

HI276-15 Radical Politics and the Struggle for Democracy in Europe, 1918-1939

20/21

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Joachim Haerberlen

Credit value

15

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The years between the two world wars (1918-1939) in Europe saw the rise of radical political movements, both on the extreme right and extreme left. At times, those defending democracy were able to hold their opponents at bay, but more often than not did radical movements, mostly on the right, succeed in taking over the state, which allowed them to implement their political programs.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This 30 CATS undergraduate second-year option module will discuss radical political movements, their struggle against each other and democratic societies. We will inquire why they succeeded in some countries, while democracy could prevail in others. Finally, we will consider how radical movements that took power implemented their politics. While the module will draw upon national case studies, it aims at understanding radical politics in the interwar period as a genuinely European phenomenon. Themes will include the Russian revolution and its impact on the European working-class movement; the rise of fascist and other radical rightist movements; the

struggle for democracy in the era of Popular Fronts, and implementation of fascist regimes in Italy and Germany. Further national case studies will include Hungary, Austria, France and Spain.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Winter Term

Week 1: Introduction. Organizational Matters & Writing Techniques

Week 2: Europe before and during World War One

Part 1: Post-War Revolutions and Counter-Revolutions

Week 3: The Russian Revolution

Week 4: Revolutions in Germany and Central Europe

Week 5: Counter-Revolutionary Movements and the Radical Right in Germany and Central Europe

Week 6: Reading Week

Week 7: The Rise of Fascism in Italy

Part 2: Transnational Political Movements

Week 8: European Fascism

Week 9: From Revolution to Reform: Socialism

Week 10: International Communism

Spring Term

Week 1: Anti-Colonial Movements

Part 3: Radical Movements and the Struggle for Democracy

Week 2: Implementing Democracy in Weimar Germany

Week 3: Communists and Nazis: Radical Politics at the End of Weimar

Week 4: The French Popular Front

Week 5: The Spanish Civil War

Week 6: Reading Week

Part 4: Implementing Radical Politics

Week 7: Stalinist Russia

Week 8: Fascist Italy

Week 9: Building a Racial State: Nazi Germany before the War

Week 10: Building a Racial Empire: Wars of Annihilation and Genocide

Summer Term:

Week 1: Revisions

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Development of critical and analytical study, writing and communication skills
- Critically evaluate sources for the study of modern Europe
- Understand historical and theoretical interpretations of modern Europe
- Presentation of research in an imaginative and concise manner
- Develop written and oral communication skills
- Undertake bibliographic research

- Develop competency in using electronic resources for research and writing

Indicative reading list

- Balfour, Sebastian. *Deadly Embrace. Morocco and the Road to the Spanish Civil War*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Behan, Tom. *The Italian Resistance: Fascists, Guerrillas and the Allies*. London: Pluto Press, 2009.
- Berghahn, Volker. *Europe in the Era of Two World Wars. From Militarism and Genocide to Civil Society, 1900-1950*. Princeton; Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2006.
- Brown, Timothy S. *Weimar Radicals. Nazis and Communists between Authenticity and Performance*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2009.
- Casanova, Julián. *The Spanish Republic and Civil War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Ebner, Michael R. *Ordinary Violence in Mussolini's Italy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- Ferris, Kate. *Everyday Life in Fascist Venice, 1929-40*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.
- Fitzpatrick, Sheila, ed. *Stalinism. New directions*. New York: Routledge, 2000.
- Fitzpatrick, Sheila. *The Russian Revolution*. 3 ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Gerwarth, Robert, and John Horn, eds. *War in Peace: Paramilitary Violence in Europe After the Great War*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Gruber, Helmut. *Red Vienna. Experiment in Working-Class Culture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Haffner, Sebastian. *Failure of a Revolution. Germany, 1918-19*. New York: Library Press, 1972.
- Hanebrink, Paul A. *In Defense of Christian Hungary: Religion, Nationalism, and Antisemitism, 1890-1944*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006.
- Harsch, Donna. *German Social Democracy and the Rise of Nazism*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993.
- Jackson, Julian. *The Popular Front in France. Defending Democracy, 1934-38*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Lloyd, Christopher. *Collaboration and Resistance in Occupied France: Representing Treason and Sacrifice*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.
- Lyttelton, Adrian. *The Seizure of Power: Fascism in Italy, 1919-1929*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987.
- Mazower, Mark. *Hitler's Empire. How the Nazis Ruled Europe*. New York: The Penguin Press, 2008.
- Shepard, Ben, and Juliette Pattinson, eds. *War in a Twilight World. Partisan and Anti-Partisan Warfare in Eastern Europe, 1939-45*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.
- Swett, Pamela E. *Neighbors and Enemies: the Culture of Radicalism in Berlin, 1929-1933*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
- Wardhaugh, Jessica. *In Pursuit of the People. Political Culture in France, 1934-1939*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.
- Wildt, Michael. *Hitler's Volksgemeinschaft and the Dynamics of Racial Exclusion: Violence against Jews in Provincial Germany, 1919-1939*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2012.

Subject specific skills

- Critically evaluate sources for the study of modern Europe
- Understand historical and theoretical interpretations of the study of modern Europe

Transferable skills

- Develop critical and analytical study, writing and communication skills
 - Present research in an imaginative and concise manner
 - Develop written and oral communication skills
 - Undertake bibliographic research
 - Develop competency in using electronic resources for research and writing
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Tutorials	1 session of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	131 hours (87%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
Assignment 1: Oral participation	10%	
Assignment 2: 1000 word essay plan	40%	
Assignment 3: 3,000 word essay	50%	

Feedback on assessment

- written feedback on essay and exam cover sheets
- student/tutor dialogues in one-to-one tutorials
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Availability

There is currently no information about the courses for which this module is core or optional.