

21H580 Lecture Outlines
Fall 2003
OCW Materials

Topic 11: Empire in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries
Nov. 19, 2001
Nov. 4, 2003

MAPS:
British Empire
World and imperialism

SEE:
Doyle, Empires
Schumpeter
Hobson
Lenin
Kotoku Shusui
Colley, Britons
Bayly Imperial Horizon
Hobsbawm Age of Empire
Films: Lives of a Bengal Lancer; The Man Who Would Be King
B Schwarz review of Cannadine
Lieven Empire [Russia]

OUTLINE

Ages of Empires: Russian, Chinese, British

1. Definition of Empire and Emperor

The essential feature: the recognition and control of difference by domination.

2. Theories of Empires

Empires as a general type

Empires of the 19th century: What is different?

3. Why Do Empires Expand?

Economic Incentives

Geopolitics and Security

The Imperial Vision: Why do Ideals Matter?

**4. How Do They Keep People Under Control?
Classification and Ethnography**

**5. Other Models of Organizing the World
Civilizations: Universalist Ideals but without Domination
Nations: Particular Essences ; Sameness not Difference**

Nov. 6, 2003

Outline

Three Empires in Conflict: Russia, Britain, China

1. Why Is Empire Back?

From Empire to Nation?

From Empire to ... Empire?

Why Compare Empires: Politics of Comparison

2. Russian Imperial Expansion: The Real Story

Not just Despotism

Visions of Profit, not Glory

From Furs to Exile

Moving into Central Asia

3. What's So Special about the British Empire?

“A fit of absence of mind”?

The East India Company: Greed, Corruption, and Honor

Capitalism and Industrial Technology

4. China Under the Last Century of Qing Rule, 1800 -1911

Frontier Troubles: White Lotus rebellions, Muslim rebellions in Xinjiang, the Taiping.

Foreign Relations: Russians, British, and Others.

Nov. 20, 2003