

**Migrations, Empires, and Belonging to the State in the Nineteenth-Century Mediterranean.**  
Questions, Debates, and Sources. A Reading Seminar.

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**Starting** on March 13<sup>th</sup>, every Wednesday at 11:00 am

**Main goals of the reading seminar**

The main goal of this seminar is to teach and discuss the major issues facing the history of the nineteenth-Century Mediterranean. It focuses on theoretical approaches as well as on case studies. The readings emphasize major themes and questions in Mediterranean History, including migration and nationality; imperial states and settler colonialism; diaspora, networks, and local cosmopolitanism; race, gender, and class; space and place; loyalties and ethics of belonging.

The second aim is to introduce students to the different types of sources – primary and secondary—that historians can use to write this history.

Being aware of these debates and the variety of sources will help students to design and enrich their research projects by stimulating consideration of complex issues.

**Course validation**

The heart of this seminar is class discussion, which depends on careful readings of all required chapters or articles. Students should read critically, with attention to questions, methodologies, sources, and arguments. Our course materials will include literary texts, films, audiovisual testimonies, and academic works.

During each class meeting, students enrolled in the seminar will read *two to three chapters or articles* on a particular theme in the history and historiography of Migration, Empires, and Belonging to the State in the nineteenth-Century Mediterranean.

In class, I will summarize the main issues and then we will discuss in depth these crucial classic or more recent works to identify the major questions and avenues still open for research.

**Evaluation criteria**

Class attendance:15%

Participation to class discussion: 35%

Final paper on one topic discussed in classes (between 4,000 and 6,000 words): 50%

**Course Outline (that might be adapted during the semester)**

**Week 1/ The notion of Mediterranean and its History**

### Group1:

- David Abulafia, *The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean* (NY: Oxford University Press, 2011). Introduction. "A Sea with Many Names". Ch.8 "The View Through the Russian Prism, 1760-1805".
- Manuel Borutta & Sakis Gekas, "A Colonial Sea: the Mediterranean, 1798-1956," *European Review of History - Revue européenne d'histoire*, 19, 1 (2012): 1-13.

### Group2:

- CASSANO FRANCO. *Southern Thought and Other Essays on the Mediterranean*. Introduction: "For a Thought from the South". Ch.3 "Thinking the Frontier"
- Jürgen Osterhammel, *The Transformation of the World. A Global History of the Nineteenth Century* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014), Ch.3. "Space: Where Was the Nineteenth Century?"

### Primary Sources:

"Napoleon in Egypt," in Julia Clancy-Smith and Charles D. Smith, *The Modern Middle East and North Africa: A History in Documents* (Oxford University Press, 2014), 22-29.

## **Week 2/ On the Move: Migrations, Displacements, and Inventing Home**

### Group 1:

- Adam McKeown, "Global Migration: 1846-1940," *Journal of World History* Vol. 15, No. 2 (2004): pp. 155-189.
- Demetriou, Olga Maya. *Refugeehood and the Postconflict Subject: Reconsidering Minor Losses*. Albany: SUNY Press, 2018. Ch.1. "The Imbricated Structures of Refugeehood". Ch.2. "Framing: The Governmentality of Major Losses."

### Group2:

- Chatty, Dawn. (2010) *Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction. "Dispossession and Forces Migration in the Middle East: Community Cohesion in Impermanent Landscapes. Ch.1. "Dispossession and Displacement within the Contemporary Middle East: An Overview of Theories and Concepts."
- Vladimir Hamed-Troyansky, "Circassian Refugees and The Making of Amman, 1878-1914", *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 49, (2017), 605-623.

### Primary Sources:

## **Week 3/ Documenting People, Corrupt the State**

### Group 1:

- John Torpey, "Coming and Going: On the State Monopolization of the Legitimate 'Means of Movement'," *Sociological Theory* Vol. 16, No. 3 (1998): pp. 239-259.

- **Julia A. Clancy-Smith**, *Mediterraneans North Africa and Europe in an Age of Migration, c. 1800–1900* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012) Ch.5. “Making a Living: The Sea, Contraband, and Other Illicit Activities”.
- **Or:** Karras, Smuggling. *Contraband and Corruption in World History*, pp. 19-43. Chapter One: “Smuggling in Regional and Global Perspective: Truck, Barter, and Exchange.”

#### Group 2:

- Jane Caplan and John Torpey, *Documenting Individual Identity: The Development of State Practices in the Modern World*, Princeton University, 2001 Introduction, p.1-12.
- Nozick, Robert, *Anarchy State and Utopia*, Basic Books (Oxford, Blackwell Publishers, 1974. Ch.3. “Moral Constraints and the State.” Ch.5. “The State.” Ch.8. “Equality, Envy, Exploitation.”

#### Primary Sources:

### **Week 4/ Settler Colonialism**

#### Group 1:

- Caroline Elkins and Susan Pedersen, *Settler Colonialism in the Twentieth Century*, (New York: Routledge, 2005), 1-20 “Introduction: Settler Colonialism: A Concept and its Use”.
- Said, E. (2002). *Reflections on exile and other essays*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Ch.45. “Between Worlds.”
- Simpson, A. (2014). *Mohawk interruptus: political life across the borders of settler states*. Durham: Duke University Press. Chapter 1. Indigenous Interruptions: Mohawk Nationhood, Citizenship, and the State. (pp. 1 – 36).

#### Group 2:

- Said, E. (2002). *Reflections on exile and other essays*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Ch.5. “Arabic Prose and Prose Fiction After 1948”. Ch.8. “Vico on the Discipline of Bodies and Texts.” Ch.14. “Bursts of Meaning.” Ch.26. “The Quest for Gillo Pontecorvo.” Ch.27. “Representing the Colonized: Anthropology’s Interlocutors.”
- Veracini, L. (2006). *Israel and Settler Society*. London: Pluto Press, pp. 64 – 86. Introduction: “Comparing Colonial Conditions”
- <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/may/14/idea-israel-ilan-pappe-promised-land-ari-shavit-review>

#### **Primary Sources:**

“Algeria: French Colonization and the Algerian Response,” in *The Modern Middle East and North Africa. A History in Documents*, ed. Julia Clancy-Smith and Charles D. Smith (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), 29-32. Included Anonymous Poem, “O regret times gone by!

”Algeria: The Poetry of Loss in Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*. Theodor Herzl, “A solution of the Jewish Question,” in James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*.

Vladimir Jabotinsky, “The Iron Wall” (We and the Arabs) (1923). Mahmud Darwish, “Eleven planets in the last Andalusian sky,” in James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp. 230-31.

### **Week 5/ Are Italians Migrants or Colons?**

#### Group 1:

- Choate, Mark, I. (2008). *Emigrant Nation: The Making of Italy Abroad*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. ISBN: 978-0-674-02784-8 Introduction. "The Program of Emigrant Colonialism."
- Maurizio Isabella and Konstantina Zanou (eds), *Mediterranean Diasporas: Politics and Ideas in the long nineteenth century*, London 2016. Ch.4. "Mediterranean Liberals? Italian Revolutionaries and the Making of a Colonial Sea, 1800-1830."

Group 2:

- Veracini, L. (2015). *The Settler Colonial Present*. New York: Palgrave. Chapter 2. Settlers are not migrants. (pp. 32 – 48).
- Annalaura Turiano and Joseph John Viscomi, 'From immigrants to emigrants: Salesian education and the failed integration of Italians in Egypt, 1937-1960', *Modern Italy* 23/1 (February 2018), pp. 1-17.

**Primary Sources:**

**Week 6/ Domesticating Empires: the Mediterranean Kitchen**

Group 1:

- Mary Louise Pratt, *Imperial eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*, London-New York 2008: Introduction. "Criticism in the Contact Zone".
- Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi, *Jerusalem: A Cookbook*. INTRODUCTION
- Azri Amram, "Digesting the Massacre", *Gastronomica*, 2019, n°4, pp. 60-73.

Group 2:

- Susan Zlotnick, "Domesticating Imperialism: Curry and Cookbooks in Victorian England," *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies* 16, 2-3 (1996): 51-68.
- W. V. Harris, *Rethinking the Mediterranean*, edited by, Oxford University Press, pp. 45-63. Ch.2 HERZFELD, MICHAEL. "Practical Mediterraneanism: Excuses for Everything, from Epistemology to Eating."

**Primary Sources:**

**Week 7/ Archi-Texture: Urbanism, Modernity, and Cosmopolitanism?**

Group 1:

- Karl Schlögel, *In Space We Read History: On the History of Civilization and Geopolitics* (Rhinebeck: Bard Graduate Center, 2016), Introduction. Ch.2. "Reading Maps." Excerpts. Ch.3. "The Work of the Eye." Excerpts
- Seth Graebner, 'Contains Preservatives: Architecture and Memory in Colonial Algiers,' *Historical Reflections* 33/2 (2007), pp. 257-276.

Group 2:

- Massey, Doreen (2005). *For Space*. London: Sage Publications. Chapter 6. Spatializing the history of modernity. (pp. 62 – 71).
- MALLETT, KARLA. *European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean: Toward a New Philology and a Counter-Orientalism*. CH.4. "The Ramparts of Europe: The Invention of the Maltese Language".

**Case Study: *Mirsilou*.**

**Week 8/ To conclude: Toward a Decolonial Sea?**