

**Course (for MA program)  
Making of Modern Asia  
(Charles University, 2017)**

**Professor Alexey Maslov**

This introductory course focuses on the cultural, historical, social and economic background in East and South-East Asia including the cultural anthropology of Asia, natural environment, food and agriculture, historical roots, the nature of state power, social forces, traditional and modern economic development, major powers relationships and the future of Asian geopolitics in the 21st century. The legacy of history, traditional political culture, cross-border conflicts and alliances play very important role in the modern-day political situation in Asia.

This course will examine how the Asian states as well as Western powers have tried (and are trying) to shape the geopolitical environment since the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The course will focus primarily on the continuities and discontinuities in Asian cultural, social, political pattern, international relations.

The following issues will be discussed: the East Asian settings, cultural anthropology of Asia, including language, peoples and historical roots; types of organizations, agriculture, food and food production in Asia; demography and migrations; Core areas of growth and diffusion in Asia; 19<sup>th</sup> century European impact on East and Southeast Asia; China's and Japan's response to the West; the decline and fall of empires in East Asia and national resurrection of Asian states; the Cold War in Asia and postwar nation-building ; the self-reinventing of Japan and China; the rise of nationalism in East Asia and its different models (Chinese, Japanese, etc.); power, authority, and the advent of democracy in Asia; Russia in Pacific Asia; regional dynamics, regional and global perspectives of Asia Pacific; new trends in Asia: isolation, integration, and changes, etc.

**Learning outcomes**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to (knowledge, skills and competences):

- Understand the origins and nature of the peoples in Asia, demography, industries and agriculture;
- Situate major historical events in East and South-East Asian history in their proper geographical, chronological, and thematic context.
- Connect and integrate historical and socio-economic understandings, and grasp their political, economic, ethical and moral dimensions.
- To understand continuities and discontinuities in political and state institution of East Asia and SEA
- Seek for better understanding of the present development of Asia.
- Evaluate and critically assess the validity of historical and social evidence and interpretations.
- Use primary and secondary sources to construct sophisticated, persuasive, and logical interpretations of historical problems and events.
- Lectures, readings, excursions, assignments, and discussions are designed to help you develop the skills to:
- Appreciate the greatness and complexity of EA and SEA cultural and religious traditions.

- Use primary and secondary sources to construct sophisticated, persuasive, and logical interpretations of historical problems and events.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Class Attendance & Discussion**

Regular class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend class as well as participate in lectures, discussions, and review sessions. Class participation will constitute 25% of the final grade. Each student is allowed a maximum of two (2) and no more than two (2) unexcused absences during the semester. For each unexcused absence thereafter, five (5) points are deducted from your final grade. You are responsible for keeping the professor informed of any situation that prevents you from attending class. Students who have more than 5 unexcused absences will not pass the course

### **Presentation**

You should make at least one presentation using PowerPoint or Keynote. Please, clearly articulate objectives of the presentation, the main content and idea and summary. Choose main points, Try presenting no more than three-five main points in a 10-15 minute presentation and develop a good conclusion. Don't put too many slides in your presentation (usually 4-5 for 15 min presentation), and don't put too much text in each slide (usually no more than 5 pointed lines). Try to use more tables, charts and illustrations.

After your presentation, it will be a class discussion for 30 minutes, so be prepared to answer questions

You can find some helpful materials how to prepare a good presentation here:  
<http://www.skillsyouneed.com/presentation-skills.html>

### **Academic Honesty**

Academic Honesty is taken very seriously in this course. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty in any form will result in a failed grade for the project, and possibly for the course. In order to avoid the sanctions applied to cases of academic dishonesty, please make sure that you properly cite all sources that you utilize in your writing, including works that are directly quoted or paraphrased, as well as works used as a source of information. This includes both print and online sources. Your paper submissions must consist of your own writing, and any direct quotations or paraphrasing from other works must be properly cited.

### **Readings**

You have to read a lot – it's one of the main requirements for the course. To intensify your understanding and to make your life easier I recommend you first of all to catch the main idea and the main trends of the development of East and SE Asia. Some details in this case could be dropped.

Students should be prepared to do a fair amount of reading and to confront a number of unfamiliar-looking names and places. If you find yourself confused, or not understanding what we are covering, please do not hesitate to inform me.

### Grading

#### Requirements for obtaining credits (assessment structure)

Attendance and Class Participation - 20%

Presentation - 25%

Mid-term quiz – 15%

Group Discussion and readings – 20%

Final Exam (essay) - 20 %

#### Textbooks

Weightman, Barbara A. *Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East, and Southeast Asia*. 3rd ed. Wiley, 2011.

Borthwick, Mark. *Pacific Century: The Emergence of Modern Pacific Asia*. Westview Press, 2013.

#### Supplementary material

Although most of the readings will be in the textbooks, in several instances we will draw on outside readings.

You are expected to do all the assigned reading **prior** to all classes, and do it in a way that will allow you to raise critical questions and actively participate in the discussions. You should also bring your books to class (in digital form), since we will discuss the readings.

- 1) Abrami, Regina M., William C. Kirby, and F. Warren Mcfarlan. *Can China Lead?: Reaching the Limits of Power and Growth*. Harvard Business Review Press, 2014.
- 2) Cumings, Bruce. *Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History, Updated Edition*. W. W. Norton, 2005.
- 3) Ferdinand, Peter. *Governance in Pacific Asia: Political Economy and Development from Japan to Burma*. Continuum, 2012.
- 4) Fraser, Evan D.G. *Empires of Food: Feast, Famine and the Rise and Fall of Civilizations*. Arrow, 2011.
- 5) Miller, Alice, and Richard Wich. *Becoming Asia: Change and Continuity in Asian International Relations Since World War II*. Stanford University Press, 2011.
- 6) Owen, Norman G. *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia: A New History*. Ed. Norman G. Owen,. University of Hawaii Press, 2015.
- 7) Schirokauer, Conrad, Miranda Brown, David Lurie, and Suzanne Gay. *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations*. 4th ed. Wadsworth Publishing, 2012.
- 8) Shambaugh, David. *China Goes Global: The Partial Power*. Oxford University Press, 2014.
- 9) Zhu, Zhiqun. *New Dynamics in East Asian Politics: Security, Political Economy, and Society*. Ed. Zhiqun Zhu,. Continuum, 2012.

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Lectures (Acad. Hours)</b>	<b>Discussions (Acad. Hours)</b>	<b>Home Work</b>
1.	Environment and People in Asia	2	6	4
2.	Population and Developing Asia	4	6	4
3	Agriculture and Food in Asia	2	6	4
4	Rising of Asian State and Society before 1800	2	6	4
5	Western Emergence and Asia's response	2	4	4
6	The rise of Nationalism and Communism in Asia	4	6	6
7	Re-modeling Asia	4	8	8
8	Power, Authority and Economics in Modern Asia	4	8	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>

### **1. Environment and People in Asia**

- 1.1. Concept of «Asia». Major Topographic and Cultural futures of Asia. Cultural and Geographic division of Asia
- 1.2. Language systems in Asia
- 1.3. Natural resources
- 1.4. Main religious systems and cultural communities
- 1.5. Trade routes across Asia: history and transformations
- 1.6. Religious systems in Asia

#### Reading:

*Dragons and Tigers, pp. 1-16*

### **2. Population and Developing Asia**

- 2.1. People, Demography and ethos in Asia
- 2.2. Migration and Quality of Life
- 2.3. Gender and family planning
- 2.4. Middle-class, wealth and poverty in Asia
- 2.6. Core areas of growth and diffusion
- 2.7. The role of overseas Asian communities
- 2.8. Health and healthcare in Asia
- 2.9. Development and Urbanization in Asia

2.10. Villages in Asia

2.11. New Economic and Industrial development zones

Reading:

*Dragons and Tigers, 60-118*

**3. Agriculture and Food in Asia**

3.1. Agriculture foundation in Asia (Shifting cultivations, rice cultivation, farming in the city)

3.2. Plantation economies

3.3. Fish farming

3.4. Famine and Changing Asian diets

3.5. Food security and Sustainability

Reading:

*Dragons and Tigers, 119-178*

*Fraser, Evan D.G. Empires of Food: Feast, Famine and the Rise and Fall of Civilizations. Arrow, 2011, p. 110=121*

**4. Rising of Asian State and Society before 1800**

4.1. The Asian Setting and Rising of State and Society before 1800

4.2. Trade and connections across the Silk Road

4.3. State and society in China before 19c.

4.4. Japanese and Korean states before 19 c.

4.5. Southeast Asia: states and society

Reading:

*Pacific Century , 17-71*

**5. Western Emergence and Asia's response**

4.6. Early European Influence to 1800. (19th Century European Imperialism and the Colonization of Southeast Asia 19th century commercial capitalism in Asia)

4.7. China's response to the West: The Crisis and Fall of the Ch'ing Empire.

4.8. Japan's Response to the West: Meiji Modernization

Reading:

*Pacific Century, 77-160*

**6. The rise of Nationalism and Communism in Asia**

5.1. The Rise of Nationalism in Asia.

5.2. Nationalism in Colonial East and SE Asia.

5.3. Models of Nationalism in China: Chiang Kai-shek versus Mao.

5.4. Ultra-Nationalism in Japan: The 1930's

5.5. Pacific war and its Aftermath

5.6. The Pacific and Cold War in Asia. The Pacific and Cold War in Asia.

Reading:

*Pacific Century, 161-201*

## **7. Re-modeling Asia**

7.1. Postwar resurgence of Japan (Fast growth decades, rethinking foreign policy)

7.2. Japanese state and political system

7.3. China's socialist's reforms in 50's-'60's (Big leap forward, "culture revolution")

7.4. Remodeling China in 90-2000's. Confucianism and economic growth

7.5. The Struggle for new models of development in Modern Asia

Reading:

*Pacific Century, 213-270, 403-453*

## **8. Power, Authority and Economics in Modern Asia**

8.1. "China Dream" and "One belt, one road initiative"

8.2. Modern Japanese society and economics

8.3. South-East Asia: social advancement and searching for the new models

8.4. International Organizations in Modern Asia

8.5. Re-thinking Modern Asia and Global development

Reading:

*Pacific Century, 507-546*

Abrami, Regina M., William C. Kirby, and F. Warren Mcfarlan. Can China Lead?: Reaching the Limits of Power and Growth. Harvard Business Review Press, 2014. , ch 6-7.

Mingfu, Liu. *The China Dream: Great Power Thinking and Strategic Posture in the Post-American Era*. CN Times Books, 2015., p. 76-115

## Control questions

1. How modern "Asia" could be defined?
2. What are main theories of modern development of Asia?
3. What were main vectors of the national development of people of Asia?
4. How language variety reflects modern Asian development?
5. Does East Asia as defined above enjoy any unity beyond that imposed by race and geography?
6. What are the main ethno-linguistic divisions among East Asians?

7. Do these divisions necessarily coincide with cultural differences such as religion and subsistence patterns?
8. What are the main cultural divisions in the region?
9. Why did the Chinese see themselves as the "center" of the civilized world?
10. To what extent do pre-modern attitudes and rivalries carry over into contemporary East Asia?
11. What was the first reaction of Asian countries to the Western impact?
12. The British policy in East and South-East Asia: main trends, regional financial flows and trade.
13. What was the nature of early European Rivalry in China?
14. What were the main trends of the transformation of political systems in South-East Asia after the European impact?
15. Do you agree that "modern nation-states" did not exist in East Asia in 1800?
16. Why was the European impact relatively limited between 1500 and 1800?
17. Where and in what ways did the Europeans exert the greatest influence?
18. Why was East Asia unprepared to deal with the 19th century European imperialist onslaught?

### Final essays

The general title is "The legacy of tradition and the price of reforms in Modern Asia" (Please, specify the region, e.g. China, Japan, Malaysia, etc.)

You have to write a short essay (2-3 pages)

### **Main topics to concentrate on:**

1. The European impact to the Asian development in 18-19 cc.
2. The nature and reasons of the rise of nationalism in Asia in 19-20 cc.
3. Compare the development of Japan in 19 c and 20 c.: political institutions, international behavior, form of government
4. The nature of reforms in East Asia: social and economic dimensions
5. Social conflicts as the price for reforms
6. Political guidance and social activities
7. Reforms as the mental challenge for ordinary people
8. China "next": "overheating" of Chinese economy and the overloading of Chinese mind
9. Political and economic dimensions of the transition in East Asia
10. What are the main ethno-linguistic divisions among East Asians? What are the main cultural divisions in the region?
11. Why was the European impact relatively limited between 1500 and 1800?
12. Please, compare political order in South-East Asia before and after European impact. What were the main trends of the transformation of political systems in South-East Asia after the European impact?
13. Please, define the main trends for Korean development after WWII
14. What were the results for China of European impact and Opium wars in 19 c.
15. What was the first reaction of Asian countries to the Western impact?
16. Do you agree that "modern nation-states" did not exist in East Asia in 1800?
17. Please, define the main reasons and outcomes of the «Great proletarian culture revolution in China» (1966-1976)

18. The nature of reforms in China in 80-2000': social and economic dimensions
19. The nature of reforms in Japan in 50-70: social and economic dimensions
20. Will China move to crisis or to world leadership: main ideas in expert discussion.
21. Do you agree that "modern nation-states" did not exist in East Asia in 1800?
22. What are the forms of "soft" and "strong" nationalism in Asia? What are the main reasons of its rising?
23. What were the main trends of the transformation of political systems in South-East Asia after the European impact?
24. Define the main trends for Korean development after WWII and the reasons of existing of "two Koreas"
25. How China estimates its role in among other Asian states
26. Could new national trends like pan-Turkism, pan-mongolism, etc. affect to the political and economic development of Asia
27. What are main territorial claims and conflicts in Asia. Are they negotiable at the present moment?
28. What are main reasons, context and possible outcome of China's "One Belt – One Road" project

### **Requirements**

1. You need to use knowledge and information from the materials you previously have read. You can criticize, approve, agree or disagree with the shown material. In any case essay should have a critical design and reflect your independent thinking. Any thesis or statement should be proved by historical or socio-cultural analysis.
2. It's better to concentrate in several most important ideas than to try to write "in general". Be brief, laconic, and specific in developing your ideas
4. Good English is mostly welcomed.
5. Time for writing the essay – no more than 120 min.