

# MODERNITY AND NATIONHOOD IN CHINA

Autumn 2008 Prof. Thomas Wilson

MW 2:30-3:45 in SCCT G042 Office hours: W 4:00-5:00; F 1:30-2:30

Aims of the course: This course examines *modernity* and *nationhood* in China from the nineteenth- to the early twenty-first-century. Readings and class sessions consider the problem of understanding modern China from a Western perspective and how to situate the issues involved within contexts of Chinese historical experiences. The course critically examines the “Western impact” model – premised on the belief that the West was the source of modernity – in global and Chinese historical contexts and challenges prevalent conception of modernity.

## Books for purchase

Jonathan Spence, *God's Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan*

Adam Chau, *Miraculous Response: Doing Popular Religion in Contemporary China*

## Other readings:

\* Blackboard

• electronic reserve

† electronic journals found on Burke Library catalogue (e.g., JSTOR, Project Muse, etc.)

*Come to class prepared to discuss all readings on the dates for which they are assigned.*

## **Introduction (9/1)**

### **I. Late Imperial China (9/3-9/22)**

A. Society: social status; economic organization and practices; bureaucratic regulation 9/3

\* Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations* 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 235-247, 258-260, 328-243

B. State: emperor, religious functions; civil bureaucracy, Confucian gentry, civil examinations;  
Manchu conquest and Qing rule 9/8

• Richard Smith, *China's Cultural Heritage: The Qing Dynasty, 1644-1912* (Boulder: Westview, 1994), 155-185

• Rev. Justus Doolittle, *Social Life of the Chinese* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1865) 1:255-272, 353-375

C. CLASS DISCUSSION 9/10

**No class: 9/15-17**

*Begin reading assignments for next week, when we have a quiz and class discussion!*

D. Beyond the Western impact 9/22

• Duara, “Introduction,” *Rescuing History from the Nation* (Chicago, 1995), 3-16 (start this early; it's not an easy read!)

\* Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy* (Princeton, 2000), 3-27

**Quiz 9/22**

## II. China & the West (9/24-10/1)

A. Modernity: Enlightenment, rationalism, secular humanism, positivism, linear history; industrial revolution 9/24

**CLASS DISCUSSION:** • Duara, "Linear History and the Nation-state," *Rescuing History*, 17-50. **Submit one discussion question on Blackboard by noon 9/25**

B. European expansion into Asia: Marco Polo, Jesuits, MaCartney Mission, Canton System, Opium Wars 9/29

\* Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.*, 329-342, 405-418

\* Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence*, 31-68

C. Missionaries 10/1

• Suzanne Barnett, "Justus Doolittle at Foochow," in *Christianity in China: Early Protestant Missionary Writings*, ed. Suzanne W. Barnett & John K. Fairbank (Harvard, 1985), 107-119

† James Hevia, "Leaving a Brand on China" (*Modern China*) 18 (1992) 3: 304-332 (JSTOR)

## III. Nineteenth-century rebellions: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom (10/6-10/8)

A. Secret societies and rebellions 10/6

Spence, *God's Chinese Son*

\* "Gospel, Jointly Witnessed and Heard by the Imperial Eldest and Second Eldest Brothers," *The Taiping Rebellion: History and Documents*, ed. Franz Michael (University of Washington Press, 1966-1971) 2: 7-18

\* "The Taiping Heavenly Chronicle," *The Taiping Rebellion* 2: 51-79

B. **CLASS DISCUSSION:** Spence, *God's Chinese Son* 10/8

**#1 paper due: Friday 10/10** (see page 4)

## IV. Late imperial reform (10/13-10/15)

A. Self-Strengthening Movement, 100 Days Reform, Kang Youwei, Tan Sitong 10/13

\* Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.*, 419-433 (middle)

• "Restoration through Reform," *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, eds. Pei-kai Cheng, Michael Lestz, Jonathan Spence (Norton, 1999), 150-63

† Vincent Goossaert, "1898: The Beginning of the End for Chinese Religion?" *Journal of Asian Studies*, 65 (May 2006) 2: 307-336

B. **CLASS DISCUSSION** of readings 10/15

## V. Nationhood and Revolution (10/20-10/22)

\* Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.*, 487-495

A. Nationalism, Nationhood 10/20

• Sun Yatsen, "Three Principles of the People" (*San min zhuyi*) (Chungking: Ministry of Information, Republic of China, 1943)

**Quiz 10/22**

B. Republican Revolution, 1911-12 (10/22)

- “The Dog-Meat General,” *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, ed. Patricia Ebrey (Free Press, 1993), 373-377
- “Generalissimo Jiang on National Identity,” *Chinese Civilization, A Sourcebook*, 401-406

**VI. Competing Modernities (10/27-11/10)**

A. May 4th Movement: Hu Shi & Chen Duxiu 10/27

- \* Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.*, 496-511
- “The Spirit of the May Fourth Movement,” *Chinese Civilization, A Sourcebook*, 360-363
- “The General Strike,” *Chinese Civilization, A Sourcebook*, 378-384

B. Republicanism: anti-religion campaigns 10/29

- \* Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.*, 537-560
- † Duara, “Knowledge and Power in the Discourse on Modernity: The Campaigns against Popular Religion in Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century China,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 50 (1991) 1: 67-84
- \* Vincent Goossaert, “The Concept of Religion in China and the West,” *Diogenes* 205 (2005): 13-20

*No class 11/3*

C. CLASS DISCUSSION of readings 11/5

D. *Post-Modernity* 11/10

- Duara, “Critics of Modernity,” *Rescuing History*, 205-227
- Leo Lee, “Modernity and its Discontents,” *Perspectives on Modern China: Four Anniversaries*, ed. Kenneth Lieberthal, et al. (M.E. Sharpe, 1991), 158-77

**#2 paper due: Thursday 11/13** (see page 4)

**VII. Mao and Maoism (11/12-12/1)**

Film: “The Mao Years, 1949-76” 11/12

A. Pre-‘49 Mao: formation of a Chinese Marxism 11/17

- Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 574-617
- Mao Zedong, “Report on an Investigation of the Peasant Movement In Hunan,” (3/1927), 23-59

**Quiz 12/1**

B. State Maoism 11/19-12/1

- \* Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.*, 587-608
- “Mao’s Appearance at the First Red Guard Rally...,” *The People’s Republic of China*
- Mao Zedong, “On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People” (2/27/57), 384-421
- *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung*, 1-22, 45-57
- “Daily Life in the Work Unit,” Michael Dutton, *Streetlife China* (Cambridge, 1998), 42-61

**Thanksgiving Break 11/24-26**

CLASS DISCUSSION: Mao’s writings 12/1

## VIII. Post-Mao Era (12/3-12/15)

### A. Economic Reforms & Political Effects 12/3

\* Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.*, 610-630

† Ellen Hern, "The Shanghai Stock Market: An Institutional Overview," *Chinese Business Enterprise* 2:116-132

† Bruce Dickson, "Integrating Wealth and Power in China: The Communist Party's Embrace of the Private Sector," *The China Quarterly* (Dec. 2007): 827-854

† David Wank, "The Institutional Process of Market Clientelism: *Guanxi* and Private Business in a South China City," *China Quarterly* 147 (Sept., 1996): 820-838.

• "Changing Landscapes, Changing Mentalities," Michael Dutton, *Streetlife China* (Cambridge, 1998), 222-237

### B. Post-reform Culture and Society 12/8-10

Chau, *Miraculous Response*

† Gareth Fisher, "The Spiritual Land Rush: Merit and Morality in New Chinese Buddhist Temple Construction," *JAS* 67 (Feb. 2008) 1: 143-170

† Kenneth Dean, "Local Communal Religion in Contemporary South-East China," *China Quarterly* 174 (2003): 338-258

### C. CLASS DISCUSSION

Chau, *Miraculous Response* 12/10

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#### Course Requirements:

**Quizzes** based on textbook and other background readings

**Writing assignments:** All papers are due as an email attachment by 3:00 P.M. on the date due. **No extensions** granted unless by prior arrangement more than 24 hours before assignments are due.

*Be sure to present a clear thesis and use evidence in the sources to develop your argument.*

#1: critical essay on Spence, *God's Chinese Son*, other readings, and a careful analysis of at least one **primary source** listed under section iii 19<sup>th</sup> Century Rebellions of the syllabus; **5-7 pages**. October 10.

#2 critical essay on the problem of modernity in China based on readings listed in section vi. Competing Modernities on the syllabus; **4 pages**. November 20.

#3: critical essay on everyday life in the post-Mao era using Chau's *Miraculous Response* and at least **TWO** other sources listed on the syllabus under sections vii Mao and Maoism or viii Post-Mao Era, due on **Dec 15; 5-7 pages**.

final course grade determined on the basis of the following:

Quizzes	20%
essay #1	25%
essay #2	15%
essay #3	25%
regular class participation	15%