

HINE 186: Topics in Middle Eastern History

Making of Modern Egypt

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Office hours: Th 1-3

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Thursday 9-11:50
HSS 3086

The seminar will focus on the history of Egypt from circa 1780 to circa 1952. Egypt's strategic location and resources, on the one hand, and its importance as the most populous Arab country and the intellectual hub of the Middle East, on the other, warrant an in-depth study of the country. More important, during the time period covered in the seminar, Egypt, more than any other part of the Middle East, presented itself as a laboratory for the general trends of the pre-nation state period in the broader region. Until it was colonized by France in 1798, Egypt was a semi-autonomous province of the Ottoman Empire. Following the brief but consequential French occupation (1798-1801), Cairo acquired a higher degree of autonomy and became the forerunner of Westernizing processes in the Middle East. In 1882, Egypt entered British imperial rule and has often been studied as the prime case of New Imperialism. During the period of autonomy and under British rule, Egypt was the birth place of defining intellectual and ideological currents of the Arab Middle East. Its belabored struggle for independence came to fruition only in 1952, reinforcing Egypt's pivotal regional role that has continued since.

1. Introduction (January 7)

2. Egypt in historical perspective / French occupation (January 14)

Afaf Lutfi Al-Sayyid Marsot, A History of Egypt : from the Arab conquest to the present, Chapters 1-3

Juan Cole, Napoleon's Egypt, 1-30

Shmuel Moreh, tr., Napoleon in Egypt : Al-Jabarti's chronicle of the French occupation of Egypt, 1798, 19-48

Stanford Shaw, Between Old and New, 257-282

3. Muhammad Ali era: Egypt and developmentalism (January 21)

Marsot, Chapter 4

George Antonius, Arab Awakening, 21-34

Khaled Fahmy, "The Era of Muhammad Ali Pasha, 1805-1848" in The Cambridge History of Egypt, ed., M. W. Daly, 139-179

Fahmy, All the Pasha's Men, 239-277, 306-318

Roger Owen, The Middle East in the World Economy, 1800-1914, 57-82

4. Egypt(ians) and Europe(ans) (January 28)

F. Robert Hunter, Egypt under the Khedives, 35-79

Albert Hourani, Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 67-84

Rifa'ah Rafi Tahtawi, An Imam in Paris : account of a stay in France by an Egyptian cleric (1826-1831), 159-93; 213-237

Edward W. Lane, Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians, 155-97

Lisa Pollard, Nurturing the Nation, 48-72

Sophia Poole, The Englishwoman in Egypt, Letters 1/XV, XXI, XXIX; 2/ VII

Owen, 122-152

5. British occupation (February 4) [Paper topic or paper topic ideas due]

Owen, "Egypt and Europe: From French Expedition to British Occupation" in A. Hourani, P. Khoury, M. Wilson, eds., The Modern Middle East, 111-124

P. M. Holt, Egypt and the Fertile Crescent, 211-230

Hourani, 161-221

Lord Cromer (Evelyn Baring), "The Government of Subject Races," 3-53

6. Incremental independence (February 11)

Marsot, Chapter 5

P.J. Vatikiotis, The History of Modern Egypt, 273-316

Israel Gershoni and James Jankowski, Egypt, Islam, and the Arabs, 23-54

Richard Mitchell, The Society of the Muslim Brothers, 1-79

"The program of Hasan al-Banna and the Muslim Brotherhood, 1936" in Amin, Fortna, and Frierson, eds., The Modern Middle East: A Sourcebook, 68-72

7. Cairo and Alexandria on the eve of independence (February 18) [Abstract and bibliography due]

Naguib Mahfouz, The Midaq Alley

Yusuf Shahin, "Alexandria... Why?"

8. Egypt as leader of Arab world (February 25)

Marsot, Chapters 6-7

9. Presentations (March 4)

10. (To be determined) (March 11)

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- * Research paper (~4500 words) due before Friday, March 19, 4:00 p.m. (80%)
 - * Class participation (20%)