

Political Science 246A/446A

Paths to the Modern World: Islam and the West

Lisa Blaydes* Gary Cox†

Autumn 2018

Class: 9:30 - 10:50 am, Monday and Wednesday (Encina West 400)

Office Hours for Blaydes: 10:30 - 11:30 am, Thursday (Encina West 408)

Office Hours for Cox: TBD (Encina West 303)

Course Overview

How and why did Europe develop political institutions that encouraged economic growth and industrialization? And why has the Islamic world lagged in the creation of growth-promoting political institutions? This course uses a comparative approach to understanding two routes to the modern world — the historical experiences of Christian Europe and the Islamic world. This seminar is designed to serve the following goals:

1. To acquaint students with many of the leading theories on the questions of how and why Europe developed growth-promoting political and economic institutions through a comparison with institutional development in the Islamic world.
2. To encourage the development of research skills. Students will be exposed to a diverse set of methodological strategies. Students will be expected to produce an original scholarly research paper on the subject of comparative economic and political development.
3. To develop seminar skills. Students will be expected to engage in critical discussions of the assigned readings.

Evaluation

Students are expected to carefully read all assigned material in advance of class and to participate actively in class discussion. In addition, students will be asked to write a research paper on the subject of comparative economic and political development (details to be provided in class). Students have considerable leeway in how they develop these projects. Three assignments will be associated with this project:

1. *Annotated bibliography*. The annotated bibliography lists the key sources to be used for the research paper. Each item will include full bibliographic information (i.e., author, title, publisher)

*Office Phone: (650) 723-0649; blaydes@stanford.edu

†Office Phone: (650) 723-4278; gwox@stanford.edu

as well as a short discussion of the main topics and arguments covered in the book or article. The discussion might also include a reflection on the usefulness of the source. In Week 5, each student will circulate their annotated bibliography and make a short statement about the topic of their research paper for the class.

2. *Presentation of evidence.* A short memorandum should be submitted with the main evidentiary findings of the paper. This might include graphs, figures or analysis of statistical results accompanied by a discussion of the main evidence and findings. Qualitative evidence might be presented in a table or diagram with a discussion of sources. Students should be prepared to discuss their main findings with the class in Week 8 of the quarter.
3. *Research paper.* The research paper should reflect original analysis and argumentation. In Week 10, each student will make a short presentation about the main conclusions of their research paper. A final version of the paper will be due on December 11 (the designated final examination date for our course).

Grades will be assigned based on the following weighting scheme:

- 10 percent: Annotated bibliography (*due October 22*)
- 10 percent: Presentation of evidence (*due November 12*)
- 20 percent: Class participation
- 60 percent: Research paper (*final draft due December 11*)

Students will have the option to enroll in PS 246A/346A for 3, 4 or 5 units. The evaluation scheme is common for students enrolled for different numbers of units but the length of the research paper will vary depending on the units. For students enrolled for three units, an 8-10 page paper is required; four units, 10-15 pages; five units, 15-20 pages.

Agenda of Topics and Readings

All readings will be available on Canvas. Readings that will be discussed on Monday will be designated with an (M) and those to be discussed on Wednesday with a (W).

Week 1: Introduction

Rubin, Jared. 2017. *Rulers, Religion and Riches: Why the West Got Rich and the Middle East Did Not*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Introduction. (W)

Stasavage, David. 2016. "Representation and Consent: Why they Arose in Europe and Not Elsewhere." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 19. (W)

van Zanden, Jan Luiten. 2009. *The Long Road to the Industrial Revolution*. Leiden: Brill. Introduction. (W)

Week 2: State Formation

Barkey, Karen. 1994. *Bandits and Bureaucrats: The Ottoman Route to State Centralization*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Chapter 6. (W)

Blaydes, Lisa. 2017. "State Formation in the Middle East." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 20. (W)

Karaman, Kivanc and Sevet Pamuk. 2013. "Different Paths to the Modern State in Europe: The Interaction Between Warfare, Economic Structure, and Political Regime." *American Political Science Review*. 107(3). (W)

Spruyt, Hendrik. 1994. *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors: An Analysis of Systems Change*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 8. (M)

Tilly, Charles. 1992. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1990*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell. Chapter 1. (M)

van Zanden, Jan Luiten. 2009. *The Long Road to the Industrial Revolution*. Leiden: Brill. Chapter 2. (M)

Week 3: Urban Autonomy

Abu-Lughod, Janet L. 1989. *Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250- 1350*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 7 (M).

Amabe, Fukuzo. 2016. *Urban Autonomy in Medieval Islam: Damascus, Aleppo, Cordoba, Toledo, Valencia and Tunis*. Leiden: Brill. Chapter 1. (M)

Angelucci, Charles, Simone Meraglia and Nico Voigtlander. 2017. "The Medieval Roots of Inclusive Institutions: From the Norman Conquest of England to the Great Reform Act." Unpublished typescript, UCLA. (W)

Blaydes, Lisa and Christopher Paik. 2016. "The Impact of Holy Land Crusades on State Formation: War Mobilization, Trade Integration and Political Development in Medieval Europe." *International Organization*. 70. (W)

Hanna, Nelly. 1998. *Making Big Money in 1600: The Life and Times of Isma'il Abu Taqiyya*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press. Chapter 2 (M)

Stasavage, David. 2014. "Was Weber Right? The Role of Urban Autonomy in Europe's Rise." *American Political Science Review*. 108. (W)

Week 4: Institutions

Blaydes, Lisa. 2018. "Mamluks, Property Rights and Institutional Durability in Medieval Egypt." Unpublished typescript, Stanford University. (M)

Blaydes, Lisa, and Eric Chaney. 2013. "The Feudal Revolution and Europe's Rise: Political Divergence of the Christian West and Muslim World before 1500 CE." *American Political Science Review*. 107. (M)

Cox, Gary. 2016. *Marketing Sovereign Promises: Monopoly Brokerage and the Growth of the English State*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1. (W)

North, Douglass, and Barry Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England." *Journal of Economic History*. 49. (W)

Pamuk, Sevket. 2004. "Institutional Change and the Longevity of the Ottoman Empire, 1500-1800." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*. 35. (M)

van Zanden, Jan, Eltjo Buringh and Maarten Bosker. 2012. "The Rise and Decline of European Parliaments, 1188-1789." *Economic History Review*. 63. (W)

Week 5: Public Finance

Balla, Eliana, and Noel D. Johnson. 2009. "Fiscal Crisis and Institutional Change in the Ottoman Empire and France." *Journal of Economic History*. 69. (W)

Cosgel, Metin. 2005. "Efficiency and Continuity in Public Finance: The Ottoman System of Taxation." *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. 37(4). (W)

Karaman, K. Kivanc, and Sevet Pamuk. 2010. "Ottoman State Finances in European Perspective, 1500-1914." *Journal of Economic History*. 70. (W)

Cox, Gary. 2016. *Marketing Sovereign Promises: Monopoly Brokerage and the Growth of the English State*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2 and 3. (M)

Dincecco, Mark. 2011. *Political Transformations and Public Finances: Europe, 1650-1910*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2 and 3. (M)

Kiser, Edgar, and April Linton. 2001. "Determinants of the Growth of the State: War and Taxation in Early Modern France and England." *Social Forces*. 80. (M)

Week 6: Commerce and Economic Growth

Borsch, Stuart. 2005. *The Black Death in Egypt and England*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press. Chapter 1. (M)

Cantoni, David, and Noam Yuchtman. 2014. "Medieval Universities, Legal Institutions, and the Commercial Revolution." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 130. (W)

Jha, Saumitra. 2015. "Financial Asset Holdings and Political Attitudes: Evidence from Revolutionary England." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 130. (W)

Kuran, Timur. 2003. "The Islamic Commercial Crisis: Institutional Roots of Economic Underdevelopment in the Middle East." *Journal of Economic History*. 63. (M)

Kuran, Timur and Jared Rubin. 2017. "The Financial Power of the Powerless: Socio-Economic Status and Interest Rates under Partial Rule of Law." *Economic Journal*. 128. (M)

Weingast, Barry R. 1993. "Constitutions as Governance Structures: the Political Foundations of Secure Markets." *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*. 149. (W)

Week 7: Urbanization

Blaydes, Lisa and Christopher Paik. 2018. "Muslim Trade and City Growth before the 19th Century: Comparative Urbanization in Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia." Unpublished typescript, Stanford University. (M)

Cox, Gary W. 2017. "Political Institutions, Economic Liberty and the Great Divergence." *Journal of Economic History*. 77. (M)

Dincecco, Mark and Massimiliano Onorato. 2016. "Military Conflict and the Rise of Urban Europe." *Journal of Economic Growth*. 21. (M)

Kuran, Timur. 2001. "The Provision of Public Goods under Islamic Law: Origins, Impact, and Limitations of the Waqf System." *Law Society & Review*. 35. (W)

Ozmucur, Suleyman and Sevat Pamuk. 2002. "Real Wages and Standards of Living in the Ottoman Empire, 1489-1914." *Journal of Economic History*. 62. (W)

van Zanden, Jan L. 1999. "Wages and the Standard of Living in Europe, 1500-1800." *European Review of Economic History*. 3. (W)

Week 8: Universities, the Printing Press, and Knowledge

Buringh, Eltjo, and Jan van Zanden. 2009. "Charting the Rise of the West: Manuscripts and Printed Books in Europe, a Long-Term Perspective from the Sixth through Eighteenth Centuries." *Journal of Economic History*. 69. (W)

Chaney, Eric. 2016. "Religion and the Rise and Fall of Islamic Science." Unpublished typescript, Oxford University. (M)

Cosgel, Metin, Thomas Miceli and Jared Rubin. 2012. "The Political Economy of Mass Printing: Legitimacy and Technological Change in the Ottoman Empire." *Journal of Comparative Economics*. 40. (M)

Dittmar, Jeremiah. 2015. "New Media, Competition, and Growth: European Cities after Gutenberg." Unpublished typescript, LSE. (W)

Mokyr, Joel. 2005. "The Intellectual Origins of Modern Economic Growth." *Journal of Economic History*. 65. (M)

Rubin, Jared. 2014. "Printing and Protestants: An Empirical Test of the Role of Printing in the Reformation." *Review of Economics and Statistics*. 96. (W)

Week 9: Culture and Religion

Becker, Sascha and Ludger Woessmann. 2009. "Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 124. (W)

Blaydes, Lisa, Alison McQueen and Justin Grimmer. 2018. "Mirrors for Princes and Sultans: Advice on the Art of Governance in the Medieval Christian and Islamic Worlds." Unpublished typescript, Stanford University. (M)

Chaney, Eric. 2013. "Revolt on the Nile: Economic Shocks, Religion, and Political Power." *Econometrica*. 81. (M)

Greif, Avner. 1994. "Cultural Beliefs and the Organization of Society: A Historical and Theoretical Reflection on Collectivist and Individualist Societies." *Journal of Political Economy*. 102. (W)

Iyigun, Murat. 2008. "Luther and Suleyman." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 123. (W)

Rubin, Jared. *Rulers, Religion and Riches: Why the West Got Rich and the Middle East Did Not*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2 and 3. (M)

Week 10: Military Technology and Organization

Agoston, Gabor. 2014. "Firearms and Military Adaptation: The Ottomans and the European Military Revolution, 1450-1800." *Journal of World History*. 25. (M)

Chase, Kenneth. 2003. *Firearms: A Global History*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1. (M).

Downing, Robert M. 1992. *The Military Revolution and Political Change: Origins of Democracy and Autocracy in Early Modern Europe*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 3. (M)

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: December 5, Wednesday

*Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk, (650) 723-1066.