
From: The Modern World Global History since 1760 Course Team <noreply@coursera.org>
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2013 2:28 AM
To: jeepproject@yahoo.com
Subject: Starting Week 6

Dear jeffrey epstein,

As usual, I extend a welcome to the new students joining the class. You can most definitely catch up.

For those of you who are finishing up with Week 5, you know that this past set of presentations stressed the rise of national industrial states between 1830 and 1871, culminating in civil wars and the birth of new states around the world, especially between about 1854 and 1871. India was more firmly unified under British state control with an imperial Indian Civil Service to run it. The Qing Empire, having barely survived a huge civil war, fractionally engaged in "self-strengthening." Japan had its own violent upheaval followed by an intense period of political and social change. The wars of unification in Europe created powerful new national states, as the civil war did in the re-United States. I could also have discussed other cases, such as the creation of a new, large dominion called Canada with substantial self-rule over the old provinces of British North America (1867).

Week 6 will discuss how several of these national industrial entities then sought to become national industrial empires, ushering in a new and accelerated age of global imperialism. This phase really took off during the 1880s and had reached its peak by the end of the century. A subtext for this week could be "varieties of imperialism." Many motives, approaches, circumstances, and outcomes. Some laudable, some horrific.

One unusual feature of my approach is the time I spend on one particular case: China, especially between 1898 and the end of 1900. The case is obviously important in its own right. We will try out on you now-seasoned students an additional level of complexity. This case offers a concrete illustration of the mixture of motives, the available options perceived on all sides, and brings out some choices that I think have not received enough attention in the general literature on this period. A Chinese nationalist should look back on this as a period in which China was lucky to have survived at all as a relatively intact political entity.

The scramble for empire around the world became part of a "great acceleration" felt by many observers around the world during the 1890s and beyond. This "great acceleration" had deep roots in how societies that experienced the 'first' industrial revolution responded to that new situation and engendered another, even more powerful, 'second' industrial revolution with many political and cultural associations. But, first, the age of imperialism =E2 .

Best wishes,

Philip Zelikow

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