

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY  
Department of History

History 100.482

Professor William Rowe  
Fall 2020

**Historiography of Modern China**

I. Introduction

I. History, Ideology, and Politics

II. China and the West

2. Tradition and Modernity

Read: John Stuart Mill, "On Liberty" (selections)  
Marion Levy, "Contrasting Factors in the Modernization of China and Japan"  
Rhoads Murphey, "The City as a Center of Change: Western Europe and China"  
Edward Said, Orientalism, pp. 1-73

Report: Max Weber, The Religion of China (concentrate on Part One)

3. China's Response to the West: John King Fairbank

Read: Ssu-yu Teng and J.K. Fairbank, China's Response to the West, chs. 1 and 2  
John K. Fairbank, China: The People's Middle Kingdom and the USA, chs. 1-3  
John Wills, Embassies and Illusions, ch. 6  
Paul Cohen, Discovering History in China, ch. 1

Report: John K. Fairbank, Chinabound

4. National History

Read: Martin Bernal, "Liu Shih-p'ei and National Essence"  
Peter Zarrow, "The New Schools and National Identity"  
Madeleine Dong, "How to Remember the Qing Dynasty"  
Tze-ki Hon, "Ethnic and Cultural Pluralism"  
Zhao Ma, "Writing History in a Prosperous Age"

Report: Lawrence Schneider, Ku Chieh-kang and China's New History  
Huaiyin Li, Reinventing Modern China (Introduction and ch. 2)  
Thomas Mullaney, ed., Critical Han Studies

## 5. Imperialism, Dependency, World-Economy

Read: Karl Marx, "Revolution in China and in Europe"

V.I. Lenin, "Imperialism" (sel.), in Tucker, ed., The Lenin Anthology, pp. 243-51

Joseph Esherick, "Harvard on China: The Apologetics of Imperialism"

Robert Marks, "The State of the China Field, or, The China Field and the State"

Report: Frances Moulder, Japan, China, and the Modern World-Economy (esp. 1-70, 147-203)

Andre Gunder Frank, Re-Orient

Giovanni Arrighi, Adam Smith in Beijing

## 5. Comparative Political Economy

Read: Kenneth Pomeranz, The Great Divergence

Philip C.C. Huang, "Development or Involution in Eighteenth-Century Britain and China"

Report: Philip C.C. Huang, The Peasant Family and Rural Development in the Yangzi Delta

R. Bin Wong, China Transformed

## 6. The World History Approach

Read: William Atwell, "International Bullion Flows and the Chinese Economy"

Frederic Wakeman, "China and the Seventeenth-Century Crisis"

Joseph Fletcher, "Integrative History"

Evelyn Rawski, "The Qing Formation and the Early Modern Period"

Report: Peter C. Perdue, China Marches West (concentrate on Introduction and ch. 1 & 15)

## III. Historical Materialism

### 7. The Social History Debate

Read: Benjamin Schwartz, "A Marxist Controversy on China"

Leon Trotsky, "The Chinese Revolution and the Theses of Comrade Stalin"

Harold Isaacs, The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution, "Preface to the First Revised Edition" (1951)

Mao Tsetung (Mao Zedong), "The Chinese Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party," in Mao, Selected Works, vol. 2

Report: Arif Dirlik, Revolution and History

## 8. The Sprouts of Capitalism Debate

Read: Albert Feuerwerker, "China's Modern Economic History in Chinese Communist Historiography," in Feuerwerker, History in Communist China  
Liu Yung-ch'eng, "The Handicraft Guilds in Soochow during the Ch'ing Dynasty"  
William Rowe, "Recent Writing in the People's Republic on Early Ch'ing Economic History"  
Hong Huanchun, "The Impact of Feudal Autocracy on Nascent Capitalism in the Ming and Qing Dynasties"

Report: Jing Su and Luo Lun, Landlord and Labor in Late Imperial China (including Wilkinson's Introduction)

## IV. Ecological Approaches

### 9. The Asiatic Mode of Production: Karl August Wittfogel

Read: Wittfogel, "The Stages of Development in Chinese Economic and Social History"  
Wittfogel, "The Theory of Oriental Society"  
Wittfogel, "Chinese Society: An Historical Survey"  
Timothy Brook, ed., The Asiatic Mode of Production, pp. 1-46 and 164-75.

Report: Wittfogel, Oriental Despotism

### 10. Frontier History: Owen Lattimore

Read: Owen Lattimore, Studies in Frontier History, pp. 11-31, 85-96, 471-551.  
Owen Lattimore, "The Industrial Impact on China"  
William T. Rowe, "Owen Lattimore, Asia, and Comparative History"

Report: Owen Lattimore, Inner Asian Frontiers of China  
Robert Newman, Owen Lattimore and the Loss of China  
Jonathan Schlesinger, A World Trimmed with Fur

## V. Location and Community Approaches

### 11. Functionalist Ethnography: Fei Xiaotong

Read: Fei Hsiao-t'ung, Peasant Life in China (skim)  
Fei, "Peasantry and Gentry"  
Fei, "Hsiang-t'u Chung-kuo" (selections), in Gentzler, ed., Changing China, 210-14  
David Arkush, Fei Xiaotong and Sociology in Revolutionary China, ch. 1, 2, and 5

Report: Fei Xiaotong, Rural Development in China

## 12. Kyôdôtai Analysis

Read: Takeshi Ishida, "A Current Japanese View of Max Weber"  
Hisao Otsuka, "Max Weber's View of Asian Society"  
Noriko Kamachi, et.al., "Introduction" to Japanese Studies of Modern China, since 1953  
Joshua Fogel, "Introduction" to Tanigawa, Medieval Chinese Society and the Local Community

## 13. Central-place Analysis

Read: G. William Skinner, "Chinese Peasants and the Closed Community"  
Skinner, Marketing and Social Structure in Rural China, parts 1 and 2  
Skinner, "Cities and the Hierarchy of Local Systems," in Wolf, ed., Studies in Chinese Society  
Carolyn Cartier, "Origins and Evolution of a Geographic Idea: The Macroregion in China"

Report: James Scott, The Moral Economy of the Peasant

## VI. State/Society Approaches

### 14. Kyoto versus Tokyo

Read: Naitô Konan, "On China," "A Comprehensive Look at the T'ang-Sung Period," and "Cultural Life in Modern China"  
Mark Elvin, The Pattern of the Chinese Past, chapters 6 and 15  
Shigeta Atsushi, "The Origins and Structure of Gentry Rule," in Grove and Daniels, eds., State and Society in China

Report: Joshua Fogel, Politics and Sinology

### 15. Elite Studies and the Public Sphere

Read: Philip Kuhn, "Local Self-Government under the Republic," in Wakeman and Grant, eds., Conflict and Control in Late Imperial China  
William Rowe, "The Public Sphere in Modern China"  
David Strand, "Protest in Beijing"  
Frederic Wakeman, "The Civil Society and Public Sphere Debate"  
William Rowe, "The Problem of Civil Society in Late Imperial China"

Report: Philip Kuhn, Rebellion and its Enemies in Late Imperial China (1980 edition, including Preface)  
Mary Backus Rankin, Elite Activism and Political Transformation in China

## VII. Cultural Studies Approaches

### 16. Postcolonialism

Read: Judith Farquhar and James Hevia, "Culture, Power, and Postwar American Historiography of China"  
Prasenjit Duara, "Bifurcating Linear History: Nation and Histories in China and India"  
Gail Hershatter, "The Subaltern Talks Back: Reflections on Subaltern Theory and Chinese History"  
Lydia Liu, "Translingual Practice: The Discourse of Individualism between China and the West"  
Joseph Esherick, "Cherishing Sources from Afar"

Report: James Hevia, Cherishing Men from Afar  
Partha Chattarjee, Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse

### 17. Feminist History

Read: Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *AHR* 91.5 (1986)  
Dorothy Ko, Cinderella's Sisters  
Tani Barlow, "Theorizing Woman," in Zito and Barlow, eds., Body, Subject, and Power in China

Report: Susan Mann, Precious Records  
Dorothy Ko, Teachers of the Inner Chambers  
Gail Hershatter, Dangerous Pleasures  
Yili Wu, Reproducing Women

### 18. Transnational History

Read: Aihwa Ong and Donald Nonini, eds., Ungrounded Empires, Introduction, Afterword, and chaps. 1, 6, 8, and 10.

Report: Aihwa Ong, Flexible Citizenship

### 19. "New Qing History"

Read: Evelyn Rawski, "Presidential Address: Re-envisioning the Qing"  
Pamela Crossley, "The Rulerships of China"  
Evelyn Rawski, "The Qing Formation and the Early Modern Period"  
Li Zhiting, "'New Qing History': An Example of 'New Imperialist History'"  
James Millward, "'Re-educating' Xinjiang's Muslims," NYRB 66.2 (2019)

Report: Pamela Crossley, A Translucent Mirror  
Peter Perdue, China Marches West