

**HISTORY 337**  
**WAR AND EUROPEAN SOCIETY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

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Class Meeting Time: Tues. and Thurs. 9:35 – 10:50  
CHEN 102  
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Europe's twentieth century presents a series of fascinating contrasts. The first half was marked by two of the largest and bloodiest conflicts ever seen by mankind and the rise of extreme ideologies like fascism and communism. During the second half, the continent was divided, but through that division evolved an armed peace during which Western Europe prospered economically. At the end of the century, many citizens of European states seemed willing to look beyond the boundaries of the nation and assume new identities as Europeans.

Just below the surface, this picture becomes far more complicated. Europe at the beginning of the First World War was part of an integrated and globalized economy, while Europe at the end of the century was still prone to bloody nationalism like that witnessed during the collapse of Yugoslavia. How have the experiences of war, particularly the terrible violence of the World Wars and the nuclear threat of the Cold War, shaped the beliefs and expectations of Europeans? Can we even speak of "Europeans" in an age when so many divisions remain between the national and regional components that make up this complex continent? How can the history of the first half of the twentieth century help us to understand what was to follow? By focusing on the role of war and warfare in recent European history, this course will address some of these difficult questions.

Required Reading List:

The following texts are required and can be purchased online or at the MSC bookstore.

Anonymous. *A Woman in Berlin* \*(please purchase the 2005 Metropolitan edition)  
Robert Baden-Powell. *Scouting for Boys* \*(please purchase the 2005 Oxford edition)  
Miklos Banffy. *The Phoenix Land*  
Owen Chadwick, *The Christian Church in the Cold War*  
Jan Gross. *Neighbors*  
Harold James. *Europe Reborn: A History, 1914-2000*

Films:

There will be two films shown in this class. Screenings will be held in the evening in an Educational Media Services room in the Evans Library Annex. On days when films will be shown, there will be no regular class meeting. Material from the films will appear on examinations. Students unable to attend scheduled showings can watch the films on their own in the EdMS. The films are:

“The Great Illusion” (*La Grande Illusion*, 1937)

“Pretty Village, Pretty Flame” (*Lepa Sela, Lepo Gore*, 1996)

Assignments and Grading:

Exams: There will be two examinations in this class, a midterm and a final. Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and map identification terms.

Semester Paper: In addition, each student will prepare a semester paper of 8-10 pages (2,000 – 2,500 words) double-spaced, in no larger than 12-point font, and with standard margins. For this paper, you will read a major work of literature that deals with themes related to this class and examine the book within its historical context. This will mean conducting research on the author, the period during which the text was written, the style of the text, and its political and social background. The book list is attached. I will provide additional information about this assignment early in the semester. Any text not on the list of suggested reading will need to be approved by the professor in advance.

Participation and Attendance: This course is a seminar, which means that its success depends on your willingness to attend and participate. An attendance sheet will be distributed beginning on January 24. Any student missing more than THREE class sessions without a university-approved absence will have 10 percentage points deducted from their final participation grade. Each subsequent absence will result in a three point deduction from their participation grade. In addition, students will be evaluated based on their participation in class discussions.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Midterm examination: 25%

Final examination: 35%

Semester paper: 30%

Participation: 10%

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:

**“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”**

The Texas A&M University Student Handbook (available online by consulting <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/Handbook.pdf>) contains a clear statement regarding "Academic Dishonesty & Plagiarism." Plagiarism is a form of cheating. According to the aggiehonor Web site, "plagiarism" can be understood as "the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit" (aggiehonor/Handbook). Plagiarism may involve uncited or uncredited use of papers or materials taken in whole or in part from other persons or references, such as from Internet

Web sites, books, magazines, journals, or newspapers, or from other students' papers or assignments. If you are unsure of the meaning of this description, confer with the professor if you have any questions. Committing plagiarism will result in receiving an 'F' on the assignment, possibly an 'F' in the course, and may lead to expulsion from the University.

Students with Disabilities:

The "Americans with Disabilities Act" is a federal anti-discrimination law that provides civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this law requires that students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If a student believes that they have a disability requiring accommodation, they should contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Cain Hall, (campus phone 845-1637). It is the responsibility of the student to discuss this matter with the professor.

Schedule:

- 17-Jan Introduction
- 19-Jan War and European Society in 1900
- 24-Jan The Winding Road to 1914 (James [J] 1-47)
- 26-Jan **Discussion: Scouting for Boys**
- 30-Jan The Seminal Catastrophe: World War One (J 48-79)
- 2-Feb Russia in Revolutions and Civil War
- 7-Feb Waging War and Making Peace, 1917-21 (J 80-103)
- 9-Feb Democracy Imperiled: Europe's 1920s
- 14-Feb **Film: The Great Illusion**
- 16-Feb **Discussion: The Great Illusion**
- 21-Feb Race and Revolution in Germany (J 147-180)
- 23-Feb Descent into Darkness
- 28-Feb **Discussion: The Phoenix Land**
- 2-Mar WWII: Invasion, Occupation, Collaboration (J 181-282)
- 7-Mar WWII: Warfare and Genocide

- 9-Mar **Midterm Exam**
- 14-Mar **Spring Break**
- 16-Mar **Spring Break**
- 21-Mar **Discussion: Neighbors**
- 23-Mar Europe Restored, Europe Divided (J 223-304)
- 28-Mar Decolonization
- 30-Mar **Discussion: Woman in Berlin**
- 4-Apr **No class. Work on papers**
- 6-Apr Europe's Cold War **Papers due** (J 305-370)
- 11-Apr The End of the Cold War (J 371-385)
- 13-Apr **Discussion: Christian Church in the Cold War**
- 18-Apr The Fall of Yugoslavia
- 20-Apr **Film: Pretty Village, Pretty Flame**
- 25-Apr **Discussion: Pretty Village, Pretty Flame**
- 27-Apr War and European Society in the 21st Century (386-446)

The final examination will take place on Friday, May 5, from 12:30 – 2:30

## APPROVED BOOKS FOR PAPER PROJECT

The books listed below are those I would recommend for this semester's paper project. Each student should choose ONE of these books as the basis for their paper. They reflect a range of genres, including memoirs and novels. They are written by Europeans, generally for a European audience. Most should be available at Evans Library. All can be obtained from a commercial or online bookseller. If you want to write about a book not on this list, you MUST get it approved by the professor in advance.

1. Andric, Ivo. *The Bridge on the Drina* (Yugoslavia)
2. Ballard, J.G. *Empire of the Sun* (British in China, WWII)
3. Barbusse, Henri. *Under Fire* (France in WWI)
4. Bidermann, Gottlob. *In Deadly Combat* (WWII German memoir)
5. Böll, Heinrich. *Where Were You Adam?* (Post WWII Germany)
6. Böll, Heinrich. *Billiards at Half-Nine* (Post WWII Germany)
7. Böll, Heinrich. *A Soldier's Legacy* (Post WWII Germany)
8. Borowski, Tadeusz. *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen* (Polish concentration camp survivor memoir)
9. Brittain, Vera. *Testament of Youth* (WWI, Interwar Britain)
10. Buchan, John. *Greenmantle* (Britain, pre-1914, Espionage)
11. Buchan, John. *The Thirty-Nine Steps* (Britain, pre-1914, espionage)
12. Camus, Albert. *The First Man* (Colonialism, Algeria)
13. Childers, Erskine. *The Riddle of the Sands* (Britain, pre-1914, espionage)
14. Döblin, Alfred. *Berlin Alexanderplatz* (Interwar Germany)
15. Fall, Bernard. *Hell in a Very Small Place* (French in Vietnam)
16. Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth* (Decolonization in Algeria)
17. Filipovic, Zlata. *Zlata's Diary* (Collapse of Yugoslavia)
18. Forester, C.S. *The General* (WWI and Interwar Britain)
19. Ginzburg, Eugenia. *Journey into the Whirlwind* (Soviet gulag system)
20. Ginzburg, Eugenia. *Within the Whirlwind* (Soviet gulag system)
21. Graves, Robert. *Goodbye to All That* (WWI, Interwar Britain)
22. Graves, Robert, and Alan Hodge. *The Long Weekend* (Interwar Britain)
23. Grossman, Vassily. *Life and Fate* (USSR in WWII)
24. Guilloux, Louis. *OK, Joe* (Racial tension, France, WWII)
25. Grass, Günter. *The Tin Drum* (Post WWII Germany)
26. Grass, Günter. *Crabwalk* (Post WWII Germany)
27. Haffner, Sebastian. *Defying Hitler* (Youth in Third Reich)
28. Hasek, Jaroslav. *The Good Soldier Svejk* (Comic novel, WWI, Czechoslovakia)
29. Isherwood, Christopher. *The Berlin Novels* (1930s Berlin)
30. Junger, Ernst. *The Storm of Steel* (WWI Germany)
31. Junger, Ernst. *War as Inner Experience* (Interwar Europe, psychology)
32. Lee, Laurie. *A Moment of War* (Spanish Civil War)
33. Lenz, Sigfried. *The Museum (Heimattmuseum)* (Germany and Eastern Europe)
34. Manning, Frederic. *Her Privates We* (Britain WWI)

35. Marai, Sandor. *Embers* (Interwar Central Europe)
36. Orwell, George. *Homage to Catalonia* (Spanish Civil War)
37. Pasternak, Boris. *Doctor Zhivago* (Russian Civil War)
38. Sajer, Guy. *The Forgotten Soldier* (WWII German infantry)
39. Salomon, Ernst von. *The Questionnaire* (De-nazification of Germany)
40. Sassoon, Sigfried. *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer* (WWI Britain)
41. Sebald, W.G. *On the Natural History of Destruction* (Literature and War)
42. Sikorski, Radek. *The Polish House* (Poland, WWII and Communism)
43. Sikorski, Radek. *Full Circle* (Cold War Poland)
44. Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (Soviet camp system)
45. Timm, Uwe. *In My Brother's Shadow* (Memory of WWII in Germany)