal. Experience has shown: the better your proposal, the better your final paper.

Review:

The review will consist of 1500-2400 words and must directly pertain to your essay topic. The review may focus on a significant monograph or biography; a suitable primary source or, if appropriate and relevant, a significant historiographical debate consisting of at least two academic articles. If in doubt, ask me for advice.

Term Paper:

A ten to twelve page (2700-3600 words) research paper on your chosen essay topic. A first class paper will use at least 15 sources.

General Essay Topics:

Students are encouraged to design their own paper topics within these general parameters, subject to approval. Read widely and be creative.

Account for the origins of a major war or assess the impact of a major war on the international system. i.e. the Peace of Westphalia, the Dutch War, the Nine Years' War, the War of Spanish Succession, the War of Austrian Succession, the Diplomatic Revolution, the Seven Years War, the French Revolutionary Wars

Assess a leader's use of force and statecraft. i.e. Louis XIV, Leopold I, William of Orange, Marlborough, Peter the Great, Frederick the Great, The Empress Elizabeth, Choiseul, Kaunitz, Pitt the Elder, Catherine the Great, Maria Theresa, Napoleon, Vergennes, Pitt the Younger, Francis II, Alexander I

To what extent did a power or statesman achieve its or his objectives in a war? Why? Why not? i.e. Louis XIV during the Nine Years War, France during the War of Austrian Succession, Frederick the Great during the War of Austrian Succession or the Seven Years War; one of the coalitions against France during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, etc . . .

Explain why a battle or campaign was won or lost? i.e. Blenheim, Malplaquet, Poltava, Rossbach, Wellington in Spain, Austerlitz, Marengo, Leipzig in 1813, Trafalgar, etc. . .

Assess the generalship of a notable commander. i.e. William of Orange, Marlborough, Prince Eugene, Peter the Great, Charles XII, Nelson, Wellington, the Archduke Charles, Napoleon

Assess the thinking of a prominent military theorist. i.e. Vauban, Napoleon, von Clausewitz, Jomini

Specific Essay Questions:

Accident or calculation? Why did the Nine Years War break out?

Assess Louis XIV's skill as a statesman. What were his motivations? What were his goals? To what extent did his conduct of foreign policy evolve over the course of his reign?

Habsburg luck was often cursed by their enemies but Austria demonstrated a strange resiliency throughout the centuries. Account for the impressive survival of Austria under the leadership of the Empress Maria Theresa in the War of Austrian Succession.

At the height of the Seven Year's War, Frederick the Great echoed an age-old sentiment when he said that: "God is always with the strongest battalions." Yet his own example ultimately belied this seemingly sound aphorism. Taking into account personal, military and international considerations, explain why Frederick the Great survived the Seven Years War against such overwhelming odds.

Why was the Empress Maria Theresa unable to wrest Silesia away from Frederick the Great during the Seven Years War?

Catherine the Great engineered one of the greatest land grabs in European history. Why was she so successful in her conduct of foreign policy? Why was Europe unable or unwilling to form a Grand Alliance against her?

Why didn't the three partitions of Poland result in a war between Austria, Russia, and Prussia?

Why did French international prestige seem to go into decline between 1763 and 1788?

Which played a greater role in the origins and evolution of the French revolutionary wars – ideology or *raison d'état*?

In what ways did the French revolution change the nature of warfare? What were the strengths and limitations of the French revolutionary armies?

Why were Napoleon and his Marshals defeated in Spain?

Why was Napoleon defeated in the Russian campaign of 1812?

Why was Napoleon defeated in the German campaign of 1813? Was his defeat in 1813 inevitable?

Why did Austria survive the Napoleonic Wars?

What impact did the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars have on Prussia?

What impact did the French revolutionary and Napoleonic wars have on German states and society? What was the significance of the Confederation of the Rhine?

Account for the stability of Europe after the Congress of Vienna. Was peace ensured by the balance of power, an Anglo-Russian hegemony, fear of revolution, or simply by exhaustion?

What were the causes of the Eastern Question of the 1830s and 1840s? How did the European powers react to this problem? What impact did it have on the development of the international system?

Why didn't the Revolutions of 1848 produce major territorial changes in Europe?

Why was the Crimean War fought?

Why did the Russians lose the Crimean War? Was their defeat inevitable?

What impact did the Crimean War have on the European international system?

Diplomatic victory or defeat? What impact did the Crimean War have on Austria's position in Europe?

Account for Napoleon III's foreign policy during one of the following foreign policy crises (the Crimean War; the Risorgimento; the French intervention in Mexico; the origins of the Franco-Prussian War).

A large appetite with poor teeth: why was Piedmont able to unite Italy in spite of being a second rate military power?

Lord Palmerston was once purported to say: "Only three people have ever really understood the Schleswig-Holstein business--the Prince Consort, who is dead--a German professor, who has gone mad--and I, who have forgotten all about it." Why was the Schleswig-Holstein issue so difficult to resolve, and what impact did it have on European diplomacy in the mid-nineteenth century?

Why did Napoleon III intervene in Mexico? Why did he fail? What does this episode reveal about his abilities as a statesman?

Why was Bismarck able to defeat Austria in struggle for control over Germany?

Why did Napoleon III lose the duel to control Europe against Bismarck?

Why did France lose the Franco-Prussian War?

Realism versus idealism: compare the different philosophies of the two great rivals Disraeli (a.k.a Lord Beaconsfield) and Gladstone towards international relations. To what did they actually differ in practice?

British Conservative leader Benjamin Disraeli espoused imperialism, while his opponent William Gladstone denounced imperialism. Why did the British empire expand in size more under Gladstone rather than Disraeli?

Account for Bismarck's sudden adaptation and his subsequent abandonment of an aggressive colonial policy in the 1880s.