

HOWARD UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science

Political Science 012-195
12:10-1:00 p.m.
Fall Semester 2000
DGH #139
Mervat Hatem

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NATIONALISM & REVOLUTION

INTRODUCTION:

The international system has recently witnessed dramatic national and social revolutions including the Iranian revolution of 1979 and the disintegration of socialism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in 1989 and the switch to new market economies and democratic political systems. The disintegration of old nation-states in the Balkans (e.g Yugoslavia) and in Africa (e.g Somalia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda and the Congo) coincided with either the rise of a new chauvinistic form of nationalism or the continued fragmentation of the national community.

These developments have contributed to a renewed interest in the concepts of "revolution" and "nationalism". Our central concern in this course will be to review the different theories that inform our understanding of these modern phenomena in the past and at present. Particular attention will be paid to the impact that they have had on the general standing of gendered and racial groups.

ORGANIZATION:

In this course, the emphasis will be on discussion (including oral presentations) and paper writing. Each student will keep a “journal” to discuss their responses to the readings and/or to answer questions suggested by the readings. The journal will be collected at the end of each week for review. In addition, everyone will write 3 papers (10-11 pages with footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography) that are designed to get you to “think and synthesize the class readings in critical ways”. The first paper will be on revolution, the second will be on nationalism and the final one will compare the consequences of nationalism and revolution for gender and racial relations and struggles. These papers will be orally presented in class for discussion. The written papers must be typed. They will be submitted on dates specified by the instructor. Late papers will not be accepted unless they are accompanied by a valid excuse.

GRADING:

Grades will reflect class attendance and individual performance in oral class discussions/presentations and the written papers. Each of the 3 paper assignments will count for 20% of the final grade. The remaining 40% will be divided as follows: class journal (15%), oral presentations and general participation in class discussions (15%) and class attendance (10%).

READINGS:

The following textbooks have been ordered through Howard University bookstore:

-Jack Goldstone, ed. Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative and Historical Studies. (Thomson and Wadsworth, 2003).

-Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism (Verso Press, 1996).

Most of the readings for the course will be from the assigned textbooks. Additional reading material for the last section of the course will be put on reserve at the library or if possible made available to students.

Good Luck and Welcome to the Course

COURSE OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE AND TO THE COMPARATIVE AND HISTORICAL STUDY OF REVOLUTIONS: (August 25)

II. THEORIES OF REVOLUTION:

Goldstone, Revolutions.

A. Classical Approaches:

Ch 1: pp. 23-36, (August 27, 29)

B. The Debate on Modernization:

Ch. 2: pp. 37-54, (Sept. 3, 5)

C. The Origins of Revolutions:

Ch. 3: pp. 64-78, (Sept. 8, 10, 12, 15)

III. Comparative Studies of Revolution:

A. The Iranian Revolution:

Jack Goldstone, Revolutions, pp. 235-244, (Sept. 17)

B. The Nicaraguan Revolution:

Jack Goldstone, Revolutions, pp. 223-234, (Sept. 19)

C. Revolutions in Eastern Europe and China:

Jack Goldstone, Revolutions, pp. 255-284, (Sept. 22, 24)

D. National Liberation Struggles

Jack Goldstone, Revolutions, pp. 295-324, (Sept. 29, Oct. 1, 3)

* First Paper is to be submitted and orally presented on Oct. 8.

** Late papers will not be accepted.

III. NATIONALISM AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGINED COMMUNITIES:

Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities.

-Chs. 1-3: pp. 11-50, (Oct. 10, 15, 17).

-Chs. 4-6: pp. 50-103 (Oct. 20, 22, 24, 27).

-Chs. 7-9: pp. 104-148 (Oct. 29, 31 Nov. 3, 5, 7).

* Second Paper is to be orally presented and submitted on Nov.10

** Late paper will not be accepted.

IV. Gender, Revolution and Nationalism:

Jack Goldstone, Revolutions, pp. 85-135 (Nov. 12, 14, 17, 19)

-Anne McClintock, "No Longer in a Future Heaven: Nationalism, Gender and Race", in Becoming National , Geoff Eley and Ronald Grigor Suny, eds. (Oxford University Press, 1996), pp. 160-85. (Nov. 21, 24, Dec. 1).

* Third paper assignment is due on December 5.

** Late papers will not be accepted.