Alexey Miller
Imperial Order and Nationalism in Contiguous Empires. A Comparative perspective.

The course looks at patterns of imperial rule, center-periphery relations, elites, identifications and loyalties in the contiguous empires - Romanov, Habsburg, Hochenzollern and Ottoman. It combines comparative approach with the perspective of entangled histories, treating these empires as an interrelated macro-system. Nationalism, elites, pan-ideologies and the reaction of empires to the challenges of modernity are in the focus of the course.

Requirements and grading – 2-3 position papers (60%), class work (40%)


*Empire, indirect and direct rule; center, core and periphery; colonization and colony; frontiers – borders – borderlands.*

*Ethnicity, nationalism, identification, loyalty.*

*Imperial, national and regional historic narratives.*

*How history of Empire is possible?*

*The value and the limits of a comparative approach. Entangled histories.*

*marks texts, included in the course reader.

Required:

*Terry Martin. The Soviet Union as Empire: Salvaging a Dubious Analytical Category…*


*Rogers Brubacker and Fred Cooper. Beyond “identity”. Theory and Society, 2000, #1, p. 1-47 (see also R.Brubaker Ethnicity without Groups…)*


*A. Miller. Between Local and Inter-Imperial: Russian Imperial History in Search for Scope and Paradigm. Kritika, 2004, #1, p. 5-19.*

*Lectures 3-4. Patterns of Imperial Growth. Imperial Rule before Nationalism. Imperial and Local Elites.*
Lecture 5. The Social Structures of the Empires. Serfdom order.

Institutions: Army, Church. Religious Communities.


Two dimensions – self-esteem in dealing with their own “barbarians” and reaction to the Western alienating discourse.

Selim Deringil, “They Live in a State of Nomadism and Savagery”: the Late Ottoman Empire and the Post-Colonial Debate. Comparative Studies in Society and History, 2003, #2, p. 311-342


Situational analysis: Russian nationalism and competing projects of national homogenization (Western borderland, Ostzee provinces, Volga-Ural region).

Language and identity.

The Macro-System of Contiguous Empires.


A. Miller. The Empire and the Nation in the Imagination of Russian Nationalism. In – A. Miller, A. Rieber (eds.) Imperial Rule.


* A. Miller. The Value and the Limits of A Comparative Approach to the History of Contiguous Empires.

* A. Miller. Russifications: an Attempt at Classification.

Alexei Miller and Oksana Ostapchuk The Latin and Cyrillic Alphabets in Ukrainian National Discourse and in the Language Policy of Empires. (forthcoming)


Benedict Anderson. Imagined Communities... p. 67-111.


Juri Slezkine. The Jewish Century… ch. 2, 3


R: D. Lieven. Empire on Europe’s Periphery: Russian and Western Comparisons. In – A.Miller, A.Rieber (eds.) *Imperial Rule*.


Lecture 11-12. The opening of political system in the early XX century. WWI, the collapse of the “old regime”, revolutions and counter-revolutions. The role of ethnicity and nationalisms.

Fikret Adanir and Hilmar Kaiser. Migration, Deportation and Nation-Building: The Case of the Ottoman Empire // René Leboutte (ed.) Migrations and Migrants in Historical
Lecture 13. Making the USSR: “the Empire of affirmative action” or “the communal apartment”? What is left of Empires?
