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## GENEALOGIES IN WORLD CIVILIZATIONS

HISTORY 204

204-004 | TTh 1:00–2:15 | Dumbach 229

204-006 | TTh 2:30–3:45 | Dumbach 120

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This seminar organizes world cultures and civilizations in the last five centuries, since the 1500s, but with digressions from previous periods of the “agrarian” age, into meaningful analytical historical tropes. Since world history entails covering the entire planet over long periods of time, some preliminary organization would be more than welcome. Several methods come to mind when examining “social units,” some of the most common, which have predominated lately in the social sciences, are those of nation, culture, state, rule of law, and civilization. Even though nation is the most common tool for analyzing societies, it is nevertheless smaller than culture, and culture is a smaller unit of analysis than civilization.

The concept of “nation” is not very old, as it is commonly coupled with the “secular” notion of “nation-state,” which in turn was an outcome of the emerging nineteenth-century European nationalisms. Out of the European medieval social and economic infrastructures gradually developed the absolutist states of modern Europe. In the fourteenth century, at the time of the decline of the Holy Roman Empire and the demise of the Carolingians, only France had a viable centralized state with a sense of identity of its own, while England’s sophisticated “feudal” political and legal infrastructure was too fractured to permit a cohesive state. Italy was divided into competing but prosperous city-states which fostered early capitalism, taking hold of the Mediterranean economies. Fernand Braudel dubbed the prosperous Mediterranean period between 1450 and 1600 as “the long sixteenth century,” which was the heart and soul of capitalism. It was at that time that the capitalism of the Italian city-states (Venice, Genoa, Florence, and Napoli)

was at its peak, as the dissemination of the bill-of-exchange and the institutionalization of private banks, loans, and public debt had cultivated the ubiquitousness of monetary exchanges, placing Italy and parts of western Europe in a position of superiority vis-à-vis their main contenders, in particular the Habsburgs and Ottomans. But with the decline of the Italian city-states in the seventeenth century, the “center” of capitalism shifted further north to the Netherlands, with Amsterdam becoming the new world hegemonic center. By the end of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, with the industrial revolution taking hold over parts of western Europe, the center of capitalism shifted once more to England, and London metamorphosed into the financial capital—“the city”—of the world economy. Finally, after two world wars, and the enormous effort deployed by the Anglo-Americans for the liberation of Europe from fascism, Nazism, totalitarianism and communism, the United States emerged from World War II as the major superpower, leading to yet another shift in world capitalism—this time in the direction of New York.

The secular concepts of “nation” and “nation-state” had presumably consolidated in nineteenth-century western Europe. It was at that time that parts of Europe were experiencing the industrial revolution, a process that transformed large chunks of the continent into a capitalistic mode of manufacturing, turning in the meantime segments of the peasantry into urban proletarians. At the time, only the likes of England and France were viable “nation-states,” while the “unification” of Italy and Germany came much later as an outcome of strained political and economic relations on the continent. Benedict Anderson has persuasively argued that “nations” are like “imagined communities” where a common “cultural” background is at work in the deep socio-economic infrastructures of society. In the case of Europe, the shift from Latin as the cultural language of the literati towards the vernacular languages, and the dissemination of such “values” into mainstream popular cultures through the practices of “print capitalism,” had de facto associated the emerging “cultures” with an implicit sense of “nationhood.” By the nineteenth century, the “nation-state” had already materialized under the hegemonic notion of a “culture” that was at the same time linguistic and tied to a specific “national” territory (e.g. French, English, Italian, Germanic, or Spaniard), combined with a notion of “nation” that was political. In the case of Europe, therefore, each “nation-state” was managed from the ground-up: from the ubiquitousness of the vernacular cultures, to the omnipresent print capitalism, up to the state as the sole monopolizer of legitimate violence.

How useful are such notions as “nation” and “culture” for our purposes here—that of analyzing chronologies in world history? Interesting as they may be, and in spite of their historical significance, “nation” and “culture” are too small as units of analysis to serve any practical purpose when scrutinizing large societal frameworks spread over large geographical areas: there are so many nations and cultures that it would be unpractical, based on such small units, to construct a *longue durée* world history.

A better unit of analysis, from our perspective, would be the notion of “civilization.” From Max Weber to Fernand Braudel and Samuel Huntington, “civilization” has played a major role in delineating large cultural formations while framing them under a similar

set of characteristics—what Weber labeled as “ideal types.” Since “civilization” is a broader unit of analysis than either “nation” or “culture,” the latter two categories, among others, could be incorporated under the former. Thus, several “nations” might be classified as sharing similar “cultural patterns” or fitting under one “civilization.” The usefulness of civilization, therefore, lies in the fact that it is broad enough to serve as a heuristic tool for organizing various chronologies in world history, without, however, getting bogged down into individual national histories and their respective cultures. Not that nations and cultures should be ignored, as they are worth working on but within smaller frameworks of analysis, and possibly with different tools.

How can we define a civilization, and what are its main characteristics? We’re obviously thinking here in terms of the broadest “patterns” possible, more specifically, of *cultural* patterns that would apply to a wide range of religious, political, and socio-economic phenomena. Whenever we’re able to discern such global cultural patterns, we’ll classify each one under a particular civilization. For example, there are as many as twenty-four Arab “nation-states,” all of which are members of the Arab League, but which certainly would not all fit within a single cultural pattern. These nation-states have different “national” histories from one another, and the more we get to study them carefully, the more their cultural regional differences would become of relevance. Even the fact of being “Arab” and having a shared official “Arabic language” as a common feature is not enough to place all such societies into one common cultural pool. Yet abstractions could be useful, if properly used. Most Arab societies were under Ottoman rule for four centuries (Greater Syria) or less (Egypt and parts of north Africa), which means their subjection to a patrimonial régime whose center was the sultan’s household in Istanbul, whereby the local nobilities (a’yan) survived for the most part from tax prebends. (Chapters 13–15 in Fukuyama examine the significance of such patrimonial states in world history vis-à-vis the old Chinese and Hindu empires, or the western Mediterranean societies.) With the loss of empire in the aftermath of World War I, and the division of the ex-provinces into territorial units under British (Iraq, Palestine, and Egypt) or French control (Syria and Lebanon), a common problem emerged for the now “national” élites, namely, their excessive fragmentation along regional and confessional lines, an outcome of the Ottoman centuries. Herein lies the difficulty for such “states” to form as “nation-states.” The point here is that there are both common and unique traits for such countries which need to be carefully examined.

There’s obviously no easy answer for such concerns, all of which are legitimate, and which will be addressed throughout the semester. Suffice it to say, that for our purposes here, we’ll be identifying “civilization” primarily, though not exclusively, with religion-as-world-view, or as a socio-economic cultural unit. From Weber to Braudel, and Huntington to Fukuyama, civilizations have been postulated as limited in number, precisely because they’re for the most part identified with core religious beliefs, such as Judaism and Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Taoism and Buddhism. We’ll therefore begin our journey with that assumption and then refine it as we progress in our individual case histories. We need to remember that the notion of “civilization” was originally a nineteenth-century European concept, which limited civilization to Europe as the only

“civilized” continent, while the rest of the world was not. Admitting therefore that there are a multitude of world civilizations, and an even greater number of regional histories and cultures, was definitely a big step forward. But then the real challenge becomes to see how those civilizational, historical, and cultural differences, could be organized into meaningfully shared patterns.

Max Weber was one of those pioneering figures who opened new ways in comparing the West with other civilizations. Weber’s perspective on world-civilizations is worth noting here, despite its rough edges, for several reasons. First, Max Weber understood the evolutionary process of *modern* Western civilization in terms of a dynamics of “rationalization” which affected the different “spheres” (political, social, economic, artistic and scientific, and religious) of the life-world (*lebenswelt*). “Rationalization” is an ambitious albeit ambiguous concept which basically implies that the “rationality” of each one of the life-world “spheres” is “autonomous” on its own and is not affected by irrational obligations from other spheres (for example, post-Galilean science progressed by freeing itself from the religious world-views). Second, Weber, unlike Marx and “historical materialism,” provided religion with a major constructive role in this evolution, one that touted on the economic. He saw in Protestantism and Calvinism crucial forces behind the logic of Western rationalization. Third, Weber conceptualized other non-Western civilizations for the purpose of comparing them with the *uniqueness* of the rationalization process in the West; such civilizational patterns were in turn modeled upon the major world-religions: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity (and within that tradition, he privileged Calvinism and Protestantism in the advent of post-Italian “Catholic” capitalism of the city-states). Thus, *pace* the western hegemonic cultures, Max Weber constructed the properties of world-civilizations in parallel to the dominant world-religions.

Since then, there hasn’t been any attempt of this magnitude, but there has been other noteworthy efforts regarding Western societies and civilizations. In his history of capitalism, Fernand Braudel sought common patterns, among Mediterranean European societies, in demography, population growth, food, dress codes, urbanism, the cities, the peasantry and popular cultures. (Chaudhuri’s *Asia Before Europe* does something similar for what he defines as the “Indian Ocean.”) Michel Foucault created for modern Europe the concept of *disciplinary society*, and Jürgen Habermas looked upon the “public sphere” of the Enlightenment as an essential phase in the process of inter-subjective communication and the formation of the democratic process.

Thus far our approach has been Euro-лого-centric, in that it privileged the Western Occidental scenario of modernity. In effect, as Europe is generally thought of as the bedrock of modernity, other cultures (Africa, and Latin America) and civilizations (Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism) would be sooner or later be “absorbed” into that European modernity of the Enlightenment (*Aufklärung*) either de facto—because no one can escape modernity, the sciences, and the political and social framework of the secular nation-state—or de jure through the multi-faced experiences of colonialism and imperialism. In this scenario, Western hegemonic culture is to be taken broadly, beginning from the

Greek polis, the Roman Republic (and its affiliated cultured cities and laws), up to Christendom and the modernity of Enlightenment. What therefore brings together so many *different* social, economic, and political formation in a three-millennium *longue durée*, are undoubtedly an assortment of concepts which have shaped how the West looks at itself as a culture and civilization. Foremost is the concept of the Greek polis, which is primarily political, as it is a notion of “governmentality” that aims at bringing together people belonging to different tribes, clans, families, regions, and cities, under the political umbrella of the polis. Here the multitude is composed of individual citizens, which translate in various images in the long histories of Western societies and civilizations, chiefly, the concept of “body politics,” as represented by the body of the sovereign, who in turn survives thanks to two bodies: the body politic, that of the nation, and his subjects; and his own temporal body—what became known in medieval Latin literature as the doctrine of the King’s-two-bodies.

We will question in this seminar the meaning and implications of this hegemony: Do other societies and civilizations simply “adapt” to this winning scenario? Do they do so in “stages,” whereby there is an achievement at some level, but which still “lacks” other criteria? Is colonialism a “stage” of its own that would accelerate and force the process of modernization?

In an attempt to bypass European logocentrism, Fukuyama proceeds through a long *détour*, crediting the old Chinese patrimonial empires, hundreds of years before European statism, with the first “modern” state, understood in its Weberian connotation of an “impersonal” bureaucracy which attempts to master the rampant patrimonialism through the “legitimate” monopoly of violence. Such “modern” states, however, lacked any notion of the rule of law, understood primarily as an “autonomous” sphere of law making, separate from the temporal or heavenly power of the emperors. It may be that such view of the rule of law is too generous to make sense: if ancient China of the old empires is not credited for any notion of rule of law (nor is modern communist China), by contrast, India and the Islamic empires up to the Ottomans did “acknowledge” a rule of law on the basis that the mastery of legal texts was at the hands of the Hindu Brahmins, in one case, and the Muslim ulama in the other. The fact, however, that a separate depoliticized body produced the legal texts—even though the modalities of practice remained undetermined—would not in itself guarantee the rule of law. Indeed, we need to question whether a rule of law is possible outside abstract formalism, and the systematic character of all rules and regulations, and without cutting back on substantive reasoning, not to mention the ruling of judges without the personal knowledge of the parties in conflict.

To summarize: we’ll begin with an examination of the various world-civilizations, based on Fukuyama’s typology: the Chinese, Hindu, Islamic, European, East-European, and South American (the Spanish-speaking Latino countries). We’ll then move to more in-depth studies of some of the issues raised in the first half of the seminar: colonialism, imperialism, western hegemony, failed nations and societies, and capitalism.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

There are weekly readings that we'll discuss collectively in class. Your participation is essential for the success of the course. You will be asked to do presentations of individual chapters or topics.

You'll have to submit three interpretive essays based on our weekly readings: you'll receive sets of questions for each. *Each paper counts as 25 percent of the total. All interpretive essays are take-home and you'll be given a week to submit them. The purpose of the interpretive essays is to give you the opportunity to go "beyond" the literal meaning of a text and adopt interpretive and "textual" techniques. All essays and papers must be submitted on time according to the deadlines set below.*

First Interpretive Essay	25%
Second Interpretive Essay	25%
Final Interpretive Essay	25%
Presentations, Sakai postings, and class attendance and participation	25%

- It is essential that you complete all readings on time, and that you come to class well prepared. **Always come to class with the required book:** we'll discuss all readings extensively and interpret passages.
- **University regulations require a minimum 70 percent attendance record. If you are absent for more than a week, or if you submit a late paper, or you are unable to attend your assigned presentation, or your attendance record for the semester is low, you must in all such situations provide me with a written statement of apology with valid documentation (disability, hospitalization, accident, jury duty, travel, etc.).**
- **The use of electronic equipment (laptops, tablets, phones) is strictly prohibited, except for note-taking. Even though some of the books may be available as e-publications, it is preferable that you primarily rely on printed copies, in particular that we'll devote much of our class efforts to the reading and interpretation of texts.**
- All interpretive essays are based on our weekly readings, and consist of a single essay for which you'll receive the appropriate questions at the dates below—you'll submit them in class a week later.
- All papers should follow the procedures outlined below in the section on papers.
- Essays should only be submitted in class. Do not send any material as an e-mail attachment. Do not submit your papers outside the classroom.
- It's your responsibility to submit all essays *in class* on time at the deadlines below, and an identical e-file on Sakai. Late papers will be graded accordingly, and papers submitted a week after the deadline will be graded F. Do not email your papers.
- Each non-submitted paper will receive the grade of F, and your final grade will be averaged accordingly.
- Presentation assignments will be posted on Sakai for each book and by email one week in advance. They consist of individual chapter assignments. The same chapter could be assigned to more than one student, and a minimum 1,000-word synopsis must be posted individually by each student on Sakai forum 2 at least 24 hours before the presentation. For a missed no-show presentation you'll be graded F.

## READINGS

*The following readings and essays and their respective dates could be subject to change, pending on our progress throughout the semester. Changes will be announced beforehand on Sakai and by email.*

- Week 1: January 19/21  
Fukuyama, Francis. *The Origins of Political Order: From Prehuman Times to the French Revolution*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011.
- Week 2: January 26/28  
Fukuyama, continued
- Week 3: February 2/4  
Fukuyama, continued
- Week 4: February 9/11  
Fukuyama, continued
- Week 5: February 16/18  
Fukuyama, continued
- Week 6: February 23/25  
Fukuyama, continued

*First essay: to be submitted in class on March 15*

- Week 7: March 1/3  
David Graeber, *Debt: the first 5,000 years*, Melville House, 2011–12.
- Week 8: March 15/17  
Graeber, continued
- Week 9: March 22/24  
Graeber, continued

*Second essay: to be submitted on April 7*

- Week 10: March 29/31  
Graeber, continued
- Week 11: April 5/7  
Graeber, continued
- Week 12: April 12/14  
Akhil Gupta, *Red Tape*, Duke UP.
- Week 13: April 19/21  
Gupta, continued.
- Week 14: April 26/28  
Gupta, continued.

*Final essay: to be submitted May 5*

## CLASSICS

1. Thomas Kuhn, *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*
2. Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*
3. Karl Marx, *Kapital; Communist Manifesto*
4. Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals; Beyond Good and Evil*
5. The Koran
6. Ibn Khaldun, *Muqaddimah*
7. Confucius, *Analects*
8. Ibn Rushd, Averroes, *Decisive Treatise*
9. Ghazali, *Deliverance from Error*
10. G.W.F. Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit; Logic*
11. Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*
12. Francis Fukuyama, *End of History; Trust; Failed States*
13. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*
14. John Locke, *Two Treatises on Government*
15. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Social Contract*
16. Vladimir Lenin, *The State and the Revolution; Capitalism in Russia*
17. John Maynard Keynes, *Economic Consequences of Peace*
18. Samuel Huntington, *Clash of Civilizations; Who are we?*
19. Marshall Hodgson, *Venture of Islam*
20. S.N. Eisenstadt, *Japanese Civilization*
21. Clifford Geertz, *Interpretation of Cultures; Religions of Java*
22. Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish; Birth of the Clinic; Archeology of Knowledge; History of Sexuality*
23. Max Weber, *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism; Economy and Society*
24. Frazer, *Golden Bough*
25. Claude Lévi-Strauss, *Tristes Tropiques; Savage Mind; Structural Anthropology*
26. Hannah Arendt, *Origins of Totalitarianism; Human Condition*
27. Émile Durkheim, *Division of Labor; Suicide; Elementary Forms of Religious Life*
28. Marcel Mauss, *The Gift*
29. Dostoyevsky, *Notes from Underground; Crime and Punishment*
30. Milan Kundera, *Unbearable Lightness of Being; The Joke; Art of the Novel*
31. The Federalist Papers
32. Tolstoy, *War and Peace; Anna Karenina*
33. Theodor Herzl, *Jewish Question*
34. Bruno Latour, *Laboratory Life*
35. Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*
36. Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents; Future of an Illusion; Interpretation of Dreams*
37. Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*
38. Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*
39. Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*
40. André Malraux, *Human Condition; Voices of Silence*
41. Marc Bloch, *Feudal Society*
42. Guthrie, *Dragon in a three-piece Suit*
43. Fernand Braudel, *Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World; Capitalism and Civilization; Writings on History*
44. Georges Duby, *Three Orders of Feudalism*

45. Halil İnalçık, *Ottoman Empire: The Classical Age*
46. Naquin, *Chinese Society in the Eighteenth Century*
47. Ernest Gellner, *Encounters with Nationalism*
48. Eric Hobsbawm, *Century of Extremes; Age of Capital*
49. Keith Thomas, *Religion and the Decline of Magic*
50. Simon Schama, *Embarrassment of the Riches; Citizens; Rembrandt*
51. Daniel Bell, *Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism*
52. Norbert Elias, *Civilizing Process; Court Society; The Germans*
53. David Graeber, *Debt; Lost People*
54. Chaudhuri, *Asia Before Europe*
55. Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*
56. Peter Brown, *The Body and Society*
57. Antonio Negri, *Empire*
58. Ramsay MacMullen, *Christianizing the Roman Empire, A.D. 100–400*
59. Scott, Joan Wallach, *Gender and the Politics of History*
60. John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality*

## PAPERS

For all your papers follows the guidelines recommended in the Turabian guide, or in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. or later.

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 5th ed., Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987. Intended for students and other writers of papers not written for publication. Useful material on notes and bibliographies.

Please use the following guidelines regarding the format of your papers:

- use 8x10 white paper (the size and color of this paper). Do not use legal size or colored paper.
- use a laser printer or a good inkjet printer and hand in the original.
- only type on one side of the paper.
- should be double spaced, with single spaced footnotes at the end of each page and an *annotated bibliography* at the end (see bibliography below).
- keep ample left and right margins for comments and corrections of at least 1.25 inches each.
- all pages should be numbered and stapled.
- a cover page should include the following: paper's title, course number and section, your name, address, e-mail, and telephone.
- Poorly and hastily written papers may not be accepted, or at least will not receive appropriate comments.

## ELECTRONIC FORUM

This course is listed on the Loyola Sakai webpage to freely post messages and conduct discussions: login at <[sakai.luc.edu](http://sakai.luc.edu)> and follow the instructions.

- There are three forums: for the readings, national and world events, and presentations. Check all instructions online on each forum.
- You must post each week a message on national or world events.
- By the end of the semester each student should have posted 14 messages.
- Posted messages, presentations, and class attendance and participation count as 25% of the final grade.

*Notes on the Sakai forums; check forums online for more information*

*Forum 1:*

A general forum where you can post all kinds of probes regarding our weekly readings and essays. All inquiries on the essays should be posted here rather than addressed to me personally.

*Forum 2:*

Each oral presentation of an individual book-chapter must be accompanied with a minimum 1,000-word synopsis. If you've missed a presentation, whatever the reason, you must post a 2,000-word synopsis at your earliest convenience.

*Forum 3:*

Make sure that by the end of the semester you've completed at least 14 postings on national and world events of your own choice, preceded by your own commentary.

## SELECTED READINGS

### *Historiographical Methods History & the Social Sciences*

The works of “social scientists” like Karl Marx, Max Weber, Durkheim, Michel Foucault, Habermas, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Pierre Bourdieu, Hannah Arendt, Norbert Elias, Georges Dumézil, and Sigmund Freud, had a tremendous impact on the writing of history throughout the twentieth century.

Jacques Rancière, *The Names of History: On the Poetics of Knowledge* (University of Minnesota Press, 1994). This is the best and most challenging book I have read in recent years which describes very aggressively the current status of the most recent historiographical methods. Rancière argues that Michelet was the real precursor to the *Annales* school (something that Lucien Febvre acknowledged and was the first to see clearly). First, Michelet was probably the first to have voluntarily stepped out from a pure history of kings and political events into some kind of “social history” and showed a great interest into this category which he broadly defined as “Le Peuple” (the people); second, Michelet was sensitive to the *document* as a starting point for his analysis: he created this unique method of reading *into* a document by creating his own narrative out of them and by listening to their silences. But Michelet could only create a dynamics out of a narrative where the Hobbesian Monarch does not play anymore the central role by transforming *France* as the real Subject of history—something that the *Annales* could not keep up with anymore. The *Annales* in fact transformed its historical “topics” into *objects* of research. In other words, France, for example, becomes an object of research like European feudalism or the Mediterranean. Thus by stating that every entity in the social world is worth being an object of scientific research, the *Annales* has ipso facto robbed traditional historiography, including that of Michelet, from its deepest foundations. Which leaves us today, towards the end of an eventful twentieth century, with a big problem: How can we rehabilitate the role of the subject—that is, *any* subject of democratic societies—in historical processes?

Hunt, Lynn, ed. *The New Cultural History*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989. A collection of articles that discusses the new “cultural history,” a recent trend that focuses on the importance of language in understanding political and social trends—the “linguistic turn.”

Momigliano, Arnaldo. *The Classical Foundations of Modern Historiography*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991.

Palmer, Bryan D. *Descent into Discourse. The Reification of Language and the Writing of Social History*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1990.

Reddy, William M. *Money and Liberty in Modern Europe. A Critique of Historical Understanding*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987. A critical study on modern historiographical trends related in particular to social and economic history.

Scott, Joan Wallach. *Gender and the Politics of History*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1988. Joan Scott relates gender to history and language and thus joins the “linguistic turn” school that focuses on the importance of language in structuring social and economic movements.

B. H. Moss, “Republican Socialism and the Making of the Working Class in Britain, France, and the United States: A Critique of Thompsonian Culturalism,” *Comparative Study in Society and History*, 35(2) 1993, 390-413. This essay is an attempt to analyze the impact that had Thompson’s *Making of the English Working Class* on studies of labor movements in France, England, and the United States, on the one hand, and the weaknesses of such “culturalist” analyses (as opposed to the Marxist and neo-Marxist) on the other. Moss concludes that what these studies have unknowingly confirmed is the traditional and Marxist view that socialism arises when intellectuals bearing collectivist ideas join with workers undergoing a process of proletarianization.

Carrard, Philippe. *Poetics of the New History: French Historical Discourse from Braudel to Chartier*. Parallax Re-visions of Culture and Society, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992. Excellent

introduction to the *Annales* tradition in historiography. More broadly, Carrard shows that the discipline of history is now marked by fragmentation and that *histoire totale* (in the strong sense of the project) is dead.

Éditorial. "Histoire et sciences sociales. Un tournant critique?" *Annales É.S.C.* 2 (April-March 1988): 291-293. A key editorial of the *Annales* in which a "crisis" in contemporary historiography was admitted for the first time and a rapprochement with the rest of the social sciences is now considered as essential for the writing of a new (more fragmented) history. The notion of "document" is also questioned and a more "textual" approach seem to be suggested. Some of the responses to this editorial have been collected in the special issue of November-December 1989 celebrating the 60th anniversary of the *Annales*.

Dominick LaCapra, *History & Criticism* (Cornell University Press, 1985). With essays on Ginzburg, *mentalité* history, and the history of criticism, LaCapra's enterprise in providing a critical perspective on contemporary historiography is probably the best in US academia today.

Michel de Certeau, *L'Écriture de l'histoire* (Paris: Gallimard, 1975), English trans. *The Writing of History*.

### *Romans & Early Christians*

Peter Brown, *The Body and Society. Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity* (Columbia University Press, 1988). In nineteen chapters, and basing himself on original manuscripts, Peter Brown is very successful in describing attitudes of early Christians towards the body and sexuality. Augustine, in the last chapter, provides the *summa* of the endless variations of the early Christians and their erring: fulfillment (salvation) is only achieved in the "city of heaven." What Christianity has introduced to the Greek and Roman world-views is the duality between mind and body, a dualism we still live with in different forms whether Cartesian or Freudian. The mind "controls" the body, its appetites and drives, hence the mind controls the body's sexuality. To the early Christians, this meant sexual renunciation and virginity in order to preserve the integrity of the soul. Brown demarcates Roman sexuality from the Christian in his introductory chapters: Roman sexuality looks at women, slaves, and barbarians as inferiors, hence sex with women was riddled with anxieties and it was common for men to have sex with their slaves. Brown, however, does not see Christian renunciation as caused by Roman "tolerance" and he never provides his readers with a sharp answer to the historical causes of Christian asceticism. Instead, he portrays to us the variations of the Christian model, and, with this, a view of religion as an agglomeration of infinitesimal efforts comes up, or, in other words, how disparate views become public and create an institution—the Church. Brown also provides an account of a religion—Christianity—as a *social* movement with no state control. Brown, however, seems locked up in his texts and I would have wished more social history on the Roman family and marriage, the social roots of the early Christians, and the Church and its clergy. Brown's tone seems also to belong to the 1980s, under the influence of Veyne and Foucault, which looks at sexuality as a discourse, or rather, as a discursive practice. Also by Peter Brown, *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography* (California University Press, 1967), *The Cult of Saints* (Chicago University Press, 1981).

Arnaldo Momigliano, *On Pagans, Jews, and Christians* (Wesleyan University Press, 1987).

Ramsay MacMullen, *Christianizing the Roman Empire, A.D. 100-400* (Yale University Press, 1984).

Wayne A. Meeks, *The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul* (Yale University Press, 1983).

Robert L. Wilken, *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them* (Yale University Press, 1984).

Robin Lane Fox, *Pagans and Christians* (Harper & Row, 1986).

John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality* (Chicago University Press, 1980).

Written as a contribution to "gay" history within a late twentieth-century political agenda, Boswell seems to have much more talent in "gay activism" than intellectual history and textual analysis in which he doesn't seem much interested. If you don't mind a cut-and-paste method in analyzing texts, then there's a chance that you might like the Boswell style.

*Medieval Europe*

Ernst H. Kantorowicz, *The King's Two Bodies. A Study in Medieval Political Theology* (Princeton University Press, 1957). In a first brilliantly written chapter, Kantorowicz argues that the King's Two Bodies doctrine achieved its full maturity in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century England during the reign of Elizabeth I, but was much weaker in its development on the Continent. Briefly, what the King's Two Bodies doctrine implied was that the King had two bodies, his own temporal body subject to sickness, passions, and death, and an immortal body, the "body politic," which was constituted of all the bodies and souls of the subjects of the Commonwealth. The novelty was much less in the duality of the system than with the notion that the immortal part was the "body politic," that is, it was made up of *all* the citizen's wills and desires as *represented* by the Monarch. Needless to say that such a theory prepares for more elaborate Hobbesian and Lockian systems of representation. Having sketched what he calls the King's Two Bodies "legal fiction" in its mature phase, Kantorowicz will devote the rest of his book to a reconstruction of the variations of the King's Two Bodies doctrine since the eleventh century. The turning point here was the twelfth-thirteenth century, with Frederick II, when the King was not seen anymore as the impersonator of Christ but as the sole legislator of Positive Law. An overwhelming study which breaks up many academic barriers and which sees "legal fiction" as constructing "reality."

Jacques Le Goff, *The Birth of Purgatory* (Chicago University Press, 1984 [1981 for the French Gallimard edition]). This is a *longue durée* history of the Purgatory, roughly from early Christianity till the twelfth and thirteenth centuries when the Purgatory has achieved a more or less completed structure (even in its poetic form through Dante). Le Goff, however, is eager not to make his history "evolutionary," that is, he insists that the history of the Purgatory remains unpredictable despite early signs (with Augustine in particular) of a desire to *spatialize* something between hell and heaven. This creation of an additional space of judgment and repentance shall be expressed differently from one period to another, but by the thirteenth century one thing is certain: the Purgatory integrates well in the European societies where the judicial now plays a dominating and intermediary role between the "body politic" and "society" (or "civil society," *civitas*). Le Goff's method is very much "textual," and even though he does well in integrating his material with the social trends of each period, one would have wished more social history, in particular for the thirteenth century when several things seem to come together: the political, religious, judicial, and economic.

*Modern Europe: Populations, Material life & the Economy*

Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, trans. Siân Reynolds (New York: Harper & Row, 1973 [first French edition published in Paris by Armand Colin, 1949]). Picking up where Marc Bloch and Lucien Febvre (his "Maître de thèse"), Braudel constructs a thesis around the Mediterranean as an object of study for what became the cult book of the *Annalistes*: it's not anymore Philip II who occupies the center of the stage, but the Mediterranean as a complex object of geography, economics, and cultures at the *age* of Philip II. Actually, Braudel dismisses the person of the King altogether as someone who was not even conscious of the importance of the Mediterranean: "I do not believe that the word Mediterranean itself ever floated in his consciousness with the meaning we now give it, nor that it conjured up for him the images of light and blue water it has for us." With this, Braudel created a fundamental rule for both historians and social scientists: the historian does not have to identify with the "subjects" of history anymore—distance from what shines at the surface has become the golden rule (but wasn't it so for Marx and Freud?). But the book, half a century later, has also aged tremendously: Braudel never took seriously the claim he has set up for himself and for the discipline of history as "La Reine des sciences sociales," and he never borrowed much anyhow from the languages of the social sciences. The *Mediterranean* leaves us struggling with an array of questions concerning the role of the "subject" and "culture" in history.

Norbert Elias, *The Civilizing Process* (Blackwell, 1994). Originally published in Germany in 1939 in two separate parts, *The History of Manners* and *State Formation and Civilization*, *The Civilizing Process* sees the sixteenth century as the period which created a new set of courtly manners very different from the "uncivilized," barbaric and violent Middle Ages: manners in which shame and individuality have become crucial. In order to explain this sudden shift, Elias develops a theory of state formation which conceptualizes the Absolutist states (the new "monopolies") as having totally eclipsed the old Feudal states

based on territorial divisions. Elias' analysis combines what he calls the psycho-genetic and socio-genetic levels of human experience—another terminology for the Weberian notion of subjective and objective meanings of social action or the Freudian ego and super-ego split. In his conceptualization of European history since the Middle Ages, Elias departs from the Weberian thesis that Protestantism was one of the elements which made capitalism possible (in the *Civilizing Process*, the role of religion is not even debated—it is simply *absent*), and from Marxism which looks at superstructures as a “final-analysis-reflection” of economic infrastructures (Elias looks at state-formations as having a logic of their own).

Reddy, William M. *The Rise of Market Culture. The Textile Trade and French Society, 1750–1900*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.

Scott, Joan Wallach. *The Glassworkers of Carmaux. French Craftsmen and Political Action in a Nineteenth-Century City*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1974.

Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Capital* (1988).

Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (Cambridge (Mass.), 1962).

Lawrence Stone, *The Crisis of the Aristocracy (1558–1641)* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1965).

### *Intellectual Movements in Modern Europe*

Thomas S. Kuhn, *Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (Chicago University Press, 1962).

Latour, Bruno and Steven Woolgar. *Laboratory Life: The Social Construction of Scientific Facts*. London: Sage, 1979. A book that belongs to what we now qualify as the new “anthropology of the sciences,” i.e. a discipline (or sub-discipline) that focuses on how the natural hard-core sciences are produced and manufactured within the laboratories, elite teaching colleges, staff recruitment, and the professional journals that transmit and conserve scientific knowledge. A big step from the “idealized” Kuhnian paradigmatic view of the sciences that became dominant in the last three decades.

Shapin, Steve and Simon Schaffer. *Leviathan and the Airpump. Hobbes, Boyle and the Experimental Life*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985. In the line of the “anthropology” of Bruno Latour, this book tries to connect the political ideas of the father of “Absolutism” in the Anglo-Saxon world with those of the natural experimental sciences.

Ernst Cassirer, *The Philosophy of the Enlightenment* (1951). The enlightenment within a Kantian perspective. A book that remains a classic.

Peter Gay, *The Cultivation of Hatred. The Bourgeois Experience: Victoria to Freud. Volume 3* (New York: Norton, 1993). This is the third volume after “Education of the Senses” (1984) and “The Tender Passion” (1986), and is fed by some rich insights. Gay argues that the Victorians were prone to mix cruel aggression and ferocious erotic pleasure; thus our Victorian legacy is a struggle to deal with the joys of aggression. The book also ends with a subtle analysis of the development of “professionalism” and the way all these finer specialties became finely guarded. Unfortunately, the bulk of the book forgets from time to time such rich insights and the reader is left with a bunch of facts that ranges from the very obvious to the sophisticated.

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms. The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller* (Johns Hopkins, 1980). Ginzburg argues that the heretical thoughts of Menocchio, his sixteenth-century miller, were the effect of an old rural popular culture despite the fact that Menocchio was an avid reader of some medieval texts. In a footnote added later as a response to critics (pp. 154/5), Ginzburg claims a circularity—or complementarity—between elite and popular cultures. Looked upon retrospectively, two decades after the publication of the original Italian edition, which made a sensation, Ginzburg's thesis on popular culture is neither convincing nor interesting. Going through Ginzburg's 62 short partitions, one is more puzzled by the Church's insatiable willingness to force Menocchio “confess” than by a popular culture which we can hardly see and perceive.

Keith Thomas, *Religion and the Decline of Magic. Studies in Popular Beliefs in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century England* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1971; reed., Penguin Books, 1991).

Denis Mack Smith, *Mazzini* (Yale University Press, 1995). The best biography available of one of those whose contribution weighted the most on the events that led to the “unification” of Italy in 1860 under Victor Emmanuel. Mazzini was described by Nietzsche as “the man I venerate most,” and denounced by Marx for “false sublimity, puffy grandeur, verbosity and prophetic mysticism.” But in fact Mazzini gave

only grudging approval to unification as it actually happened, even after Venetia had been incorporated in 1866 and Rome in 1870. He had wanted Italy to be made from below, for it to be socialist and republican (in his particular senses of those words) and to be reconciled with the papacy. Mack Smith is also the author of *Cavour and Garibaldi 1860: A Study in Political Conflict* (Cambridge University Press, 1954; 1985); *Garibaldi* (London: Hutchinson, 1957); *Victor Immanuel, Cavour, and the Risorgimento* (Oxford University Press, 1971); *Italy and Its Monarchy* (Yale University Press, 1990); *Mussolini* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1981); *Cavour* (London: Methuen, 1985).

### *The French Revolution*

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, 1969. A great classic.

Alfred Cobban, *The Social Interpretation of the French Revolution* (London, 1964).

François Furet & Mona Ozouf, *Critical Dictionary of the French Revolution* (Harvard University Press, 1989). A “dictionary” of the French Revolution organized in thematic and biographic articles.

Roger Chartier, *The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution*, 1990. Focuses on ideas and their “public” circulation before and after 1789.

Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Old Regime and the French Revolution*, 1955. A great classic by the author of *Democracy in America*. Tocqueville was among the first to argue that much of what is usually attributed to the Revolution, namely the centralization of the state and its bureaucracy; the advancement of the “bourgeoisie” as a class, etc., were already part of the policy of the old monarchical regime.

Sewell, William H., Jr. *Work and Revolution in France. The Language of Labor from the Old Regime to 1848*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980. A classic on the French guilds, manufactures and labor force, and the first major historian to apply the Thompsonian problematic to France. An attempt to explain the rise of socialism and the making of the French working class. Sewell chose to highlight the culturalist theme and argued that “socialism” was essentially a cultural reconstruction of an eighteenth-century guild tradition of moral collectivism.

Sonenscher, Michael. *Work and Wages. Natural Law, Politics, and the Eighteenth-Century French Trades*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.

Robert Darnton, *The Literacy Underground of the Old Regime* (Cambridge, Mass., 1982).

Barry M. Shapiro, *Revolutionary Justice in Paris, 1789–1790* (Cambridge University Press, 1993), addresses the subject of political crime in the first year of the French Revolution.

de Baecque, Antoine. *Le corps de l'histoire. Métaphores et politiques (1770–1800)*. Paris: Calmann-Lévy, 1993.

Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution* (University of California Press, 1992), analyzes the images and familial models that inhabited revolutionary France.

### *Islam & The Early Empires—General*

The *Qur'ân* is the holy book of the Muslims (in all their different factions and sects) delivered by God in Arabic to the community of believers (*umma*) through the “medium” of the Prophet Muhammad in sessions of “revelation” (*wahi*). Thus Arabic is not only the language of the *Qur'ân* (and the Sunna), but also a divine language, the language of God. All translations of the *Qur'ân* are thus considered as illegitimate and inaccurate. There are several such “translations”/“interpretations” available. A classical one would be that of A.J. Arberry, *The Koran Interpreted* (Oxford University Press). For a recent “reading” of the *Qur'ân*, see Jacques Berque, *Relire le Coran* (Paris: Albin Michel, 1993).

R. Stephen Humphreys, *Islamic History. A Framework for Inquiry* (Princeton University Press, 1991), is a long annotated and commented bibliography thematically organized. Recommended for all those looking at the best in the field for sources available in English, French and German. Some references to primary sources, mainly Arabic medieval sources, are also included. The problem with this “inquiry” is that it excludes from its field of investigation all publications in modern Arabic, as well as Turkish and Persian. In short, this book is an excellent tool for a primary survey on the status of the Middle Eastern Studies field in Europe and North America.

Marshall G. S. Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam*, 3 vols. (Chicago University Press, 1974), is a landmark study on the “origins” of Islam and its historical evolution into empires. Recommended for those interested in Islam within a comparative religious and geographical perspective.

Ira Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies* (Cambridge University Press, 1988), is a complete

fourteen-century history of Islamic societies. Chapters vary in depth and horizon. No particular focus—Tedious to read.

Bernard Lewis (ed.), *The World of Islam* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1976), is a thematically organized book with chapters on literature, jurisprudence, sufism, the cities, the Ottoman and modern experiences. Includes hundreds of illustrations and maps.

Watt, W. M., *Muhammad at Mecca* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1953); *Muhammad at Medina* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1956), both are classics describing the life of the Prophet and his first achievements in Mecca and Medina.

Franz Rozenthal, *A History of Muslim Historiography* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1952); 2d rev. ed., 1968.

Roy Mottahedeh, *Loyalty and Leadership in an Early Islamic Society* (Princeton University Press, 1980), an excellent book, based on primary sources from Southern Iraq that describe the process and concept of *bay'a* in early Islamic thought.

Hugh Kennedy, *The Early Abbasid Caliphate: A Political History* (London: Croom Helm, 1981).

Jacob Lassner, *The Shaping of Abbasid Rule* (Princeton University Press, 1980).

Lassner, Jacob, *Islamic Revolution and Historical Memory: An Inquiry into the Art of 'Abbâsîd Apologetics* (American Oriental Series, number 66.) New Haven: American Oriental Society. 1986.

*The History of al-Tabarî* (State University of New York Press, 1989), is a multi-volume series of the translation of the "History" of Tabarî, one of the major historians and interpreters of the Qur'ân of the early Islamic and empire periods.

al-Shâfi'î, *Risâla. Treatise on the Foundations of Islamic Jurisprudence*, translated by Majid Khadduri (Islamic Texts Society, 1987). Shâfi'î was the founding father of one of the four major schools of Sunni jurisprudence and the *Risâla* contains some of his major theoretical foundations on the notions analogy, *qiyâs*, and the *ijmâ'*; consensus of the community.

Martin Lings, *Muhammad. His Life Based on the Earliest Sources* (Rochester, 1983).

Newby, Gordon Darnell, *The Making of the Last Prophet: A Reconstruction of the Earliest Biography of Muhammad* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1989).

Maxime Rodinson, *Muhammad* (Pantheon, 1971), is an interesting interpretation of the early Islamic period based on a social and economic analysis of the Arabian Peninsula at the dawn of Islam.

M. A. Shaban, *Islamic History. A New Interpretation*, 2 vol. (Cambridge University Press, 1971), is an attempt towards a new interpretation of the 'Abbâsîd Revolution of the eight century as a movement of assimilation of Arabs and non-Arabs into an "equal rights" Empire.

Mohammad Hashim Kamali, *Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence* (Cambridge, 1991). See also the great classic of Joseph Schacht, *The Origins of Muhammadan Jurisprudence* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1950).

Ignaz Goldziher, *Introduction to Islamic Theology and Law* (Princeton University Press, 1981).

Fred Donner, *The Early Islamic Conquests* (Princeton University Press, 1981), reconstructs the early Islamic Conquests (*futûhât*) from a wealth of Arabic chronicles and literary and ethnographic sources.

Bernard Lewis, *The Political Language of Islam* (Chicago University Press, 1988), discusses the notion of "government" and "politics" in Islamic societies.

Patricia Crone, *Slaves on Horses. The Evolution of the Islamic Polity* (Cambridge University Press, 1980); id., *Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam* (Princeton University Press, 1987), questions the thesis concerning the "trade boom" in seventh-century Arabia.

Mahmood Ibrahim, *Merchant Capital and Islam* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990), links the rise of Islam and the Islamic state with the emergence of a mercantile society in Mecca and views the Arab expansion as the means by which merchants consolidated their political ascendancy.

Ann Lambton, *Continuity and Change in Medieval Persia. Aspects of Administrative, Economic and Social History, 11th-14th Century* (The Persian Heritage Foundation, 1988).

Dominique Urvoy, *Ibn Rushd (Averroes)* (Routledge, 1991). Henry Corbin, *Avicenna and the Visionary Recital* (Princeton University Press, 1960), is an analysis and interpretation of Hayy ibn Yaqzân.

Salma Khadra Jayyusi, editor, *The Legacy of Muslim Spain* (Leiden: Brill, 1993). See also L. P. Harvey, *Islamic Spain, 1250 to 1500* (Chicago University Press, 1990).