

**History 767: War and Society in Modern East Asian History**  
**“The Military Origins of the Modern Nation-State in China”**

**Instructor: Jaeyoon Song (CNH 611)**

**Email: [songjae@mcmaster.ca](mailto:songjae@mcmaster.ca)**

**Phone: 24146**

**Office hours: Tue 2-4 or by appointment**

**Purport:**

This seminar will explore the military origins of the modern nation-state in China with a focus on the period from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 1950s. Major issues include the Manchu conquest of Ming China, the colonization of frontier regions in early modern China, the rebellions and militarization of 19<sup>th</sup> century China, the Republican Revolution and the rise of warlordism, the Civil War and the Japanese invasions, the victory of the CCP, and Chinese involvement in the Korean War (1950-1953). Paper topics are open-ended, but should involve the issue of “human conflict” in modern China.

**Weekly Participation (40%):**

You are expected to attend each class, having read and considered the required readings as well as some of the recommended readings. As you read these works, think about the argument being advanced, the kinds of supporting evidence used, and the place of the work in the larger historiographic context. You are expected to contribute to class discussions about the readings. 50% of the participation mark will be based on attendance and 50% on the quality of your contribution. If you miss a class without notifying the instructor in advance (and without providing a reasonable excuse), you will be penalized.

**Research Essay (60%):** MA and PhD students are responsible for writing a research paper (historiographic essays) on war and society in modern China. If students choose the latter, they must use primary sources. Topics must be approved by the instructor.

**Length:** 20-25 pages. (Due on April 20th)

**Due:** TBA

All assignments must follow formal academic (Chicago Style) conventions and use end notes or footnotes (I prefer footnotes). Do not use internal citations. Assignments are due on the dates specified in the syllabus and a penalty of 3% a day (including weekends) will be imposed on late papers.

**Email addresses:** It is the policy of the Faculty of Humanities that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e

-mail accounts. TH

and confirms the identity of the student. Instructors will delete messages that do not originate from a McMaster email account.

**Academic Integrity:** You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the *Academic Integrity Policy*, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Course Modifications:** The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### **<Recommended Textbooks on East Asia>**

- Spence, Jonathan D. *The Search for Modern China*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999.
- Ebrey, Patricia and Walhall, Anne. *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*. Wadsworth, 2014.
- Schoppa, R. Keith, edited. *The Columbia Guide to Modern Chinese History*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000. (Reference book)

### **<Course Outline>**

#### **Week I (Jan 10): “From Empire to Nation in modern Chinese history”**

Documentary Film: *China a Century of Revolution*

#### **Week II (Jan 17): Approaches and Theoretical Frameworks**

Tilly, Charles. *Coercion, Capital, and European states, AD 990-1990*. Oxford, UK: Cambridge, Mass., USA: B. Blackwell, 1990: "Introduction" and Chapters 1 and 2. (AVENUE)

Fergusson, Neill. 2006. *The War of the World*. London: Allen Lane: Penguin Press: "Introduction" and Chapter I.

Esherick, Joseph W. "How the Qing became China." In *Empire to Nation: Historical Perspectives on the Making of the Modern World*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2006: pp. 229-259. (AVENUE)

### **Week III (Jan 24). Warfare and Empire-building in Early Modern China**

Frederic, Wakeman, Jr. 1985. *The Great Enterprise: The Manchu Reconstruction of Imperial Order in Seventeenth-century China*. University of California Press. (selected chapters)

Perdue, Peter C. *China Marches West: the Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia*. Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005. (selected chapters)

<Recommended>

Giersch, Charles Patterson. 2006. *Asian borderlands: the Transformation of Qing China's Yunnan frontier*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

### **Week IV (Jan 31). Rebellion and the Militarization of Chinese Society**

Sutton, Donald S. "Violence and Ethnicity on a Qing Colonial Frontier: Customary and Statutory Law in the Eighteenth-Century Miao Pale." *Modern Asian Studies* 37, 1 (2003): pp. 41-80.

Bello, David A. "To Go Where No Han Could Go for Long: Malaria and the Qing Construction of Ethnic Administrative Space in Frontier Yunnan." *Modern China*, Vol. 31, No. 3 (Jul., 2005): pp. 283-317.

Platt, Stephen R. *The Heavenly Kingdom Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom: China, the West, and the Epic Story of the Taiping Civil War*. Vintage, 2012. (selected chapters)

<Recommended>

Kuhn, Philip A. 1970. *Rebellion and Its Enemies*. Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press.

Atwill, David G. 2005. *The Chinese Sultanate: Islam, Ethnicity, and the Panthay Rebellion in Southwest China, 1856-1873*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

**Week V (Feb 7). War with Modern Powers**

Lovell, Julia. *The Opium War: Drugs, Dreams, and the Making of Modern China*. Picador, 2012 (Selected chapters)

Fay, Peter W. 1998. *The Opium War: Barbarians in the Celestial Empire in the Early Part of the Nineteenth Century & the War by Which They Forced Her Gates Ajar*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. (selected chapters)

<Recommended>

Wakeman, Jr. Frederic. 1966. *Strangers at the Gate: Social Disorder in South China, 1839-1861*. University of California Press.

Paine, S. C. M. 2003. *The Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895: perceptions, power, and primacy*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

**Week VI (Feb 14). “Warlordism” in Modern China**

Ch'en, Jerome. "Chinese Warlords and Their Factions." *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, University of London, Vol.31, No. 3 (1968): pp. 563-600

Worthing, Peter. “Toward the Minjiu Incident: Militarist Conflict in Guizhou, 1911-1921.” *Modern China*, Vol. 33, No. 2 (Apr., 2007): pp. 258-283.

McCord, Edward A. “Cries That Shake the Earth: Military Atrocities and Popular Protests in Warlord China.” *Modern China*, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Jan., 2005): pp. 3-34.

Waldron, Arthur. “The Warlord: Twentieth-Century Chinese Understandings of Violence, Militarism, and Imperialism.” *The American Historical Review* Vol. 96, No. 4 (Oct., 1991): pp. 1073-1100

Waldron, Arthur. "Warlordism versus Federalism: The Revival of a Debate?" *The China Quarterly*, No. 121 (Mar., 1990): pp. 116-128

**Week VII (Feb 21): No Class****Week VIII (Feb 28): War in the making of Modern China**

Hans J. van de Ven. "War in the Making of Modern China." *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 30, No. 4, Special Issue: War in Modern China (Oct.,1996): pp. 737-756

Edward A. McCord. "Warlords against Warlordism: The Politics of Anti-Militarism in Early Twentieth-Century China." *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 30, No. 4, Special Issue: War in Modern China (Oct.,1996): pp. 795-827

Stephen MacKinnon. "The Tragedy of Wuhan, 1938." *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 30, No. 4, Special Issue: War in Modern China (Oct.,1996): pp. 931-943

Arthur Waldron. "China's New Remembering of World War II: The Case of Zhang Zizhong." *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 30, No. 4, Special Issue: War in Modern China (Oct.,1996), pp. 945-978

<Recommended>

Eastman, Lloyd E. 1984. *Seeds of destruction: Nationalist China in war and revolution, 1937-1949*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Wakeman, Frederic E. *Policing Shanghai, 1927-1937*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.

### **Week IX (Mar 7): China in World War II, 1937–1945 “Experience, Memory, and Legacy”**

MITTER, Rana. "Classifying Citizens in Nationalist China during World War II, 1937–1941." *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 2: pp. 243-275.

BOECKING, Felix. "Unmaking the Chinese Nationalist State: Administrative Reform among Fiscal Collapse, 1937–1945." *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 2:

MATTHEW D. JOHNSON. "Propaganda and Sovereignty in Wartime China: Morale Operations and Psychological Warfare under the Office of War Information." *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 2: pp. 303-344

ANDRES RODRIGUEZ. "Building the Nation, Serving the Frontier: Mobilizing and Reconstructing China's Borderlands during the War of Resistance (1937–1945)." *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 2: pp. 345-376

<Recommended>

Hans J. van de Ven. *War and Nationalism in China 1925-1945*. RoutledgeCurzon, 2003.

**Week X (March 14) The Rape of Nanking**

Brook, Timothy, ed. *Documents on the Rape of Nanking*. University of Michigan Press, 1999. (selected chapters)

Takashi Yoshida. 2006. *The Making of the "Rape of Nanking": history and memory in Japan, China, and the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press. (selected chapters)

James Burnham Sedgwick. "Memory on Trial: Constructing and Contesting the 'Rape of Nanking' at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, 1946-1948." *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 5 (Sep., 2009), pp. 1229-1254

Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi. "The Nanking 100-Man Killing Contest Debate: War Guilt amid Fabricated Illusions, 1971-75." *The Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 26, No. 2 (Summer, 2000), pp. 307-340.

**<Recommended>**

Boyle, John Hunter. 1972. *China and Japan at War: The Politics of Collaboration, 1937-1945*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Banyai, Richard A. 1974. *Money and banking in China and Southeast Asia during the Japanese military occupation 1937 - 1945*. Taipei: Tai Wan Enterprises Company.

**Week IX (Mar 21): The Nationalist Party (GMD) vs. The Communist Party (CCP)**

Tanner, Harold M. "Guerrilla, Mobile, and Base Warfare in Communist Military Operations in Manchuria, 1945-1947," *The Journal of Military History*, Vol. 67, No. 4 (Oct., 2003), pp. 1177-1222.

Shiu, Victor and Cheng, Chiang. 2005. "Imagining China's Madrid in Manchuria: The Communist Military Strategy at the Onset of the Chinese Civil War, 1945-1946." *Modern China* 31. 1: 72-114.

**<Recommended>**

Phillips, Steven E. *Between Assimilation and Independence: the Taiwanese encounter nationalist China, 1945-1950*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003.

Ch'en, Yung-fa. *Making Revolution: The Communist Movement in Eastern and Central China, 1937–1945*. Center for Chinese Studies, Uc Berkeley, 1986.

**Week XI (March 28). The Korean War, 1950-53**

Jian, Chen. *China's Road to the Korean War: The Making of the Sino-American Confrontation*. Columbia University Press, 1994. (Selected chapters)

Stueck, Jr., William J. *The Korean War: An International History*. Princeton University Press, 1995. (Selected chapters)

<Recommended>

Ha Jin. 2004. *War Trash: A Novel*. Pantheon.

Zhang Shu-gang. 1995. *Mao's Military Romanticism: China and the Korean War, 1950–1953*. University Press of Kansas.

Cumings, Bruce. 1990. *The Origins of the Korean War*. Princeton University Press.

**Week XII (Apr 4): Review.**