CONTINENTAL EUROPE, 1870-1920: GRANDEUR AND DECLINE

Gavrilo Princip, just arrested by police, after his assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Habsburg heir to the thrones of Austria-Hungary, in Sarajevo, 28 June 1914. Source: Adam Szelągowski, XX wiek, Warsaw 1938 (public domain Wikipedia)

Course director: Professor Alan Kramer

Academic year 2014-2015, Michaelmas term 2014

Department of History, Trinity College Dublin
HI 2118 ‘Continental Europe, 1870-1920: Grandeur and Decline’ (10 ECTS) is a one-term module. It has been designed in conjunction with HI 2119 ‘Continental Europe, 1917 to the present: Cataclysm and Renewal’ (Hilary term, also 10 ECTS), so that taken in succession, the two modules provide an overall view of modern European history since the late 19th century and the foundations of contemporary Europe. However, each is a coherent unit on its own.

**Course teachers**
The course is taught by Professor Alan Kramer. Teaching assistants will give the tutorials and also mark the essays and written assignments. Professor Kramer will mark the examination.

Professor Kramer’s teaching and research cover 19th and 20th-century European history, in particular the transnational history of the First World War, German and Italian history, and economic, social, and cultural history. He is currently working on the international history of concentration camps, and is founding co-editor of ‘1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War’, to be launched in October 2014.

All of us are available for consultation on matters relating to the module, after the lectures, or by e-mail. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. E-mail addresses: alkramer@tcd.ie; teaching assistants’ contact details to be notified in week 2.

**Aims of the module**
Our first aim is to advance your understanding of the modern history of Continental Europe (i.e. Europe excluding Britain and Ireland). The course has its own internal logic. It examines the evolution of a Europe that dominated the planet in the mid-19th century, and which stood at the zenith of colonial domination of the non-European world, to a continent in 1920 that was shaken by the First World War and the redistribution of global power (to the USA, USSR and Japan). It also faced the first stirrings of anti-colonial independence movements.

HI2119 ‘Continental Europe, 1917 to the present: Cataclysm and Renewal’ (Hilary term) examines how the forces of destruction triumphed over those of reconstruction during the interwar years, resulting in the cataclysm of the Second World, the definitive displacement of Europe from the centre of global power, and the division of the continent in the Cold War. Out of this, a very different Europe had emerged by the end of the 20th century.

Together, the two modules enable you to gain a good understanding of the forces that have shaped contemporary Europe since the mid-19th century. Taken alone, each will introduce you to a vital period in Europe’s recent past and offer you insights into different kinds of history – political, economic, social, and cultural. The modules proceed by a mixture of themes that refer to different countries on a comparative and transnational basis and studies of the
major countries of continental Europe – France, Germany, Italy, and Russia. The term ‘continental Europe’ does not include Britain and Ireland; there are parallel courses on the history of these countries. However, precisely because this is an arbitrary distinction, it should be taken as a focus, not a rigid demarcation; where Britain is relevant (e.g. economic history, international relations) it will be referred to. The course opens with the Franco-Prussian war and the founding of the German Reich and the Third French Republic. It closes with the nature and impact of the First World War, and the different legacies that it bequeathed to Europe in the 1920s (communism, fascism, embattled democracies, and attempts at European reconciliation).

Some of you may be familiar with the outline of this period from courses done at school. But the approach we adopt entails you looking at what may seem familiar questions (such as the Origins of the First World War) in the light of recent scholarship, as well as exploring less familiar aspects of the period. The methodology of history at university differs from that at school: the emphasis is more on self-directed learning, not rote-learning; on different historiographical approaches, analysing historical documents (or ‘primary sources’), and presenting your own argument when writing essays and making presentations. Having done a comparable course at school may be an advantage, but it is not a pre-requisite. This module does not require any prior knowledge of the subject.

Our second aim is to help you acquire or develop specific skills. These include writing a clear and logical essay; source analysis; making spoken presentations in tutorials and participating in debate; and writing short, coherent essays under exam conditions. These skills will prepare you for the more focused work of the third and fourth years in history. They are also central to the general intellectual formation that your historical studies provide for whatever you may go on to do after graduating.

Knowledge of a foreign language is important to the study of European history. Some of you are studying history in conjunction with languages. Those not already doing so are strongly advised to revive or learn a foreign language, useful not only for Sophister special subjects but also for your future career. Employers increasingly reward foreign language skills. Please feel free to ask us for reading in French, German, or Italian. For information about language learning in College, consult the Centre for Language and Communication Studies on level four of the Arts Building (http://www.tcd.ie/slscs/clcs/). Broad Curriculum language modules taught by the CLCS are worth 5 credits.
Lectures

Lectures are given twice a week throughout the semester except for Reading Week. We use them to map the themes of the module, explore the current debates, and explain what is in the secondary literature. The intention is to provide an overview of the principal forces shaping European history between 1870 and 1920. Only by attending the series as a whole will you get a full sense of the intellectual content of the course and an idea of what is required in the examination. You could obtain most of the information and many of the arguments by reading through the attached bibliography. The internet, too, can be a source of useful, although not always accurate or relevant, information. Just like books and articles, the internet has to be used critically. One function of the lectures is therefore to guide you to what is of the highest quality and most appropriate to this course. You cannot obtain this guidance elsewhere (with the partial exception of tutorials). Another is to inspire you to make your own choices of areas that interest you for further study.

We strive to make each lecture as lively and accessible as possible. We realize that not every student will be equally interested in every topic: we all have our own preferences. However, you should **attend all the lectures**, not only because the lectures are central, since they provide you with an overall framework of explanation and understanding, but also because it will be important to keep a sense of the relationship between these and the overall module. Your own reading, tutorial work, and written work will enable you to focus in greater depth on themes that particularly interest you. During lectures, please do not distract others by eating, drinking, talking, or walking around. You may ask a question at any time by raising your hand, or by asking the lecturer at the end of the class. One tip: **if you concentrate on the lecture, you will get more out of it.** Focus on the argument, and assess the evidence offered. Effective concentration means you must switch off your mobile phone (not just ‘silent’ mode) and any other communication device during lectures.

The main themes are:

1. The consolidation of nation-states and the growth of mass politics, 1870-1914, in France, Germany, Russia, Italy. The ideological critique of liberal democracy from left (varieties of socialism) and right ('radical reaction').

2. European industrialization, 1850-1914. The ‘Great Depression’ of the 1870s and 1880s; the patterns of industrialization in the principal economies; the relative performances of Britain, France, Germany, and Russia.

3. Social and cultural change, 1870-1914. The growth of a sense of national community. The formation of working classes; the decline of the peasantry and the adaptive difficulties of the lower middle class; bourgeois culture and the *avant-garde* at the turn of the century.
4. The shifting pattern of international relations consequent on the unification of Germany, and the origins of the First World War. The construction of national identities.

5. European colonialism from the 1880s to the 1920s; the causes of expansion by European powers, especially into Africa; the consequences for the colonized; the place of colonial imperialism in the cultural and political life of the main European powers.

6. The significance of the Great War as the first European ‘total’ war. Its domestic political consequences in Russia (the Bolshevik Revolution of November 1917), Italy (the biennio rosso and rise of fascism) and Germany (the 1918 revolution and birth of the Weimar Republic). The nature of the peace settlement.

Tutorials
You will take six weekly tutorials from the third to the ninth week of Michaelmas term (week beginning 6 October to week beginning 17 November), with the exception of Reading Week (week seven, beginning 3 November). Attendance is compulsory. Each tutorial will treat a major question but there will be different programmes to avoid undue pressure on books. You will make at least one presentation to the group, discuss the other presentations and work on primary sources. You will be assigned to a tutorial group and time in the first two weeks; please look for the lists on the Senior Freshman section of the Department notice board. The tutorials provide an opportunity for you to engage with the course, debate, ask questions, and come to your own opinions. But what you get out of them depends entirely on what you put into them.

Coursework
Coursework consists of an essay and a tutorial assignment comprising a commentary on primary sources.

The essay must be submitted to the Department office, with the appropriate cover-sheet. Submission date: Monday, 24 November 2014 (see Freshman Programme Handbook for details).

The essay should be chosen from the topics listed below, must contain footnotes and a bibliography, and should be about 2,000 words in length. If you wish to write on another topic relevant to the course, this is open to negotiation: please consult Professor Kramer. In writing your essay, you should avoid a narrative rehearsal of facts. You should try to develop a critical argument, based on your own ideas and what you have read. Please note that plagiarism may incur a serious disciplinary penalty, such as a mark of zero. You must follow the Guidelines for the Writing of Essays, contained in the Freshman Programme Handbook. This includes not only the stern warning about plagiarism, but also useful advice on how to write an essay.
The tutorial assignment must be submitted to the Department office by Friday, 28 November 2014. It consists of an analysis of historical documents and is the same length as the essay (2,000 words). The material for the assignment and further details will be given to you in your tutorial programme.

**Essay topics**

1. Why was there a war between France and Prussia in 1870-71, and what were the consequences for either of these states?

2. Was the Dreyfus Affair a victory or a defeat for the Third Republic?

3. Examine critically the thesis of the ‘Great Depression’ in Germany, 1873-1896. You may focus *either* on the economy *or* on both economics and politics.

4. Explain how the Tsarist autocracy managed to survive the 1905 Revolution.

5. In what ways were national identities formed between 1870 and 1914? Discuss with reference to *one or more* countries.

6. Why did soldiers keep on fighting during the Great War? (Discuss with reference to *one or more* countries of continental Europe).

7. Why did the European powers seek to establish or expand their empires between 1870 and 1923? Answer with reference to *two or more* of the following countries: Britain, Italy, France, Germany, Belgium.

8. How close did the European powers come to resolving the legacy of the Great War in the peace treaties of 1919-20?

**NB. Your essay and tutorial assignment will be returned to you by the course tutor who has marked them. Notice of the time and place will be posted on the Department notice board.**

**Assessment**

Module essay (20% of the overall mark). Examination (80% of the overall mark). The three-hour examination will be held in April-May 2015. If the essay is not written, the zero mark will count in the final assessment.

**Scholarship examination**

This is a separate examination, taken by choice by those who wish to win a Scholarship (for which a first class mark is a pre-requisite). Formal notice of candidature must be given in November (please check dates online), using the entry form obtainable from the Senior Lecturer’s Office or the Examinations Office. Advice for those sitting the Scholarship examination will be given towards the end of the Michaelmas term.
Module bibliography

The following books and articles are those to which students should refer for the module as a whole as well as the sections on which they focus more closely for the purposes of tutorials, essays and the preparation of the examination. All books are published in London unless otherwise indicated. All are available in the College libraries, most in multiple copies. The number in brackets after each item indicates the number of copies in the Library. The letter R means the book is on reserve. If there are difficulties in obtaining titles, students should consult the Enquiries desk or Ms Mary Higgins or Mr Seán Hughes, the History Librarians, in the Berkeley Library. For further reading, please see Professor Kramer and the course tutors.

Two good general surveys of the themes covered in this course are:

James Joll  

John Morris Roberts  

A good collection of thematic essays, which includes useful bibliographies, is:

Paul Hayes, ed.  
Themes in Modern European History 1890-1945, 1992, 1994 (2)

One useful reference book is:

Chris Cook & J. Stevenson  

History is impossible to understand without geography:

Hermann Kinder & Werner Hilgemann  

The principal journals are:

European History Quarterly EHQ  
Journal of Contemporary History JCH

The Journal of Modern History JMH  
French History FH

Past and Present PP  
German History GH

Social History SH

In order to situate Europe within the 19th-century world, this is a highly recommended global history:

Jürgen Osterhammel  

The following are useful national histories:

Robert Tombs  
France 1814-1914, 1996 (2+R)

James F. McMillan  

David Blackbourn  
Fontana History of Germany 1780-1918: The Long Nineteenth Century, 1997 (4)

Volker Berghahn  

Hans-Ulrich Wehler  
The German Empire 1871-1918, 1973; tr.: Leamington Spa, 1986. (2+R)

David Blackbourn & Geoff Eley  
The Peculiarities of German History, Oxford, 1984. Essentially a critique of Wehler’s German Empire, it is an influential essay of interpretation. (4+R)

Hugh Seton-Watson  
Politics, 1870-1914

Michael Howard  
_The Franco-Prussian War. The German Invasion of France, 1870-1871, 1961_ (4+R)

Geoffrey Wawro  
_The Franco-Prussian War. The German Conquest of France in 1870-1871, Cambridge 2003_

James Joll  
_Europe since 1870, pp. 113-68_

Jean-Marie Mayeur & Madeleine Rebérioux  
_The Third Republic from its Origins to the Great War, 1973-5 Eng._

René Rémond  

Eric Cahm  
_The Dreyfus Affair in French Society and Politics, 1996. (2+R2)_

Martin S. Alexander, ed.  
_French History since Napoleon, 1999. Chs. 7 and 8 (on the ‘Jewish question’ and intellectuals)_

Harvey Goldberg  
_The Life of Jean Jaurès, Madison, Wisconsin, 1962_

David R. Watson  
_Georges Clemenceau: A Political Biography, 1974_

Lynn Abrams  
_Bismarck and the German Empire, 1871-1918, 1995_

James Sheehan  
_German Liberalism in the Nineteenth Century, Chicago, 1978, ch. 4-6. (2)_

William Carr  

Lothar Gall  

Christopher Clark  
_Kaiser Wilhelm, 2000_

John C.G. Röhl  

John C. G. Röhl  
_The Kaiser and his Court. Wilhelm II and the Government of Germany 1994_

John C. G. Röhl  
_Wilhelm II: Into the Abyss of War and Exile 1900-1941, Cambridge 2014_

Richard J. Evans (ed.)  
_Society and Politics in Wilhelmine Germany, 1978. (8+R)_

Dick Geary  
_Karl Kautsky, Manchester, 1987 (3)_

David Blackbourn  
_Class, Religion and Local Politics in Wilhelmine Germany: the Centre Party in Württemberg before 1914, 1980 (1)_

David Blackbourn  
_Marpingen: Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Bismarckian Germany, 1993_

Susanne Miller & H. Potthoff  
_A History of German Social Democracy from 1848 to the Present, 1983; Eng. tr., Leamington Spa 1986. (3)_

Peter Nettl  
_'The German Social Democratic Party 1900-1914 as a Political Model', _PP_, 30, 1965, pp. 65-95

H. Seton-Watson  
_The Decline of Imperial Russia, 1964, pp. 1-73_

Gerold T. Robinson  
_Rural Russia under the Old Regime, Berkeley, 1972 (1932), pp. 34-207 (3)_

Hans Rogger  
_Russia in the Age of Modernisation and Revolution 1881-1917, 1983. (2)_

Orlando Figes  

Richard Charques  
_The Twilight of Imperial Russia, 1958. Good on 1905 Revolution._

Isaac Deutscher  

G.A. Hosking  
_The Russian Constitutional Experiment: Government and Duma, 1907-1914, Cambridge 1973. (R) Parts 1 and 2._

D.C.B. Lieven  
_Russia’s Rulers under the Old Regime, New Haven, 1989. (1)_
Martin Clark  

Raymond Carr  

Dick Geary (ed.)  

A.S. Lindemann  
*A History of European Socialism* New Haven, 1983. Chs. 3 & 4. (2)

Alan Sked  
*The Decline and Fall of the Hapsburg Empire, 1815-1918*, 1989.

John Boyer  

**Industrialization and economic change 1870-1914**

Tom Kemp  

Sidney Pollard  
*Peaceful Conquest: the Industrialization of Europe*, Oxford 1981. (2+R)

Roger Magraw  

Alan S. Milward & S.B. Saul  
*The Development of the Economies of Continental Europe, 1850-1914*, 1977. (3)

Eric J. Hobsbawm  
*The Age of Empire 1875-1914* 1987. (6)

A. Gerschenkron  

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David S. Landes  
*The Unbound Prometheus. Technological Change and Industrial Development in Western Europe from 1750 to the Present*, Cambridge, 1969, pp. 124-358. (9)

Carlo Cipolla ed.  

**Society and culture, 1870-1914**

John Breuilly  
*Nationalism and the State*, Manchester: Manchester UP, 1993. (8 copies)

H. Stuart Hughes  
*Consciousness and Society: the Reorientation of European Social Thought, 1890-1920*, 1958, 1979. (6+R2)

John Burrow  

Eric J. Hobsbawm  

Martin Geyer & J. Paulmann eds.  

George Mosse  
*The Nationalization of the Masses. Political Symbolism and Mass Movements in Germany from the Napoleonic Wars through the Third Reich*, New York 2001 (6)

Maurice Agulhon  

E.A. Wrigley  
*Population and History*, 1969, ch.5. (R)

Arno J. Mayer  
*The Persistence of the Old Regime: Europe to the Great War*, 1981. (1+R)

Pamela M. Pilbeam  
*The Middle Classes in Europe 1789-1914. France, Germany, Italy and Russia*, 1990

D.C.B. Lieven  
*The Aristocracy in Europe, 1815-1914*, 1992. (1)

Roger Magraw  

Jerome Blum  
*The End of the Old Order in Rural Europe* Princeton 1978 pp. 357-441. (5)

Roger Thabault  
*Education and Change in a Village Community. Mazières-en-Gâtine, 1848-
10


Peter N. Stearns Lives of Labour, 1975, pp.19-117 and 335-353. (2)


Gérard Noiriel Workers in French Society in the 19th and 20th Centuries 1986; English trans., Oxford, 1989. (3+R)


Carl Schorske Fin-de-siècle Vienna. Politics and Culture, New York, 1980. (3)

International relations, empire, and the causes of the First World War, 1870-1914

Roberts Europe 1880-1945, chs. 4 & 8.

Fritz Fischer War of Illusions. German policies from 1911 to 1914, 1969; Eng. tr. 1975. (2+R)


William Mulligan The Origins of the First World War, Cambridge 2010

James Joll The Origins of the First World War, 1984 or 2nd ed. 1992. (7+R)


D.C.B. Lieven Russia and the Origins of the First World War, 1983. (1+R)

John F.V. Keiger France and the Origins of the First World War, 1983 (4+R)

Paul M. Kennedy The Rise of the Anglo-German Antagonism 1860-1914, 1981. (2+R)

Holger Herwig The Outbreak of World War I. Causes and Responsibilities, Lexington, Mass. 1991

David G. Herrmann The Arming of Europe and the Making of the First World War, Princeton, 1996 (4)

Annika Mombauer The Origins of the First World War, 2002 (4 +R)


Henk Wesseling The European Colonial Empires 1815-1919, 2004 (R + 3)

Eric Hobsbawn The Age of Empire 1875-1914, 1987 (8)

Victor Kiernan European Empires from Conquest to Collapse 1815-1960, 1982, 1998 (3)


Tombs France 1814-1914. Ch. 11 (on Empire)


The First World War and its consequences, 1914-1929


Jay M. Winter The Experience of World War I, 1988. (1+R)

Marc Ferro The Great War 1914-1918 1969; Eng. trans, 1973. (3+R)


Roger Chickering Imperial Germany and the Great War 1914-1918, Cambridge, 1998, 2004 (4)


M. Florinsky The End of the Russian Empire, 1931; re-ed., New York, 1961. (2)


A.J. Ryder The German Revolution of 1918, Cambridge 1967. (R)


Christopher Seton-Watson Italy from Liberalism to Fascism, 1870-1925,1967, pp.505-612. (4)

Paolo Spriano The Occupation of the Factories: Italy 1920, 1964; Eng trans. 1975.

Gerhard Schulz Revolutions and Peace Treaties, 1917-1920 1967; Eng trans, 1972. (2)

Jon Jacobson Locarno Diplomacy: Germany and the West, 1925-1929, Princeton, 1972. (3)


Zara Steiner The Lights that Failed: European International History 1919-1933, 2005 (4)

Jacques Néré The Foreign Policy of France from 1914 to 1948 1974; Eng. tr., 1975 (1+R)


Margaret Macmillan Peacemakers. Six Months that Changed the World (2001) (R + 3)

Ruth Henig Versailles and After, 1919-1933, 1984. (2+R2)
Russia in war and revolution, 1914-1924


