

HIS 3008

Reading

History

BOOKS OFFERED IN
2011, Semester 1

Module Leader: Scott Ashley

Scott.ashley@ncl.ac.uk

Please contact him with your questions or problems

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Note: The module is based on intensive study of a single work, chosen from this list. You are strongly advised to purchase your own copy of the relevant book after module allocations have been made. All books are available as reasonably cheap paperbacks, but you are urged to pay attention to any purchasing advice given below.

David Cannadine, *Ornamentalism, How the British Saw their Empire* (London: Penguin Books, 2002). [Dr Xavier Guégan]

David Cannadine, well-known for his work on British monarchy and aristocracy, has challenged with *Ornamentalism* the seminal work of Edward Said, *Orientalism* (1978). Cannadine here emphasises two propositions, that the history of the British Empire is inseparable from the history of Britain itself, and that the British committed themselves from 1850 up to 1950 to reproduce in their colonies the same sort of hierarchical society that existed in Britain. The term 'Ornamentalism' describes how this hierarchy was made visible and obvious. The author explains the importance of the 'Honours' given to 'natives' from the higher ranks which were modelled on the ones given to the British officials. *Ornamentalism* belongs to a new wave of studies that started a decade ago, and is now integrally part of the new historiography of the British Empire.

The book is available as a digital copy at Blackwell's (RRP £7.99), and hard copies can be found on Amazon.

Alfred W. Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900–1900* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986). [Dr Scott Ashley]

This important and well-known book asks a familiar question – why have Europeans been so effective in conquering large areas of the globe since the Middle Ages? – but gives a different answer from those you might have encountered in other works. Crosby argues that Europeans exported their own plants, animals and bugs around the world, while systematically exterminating the indigenous flora, fauna and humans. The result is that today we encounter around the world environments and landscapes in the Americas, Australia and New Zealand that, far from being in any way 'natural', are the creation of Europeans and European power. The book has a wide-sweep, beginning with the so-called Stone Age 'blitzkrieg' on the mammoths at the end of the last Ice Age, continuing through the Viking-Age expansion into the North Atlantic, the Age of Columbus and the conquest of the Americas, to the beginning of the twentieth century. Crosby is an engaging and witty writer who also asks fascinating and timely questions. If you have ever wondered why we have managed to make a mess of our natural environment, why so many animals and plants have gone or are going extinct, or even why every lawn around the world has got dandelions growing on it, then this is the book for you.

Michel Foucault, *The History of Madness*, ed. Jean Khalifa, trans. Jonathan Murphy & Jean Khalifa (London: Routledge, 2006). [Dr Jonathan Andrews]

Since its appearance in its original French in 1961, and moreover its translation into an (abridged) English version, Michel Foucault's *History of Madness* has undoubtedly been the most influential book ever published on the history of psychiatry. To some extent it directly inspired, if not gave urgent birth to, entirely new generations of scholarship in this field. Most crucially of all, perhaps, Foucault's study paced power relations, the nature and meaning of shifting discourses about insanity, and the relationship between madness and the cultural history of 'unreason', centre frame in scholarship over succeeding decades. Foucault's work not only chimed in with and had a profound influence on new "social control" schools of thought, but also resonated with critical assessments of psychiatric treatment and practice often loosely defined under the unsatisfactory term "anti-psychiatry". It significantly impacted on a dizzying array of important scholars, from all disciplines concerned with aspects of mental illness/health in a contemporary and historical context, most especially historians, philosophers, sociologists, literary critics, historical geographers, health professionals and visual/architectural historians.

Note that Foucault's 'Madness and Civilization', trans. Richard Howard, and also published by Routledge, is an earlier, abridged version of this text and is NOT the one to buy and use in seminars.

Jörg Friedrich, *The Fire: The Bombing of Germany, 1940-1945* (New York & London: Columbia University Press, 2008). [Dr Felix Schulz]

The theme of violence is central to modern German history, and never more so than in the Second World War. The bombing of Germany and German-occupied countries from the UK during the war is growing in historical significance. In Germany alone the campaign cost about 450,000 lives, and this epic account of the Allied bombing of Germany from 1940 onwards "demands to be read", as the historian David Cesarani put it. When Friedrich first published his work in 2002 it immediately made the news. Mainstream German newspapers, weeklies, and television discussed the issues, the methodology, and the style extensively. Friedrich's work is central to the development that we have seen since German reunification concerning the historiography of the bombing. This is not the first volume to discuss the bombing of German cities, nor necessarily the best, but it is certainly the most controversial.

Peter Hart, *The IRA and its Enemies: Violence and Community in Cork, 1917-1923* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998). [Dr Fergus Campbell]

When Peter Hart's *The IRA and its Enemies* was published in 1998 it was hailed by Roy Foster as an 'instant classic'. The book tells the story of the Irish Republican Army in the most violent Irish county during the darkest days of the Irish revolution of 1916-23. We discover who joined the IRA, and why, and the appalling things they did to those men, women and children that they regarded as their enemies. Hart writes like a novelist or a crime writer and the dark alleys and bleak country fields where lonely murders were committed are revealed to us in an almost cinematic manner. The story of the Irish revolution is also rewritten. The heroes of Irish folk history - the Irish Republican Army - are depicted as psychopathic mummy's boys who may have tried to ethnically cleanse the Irish Protestant

population in west Cork. Unsurprisingly, Hart - the young Turk - was not loved by the people of west Cork when he published his revisionist account of Michael Collins and his friends, and we will explore the controversies that the book has kick-started. This book also uses a range of innovative historical methodologies - oral history, history from below, and psycho-history - and we will think about these strategies and their implications. This is a book that enables us to think about the role of the past in the present, and we will use this book as a doorway into considerations of why we study the past, what it means to us, and why some people feel they must repress it.

Edmund S Morgan, *American Slavery, American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1975, 2003) [Dr Gwenda Morgan]

'The men who came together to found the independent United States, dedicated to freedom and equality, either held slaves or were willing to join hands with those who did'. This 'seeming inconsistency', not to say hypocrisy 'was not peculiar to Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence or Washington, commander in chief of the Continental Army, nor was it peculiar to Virginia. From the seventeenth century to the nineteenth century, 'the rise of liberty and equality in America' writes Edmund Morgan was 'accompanied by the rise of slavery'. Whether Morgan resolved this central paradox of American history is questionable but what is not debatable is the fact that he wrote the most outstanding book on colonial Virginia, arguably on any American colony ever to appear in print. The book took the history world by storm in part because although Morgan was already one of the United States' most distinguished scholars, he was widely known as a 'puritan' historian of New England and a 'whig' historian of the American Revolution. *American Slavery, American Freedom* was a radical departure from anything Morgan had ever written before. It also signalled a change of direction in Early American history from the preoccupation with New England's local communities, then at the leading edge, to the Chesapeake.

Peter C. Perdue, *China Marches West: The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2005). [Dr Aglaia De Angeli]

From about 1600 to 1800 the Qing empire of China expanded to unprecedented size. Through astute diplomacy, economic investment, and a series of ambitious military campaigns into the heart of Central Eurasia, the Manchu rulers defeated the Zunghar Mongols, and brought all of modern Xinjiang and Mongolia under their control, while gaining a dominant influence in Tibet. The China we know today is a product of these vast conquests. Peter C. Perdue chronicles this little-known story of China's expansion into the northwestern frontier. Unlike previous Chinese dynasties, the Qing achieved lasting domination over the eastern half of the Eurasian continent. Rulers used forcible repression when faced with resistance, but also aimed to win over subject peoples by peaceful means. They invested heavily in the economic and administrative development of the frontier, promoted trade networks, and adapted ceremonies to the distinct regional cultures. This book has been particularly well received in the Western world, but less so by the Chinese authorities. As well as the arguments and research methods developed by the author, we will also explore why and when historical topics become politically sensitive in the contemporary world.

Edward W. Said, *Orientalism* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd, 1978). [Ms Elizabeth Redgate]

Said (1935-2003) was an “intellectual superstar”, “controversial literary critic and bold advocate of the Palestinian cause in America”, and “Christian humanist with a respect for Islam”. *Orientalism* brilliantly and furiously challenged both western attitudes towards the East that had developed over, and surveyed, many centuries and also the West’s Eurocentric approach to and interpretation of history. He was not the first to attack the ‘Master Narrative’ of the West, but his work was the most propitiously timed, at a time when the “material and political foundations of the post-war consensus in the west had been shaken by a series of crises, to which responses had included more radical, passionate and widely-based challenges to publicly proclaimed core values than at any time at least since the 1930s” to disturb the historical consensus.

The book is available in numerous printings. The most recent edition is published by Penguin Classics, 2003.

Amanda Vickery, *The Gentleman’s Daughter: Women’s Lives in Georgian England* (Yale: New Haven and London, 1998).

Since its publication in 1998, this bestselling book has changed the field of eighteenth-century history. It cannot narrowly be defined as ‘women’s history’, although it is undoubtedly a landmark work in the historiography of gender. Using as core evidence the diary of one eighteenth-century Lancashire gentlewoman, Elizabeth Shackleton, Vickery opens up an entire society, re-creating the family ties and emotional lives of the gentry in provincial England at this time. How did Vickery deal with some of the problems inherent in using diaries as historical evidence? Why has her book caught the public imagination? *The Gentleman’s Daughter* is the starting point for a wider exploration of how historians use personal documents as historical evidence, and how otherwise ‘hidden’ lives can be recovered in history.

The book is widely available in paperback in this and subsequent reprints.

C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1955). [Dr Ben Houston]

The Strange Career of Jim Crow is a classic text of American history. Woodward’s highly influential masterpiece traces how law, custom, politics, and racism all conjoined in various ways to form segregation in the US South as the nineteenth century closed. With his interpretation, Woodward at once dismantled a generation of historical scholarship fashioned by previous historians and anticipated a new generation of theoretical insight about race in American history. The book also took on added power from the influence of the civil rights movement, which was gaining force as Woodward wrote the book and infused Woodward’s thinking in obvious and subtle ways. Voted as one of the top hundred nonfiction works of the twentieth century, the book was hailed by no less an authority than Martin Luther King Jr. as ‘the historical bible of the civil rights movement.’

The book is widely available in paperback in this and subsequent reprints.

Keith Wrightson & David Levine, *Poverty and Piety in an English Village: Terling 1525-1700*. Second revised edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995) [First published Academic Press, 1979]. [Prof. Jeremy Boulton]



Terling was, and for that matter still is, a really small village in the English County of Essex. In the seventeenth century it had only 600 or so inhabitants (today it still only has about 900). The publication of Wrightson and Levine's reconstruction of its social and economic history in 1979, however, marked a sea change in the way in which 'history from below' was researched and written. The book brilliantly located the experience of the village and its inhabitants within the broader history of England as it uncovered the family and working lives, crimes, disputes and religious beliefs of its inhabitants. The book's methodology, its intellectual origins and its later impact tells us a great deal about the development of social history as a discipline in the last thirty years.

The 1995 edition is widely available in paperback.