Modern Europe
Major Field
Comprehensive Reading List
John Marsland
With Dr. Sasha Pack

Revised: May, 2014

General


Revolution and Restoration in the Nineteenth Century


— “Did the Vienna Settlement Rest on a Balance of Power,” *The American Historical Review* 97: 3 (June, 1992), 683-706 Read


David Bell, *The First Total War* (Houghton Mifflin, 2007) Read


Alexis de Toqueville, *The Old Regime and the French Revolution* (any edition) Read

Suzanne Desan, Lynn Hunt, and William Max Nelson, *The French Revolution in Global Perspective* (Cornell, 2013) Read


**Cultural and Intellectual History**


Suzanne Marchand, *German Orientalism in the Age of Empire: Religion, Race, and Scholarship* (Cambridge UP, 2005)

Lucy Riall, *Garibaldi: Invention of a Hero* (Yale, 2008)

Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Time and Space in the Nineteenth Century* (Cal, 1987)


Carl Schroske, *Fin-de-siècle Vienna* (Vintage, 1980)


Anne Goresuch, All This Is Your World: Soviet Tourism at Home and Abroad After Stalin (Oxford, 2011)

Vanessa Schwartz, Spectacular Realities: Early Mass Culture in Fin-de-Siècle Paris (Cal, 1999)


George Iggers, The German Conception of History (Wesleyan, 1968)

Roger Griffin, Fascism and Modernism (Palgrave, 2007)

Walter Adamson, Embattled Avant-Gardes: Modernism’s Resistance to Commodity Culture in Europe (Cal, 2009) and others. Read

José Ortega y Gasset, Revolt of the Masses (any edition) Read

Sovereignty, Territoriality, and Nationalism

Anthony D. Smith, Nationalism (Polity, 2010) Read


Mary D. Lewis, Divided Rule: Sovereignty and Empire in French Tunisia, 1881-1938 (Cal, 2013)


Lauren Benton, A Search for Sovereignty: Law and Geography in European Empires, 1400-1900 (Cambridge, 2010)

Eugen Weber, Peasants into Frenchmen (Stanford, 1975)

Brian Porter, When Nationalism Began To Hate: Imagining Modern Politics in Nineteenth-Century Poland (OUP, 2000)

Mary D. Lewis, The Boundaries of the Republic: Migrant Rights and the Limits of Universalism in France, 1918-1940 (Stanford, 2007)

Gérard Noiriel, The French Melting Pot (Minnesota, 1996) Read
Andreas Fahrmeir, *Citizenship: The Rise and Fall of a Modern Concept* (Yale, 2007) Read


**The Era of the World Wars**


Mary Louise Roberts, *Civilization Without Sexes* (Chicago, 1994)


Isabel V. Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practice of War in Imperial Germany* (Cornell, 2006)


—– *Stalin’s Genocides* (Princeton, 2010)


Tom Buchanan, *Britain and the Spanish Civil War* (Cambridge, 1997)


Vicki Caron, *Uneasy Asylum: France and the Jewish Refugee Crisis, 1933-1942* (Stanford, 1999)


———*Republic of Egos* (Wisconsin, 2003)

———*Workers Against Work: Labor in Paris and Barcelona during the Popular Fronts* (Cal, 1990)

Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* Read


**Empire and Decolonization**


Julia Clancy Smith and Frances Gouda, eds., *Domesticating the Empire: Race, Gender, and Family Life in French and Dutch Colonialism* (Univ. of Virginia, 1998)


**Environment and Landscape**


Peter Baldwin, *Contagion and the State in Europe, 1830-1930* (Cambridge UP, 1999)


Scott Moranda, *The People’s Own Landscape: Nature, Tourism, and Dictatorship in East Germany* (Michigan, 2014)

Alain Corbin, *The Lure of the Sea* (Cal, 1994)


**Europe Since 1945**


Richard Bessel and Dirk Schumann, eds., *Life After Death: Approaches to a Cultural and Social History During the 1940s and 1950s* (GHI/Cambridge, 2003)


Konrad Jarausch, *After Hitler: Recivilizing Germans, 1945-1995*

Dagmar Herzog, *Sex After Fascism* (Princeton, 2005)


Ute Frevert, “Europeanizing Germany’s Twentieth Century,” *History and Memory*, 17: 1-2 (2005), 87-116


Questions:

1) What were the lasting effects of the French Revolution in Europe after 1815? Consider the nature of culture, politics, social and economic relations, religion, nationalism, and the international system. To what extent did the Restoration of 1815 restore pre-1789 Europe?

2) To what extent can 1848 be considered a turning point in European history? Assess the various possible interpretations from the perspectives of culture, politics, social and economic relations, religion, nationalism, and the international system.

3) The French Revolution long has been assumed to mark the divide between the “early modern” and “modern” periods. Why has this been so? Does this periodization continue to be appropriate?

4) Some historians have looked to cultural and intellectual history to find explanations for modern revolutions and wars. Assess this approach. In what ways did intellectuals and culture condition modern politics?

5) Is religious practice a constituent aspect of modern European culture and politics, or a residual element of an earlier historical period?
6) Discuss the connections between labor and leisure in Europe over the course of the
nineteenth and twentieth centuries. How have changes in these two activities mutually
conditioned one another?

7) Detlev Peukert’s description of the Weimar Republic as the “crisis of classical
modernity” can be said to apply more generally to Interwar Europe. Evaluate this
characterization in all its dimensions.

8) Many observers have characterized the Interwar period as a twenty-year truce in a
single thirty-years war. Is this accurate, or does it make more analytical sense to view the
two world wars as separate, discrete conflicts?

9) Was Soviet regime the outcome of European political culture as it developed since the
Enlightenment, or did it signify Russia closing the door on these developments?

10) Asked to define fascism, the liberal Italian philosopher Benedetto Croce famously
answered, “a parenthesis”. Was Croce correct to regard Europe’s fascist era to be a
historical “parenthesis” (or aberration) in a longer historical march of humanism and
liberal democracy in modern Europe?

11) Discuss some of the changing patterns of human mobility and migration in the
nineteenth and twentieth centuries. How have these changes conditioned the major
historical narratives of the period?

12) Assess the history of the concept of national citizenship since 1789. Consider law,
economics, military developments, race and ethnicity, gender, and class in your analysis.

13) Nationalism is typically associated with liberalism in the first part of the nineteenth
century and with conservatism in the latter part. Explain this change.

14) How have historians theorized the significance of landscape and the natural
environment in the formation of modern identities?

15) Evaluate the concept of Americanization. In what ways did American and Russian
hegemony shape European history?

16) Nineteen forty-five quickly attained mythical status as the Stunde Null, or Zero Hour,
of contemporary European history. To what extent does 1945 mark the start of a new era
and what are the principal lines of continuity connecting the post-45 period with its past?

17) How does a World History approach change the interpretation of modern European
history? Evaluate different ways in which events outside the Europe have influenced the
course of European history in the following periods: 1770-1815; 1850-1890; 1914-1945;
18) Modern maps have been said to “flatten space,” giving the impression that political and administrative power is exerted equally within territorially bounded spaces. One key element of classic modernity was the attempt by nation-states and empires to impose a uniformity of sovereign power over their territories. Discuss and periodize this process in the British, French, Russian/Soviet, and Ottoman empires. What were the consequences for the international system?