

History G8914: International Development in History

Daniel Immerwahr, Spring 2012

Class: Thursday, 2:10–4pm, 311 Fayerweather Hall

Office hours: Tuesday, 2:10–4pm or by appointment, 616 Fayerweather Hall

Course website: www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~immer/development

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Course Description

For centuries empires and nations have sought to increase their own wealth. But the practice of seeking to raise standards of living in another place beyond one's political borders is a distinctively modern phenomenon, and largely one restricted to the decades after World War II. It is only now that international development, the subject of so much interest and so many books, has finally entered the purview of historians. Rather than asking how the economic fortunes of underdeveloped areas can best be raised, a historical approach to the topic inquires about the origins of the practice and its changes over time. Why has international development become so prevalent after World War II, and why not before? How is it related to domestic improvement schemes? How is it related to empire? How have liberal models of development differed from socialist ones, and how have they been connected? What role have changes in the international system, such as the founding of the United Nations, the establishment and breakdown of the Keynesian system, and the growth of a global human rights consciousness, played in the trajectory of international development? Such questions have the power to clarify our thinking about what economic development is and how it works. They can also illuminate our understanding of the past, by drawing our attention to a phenomenon that has been of overwhelming importance in the twentieth century.

This colloquium proposes to examine the emerging historical literature on development, with an eye toward drawing broad connections about development's history. Because the historical study of development is currently in its infancy, we will also read reflections about the history of development offered by practitioners of the field, theoretical treatments of the topic, and historical scholarship on related topics, such as the history of empire and human rights. And rather than producing a term paper that features original research about a single episode, students will be encouraged to develop a historical overview and to write synthetic accounts of development's history that draw on existing scholarship.

Although the focus of this seminar will be on understanding development's past rather than shaping its future, graduate students from outside of history (including business, anthropology, political science, economics, human rights, law, sociology, urban planning, and area studies) are heartily welcomed to register, on the understanding that this is a topic that would benefit greatly from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Assignments

Reading

Each week, you will be required to read a number of different secondary sources on the history of international development. Some of these will be written by historians, but others will be written by social scientists working in other fields: economics, sociology, anthropology, political science, or political philosophy. A typical assignment for this course will be the length of one medium-length book and two articles. Obviously, it is crucial that you come to class prepared to discuss the reading, so please bring any reading notes that you have made.

Books

The following books are available for purchase at Book Culture on 112th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam. They are also available at the Butler Library Reserves Desk, so do not feel obliged to purchase them. All other readings are available through CourseWorks.

- Nick Cullather, *The Hungry World: America's Cold War Battle against Poverty in Asia* (2010)
- Matthew Connelly, *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population* (2008)
- Frederick Cooper, *Africa since 1940: The Past of the Present* (2002)*
- William Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics* (2001)
- David Ekbladh, *The Great American Mission: Modernization and the Construction of an American World Order* (2009)*
- David C. Engerman, Nils Gilman, Mark H. Haefele, and Michael E. Latham, eds., *Staging Growth: Modernization, Development, and the Global Cold War* (2003)*
- James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine: "Development," Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho* (1994)*
- Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (1998)
- Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization* (1995)*
- Michael Latham, *The Right Kind of Revolution* (2011)
- Timothy Mitchell, *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity* (2002)
- Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History* (2010)
- James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (1998)*
- Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom* (2000)
- Joseph E. Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents* (2002)
- Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works* (2004)*

* = a book for which only specific chapters have been assigned

Reading responses

Every week, by Thursday at 11am, you will be required to submit a summary of the readings. If we are reading a single book, you should send in a page-long summary of that book. If we are reading excerpts and articles, I'd like roughly a paragraph (could be short) on each. Please include at least one question for discussion in your response. The purposes of this exercise are to (1) help you to collect your thoughts about the readings, (2) provide you with a running record of what you have read (especially for those of you who will be taking qualifying exams in this field), and (3) give me a sense of what you got out of it as I prepare for the class. Please send your response to me via email. I will not grade them individually but I will read them all and offer comments on some of them over the course of the semester. If they seem somehow inadequate to me, I'll let you know.

Lectures, Book Reviews, and Analytical Essays

Rather than writing a single research paper due at the end of the term, you will be responsible for writing two shorter assignments (in addition to your reading responses): an undergraduate lecture and something else. That something else can be another lecture, a book review, or an analytical essay. Descriptions of all the assignments are below. You may hand in the assignments at any time as long as you have handed in one by March 8 and they are both in by April 30. I strongly advise handing in both before April 12 so as to avoid end-of-term crunch. Please feel encouraged to discuss your ideas by me in office hours before turning in your assignments.

Lecture

At least one of your two writing assignments must take the form of an hour-length undergraduate lecture on a specific topic within the field of development. You may write the entire lecture out or submit a full outline (containing all the points you will make, if not the exact sentences in which they would be expressed). You are also welcome to submit PowerPoint or Prezi presentations designed to accompany the talk. The object of the exercise here is not to show off your command of historiographical nuance or to cram your lecture with as much information as possible but to reflect upon the big picture and figure out a way to communicate that to an undergraduate audience. Although I will expect that you will do some additional reading on your topic beyond what is on the syllabus, these presentations should not have footnotes and discussions of the historical literature should only be introduced in your lecture if you feel that such discussions serve a pedagogical function.

Please submit, along with your lecture, an account (around a page in length, but feel welcome to go on longer) describing and explaining the choices you made in presenting the material in the way you did. Here you are free to get into detail about existing scholarship.

Book review

For this assignment, please choose one book (does not have to be on the syllabus) and offer a full analysis of it. This will require not only reading the book but gaining an intimate knowledge of it—knowing how it “works,” understanding why the author chose to use the concepts and topics she chose, seeing the costs as well as the benefits of those choices, having a sense of the main arguments to which the book is responding, attending to arguments that the book fails to make as well as to the ones that it does make, etc. I am less interested in hearing from you whether you think the book is good or bad but rather in hearing the ways in which you think the book is useful and, perhaps, the ways in which it is not. For this assignment, you will probably want to read some reviews of the book published in scholarly journals and familiarize yourself with some of the other literature on the main topic.

This should be around 3,000 words, excluding notes.

Analytical essay

Rather than focusing on one book, as in the above assignment, you might write an essay about the field of development history. You can either do this by answering some version of the question “What are the most fruitful and interesting problems in the field of development history?” or by focusing on a particular subtopic (development and empire, international agencies, neoliberalism, etc.). As with the lecture, the goal of this assignment is to get you to think big about what is being done and what should or could be done in the field. For this assignment, I will expect you to have read and make at least some reference to numerous books on the syllabus, but you will also probably want to familiarize yourself with some works off it, as appropriate.

This should be around 3,000 words, excluding notes.

Events

The Heyman Center and the Committee on Global Thought have organized three events on the history of international development for the spring semester. Attendance of these events should be considered part of the course, along with the readings. All are to be held in the second floor common room of the Heyman Center.

Thursday, January 26, 6:15pm–8pm: Nick Cullather

Nick Cullather, speaking on his book, *The Hungry World*, with comments by Anders Stephanson.

Friday, February 17, 10am–4:30pm: Development Policies in a Bipolar World

Two panels on development during the Cold War. Speakers: David Engerman, Joseph Hodge, Amy Offner, George Rosen, Bradley Simpson, and me. Commentators to include Michael Latham.

Wednesday, March 21, 4:00pm-6pm: Workshop on Development and Empire
Speakers: David Engerman, Julian Go, and Fred Cooper.

Grades

Participation and reading responses: 50%
Assignments: 50%

Schedule of meetings, readings, and events

January 19: Introduction

January 26: Overview

- Frederick Cooper, "Writing the History of Development," *Journal of Modern European History* 8 (2010): 5–23.
- Nick Cullather, "Development? It's History," *Diplomatic History* 24 (2000): 641–653
- Benjamin Knutsson, "The Intellectual History of Development: Towards a Widening Potential Repertoire," *Perspectives* 13 (2009): 1–47.
- Nick Cullather, *The Hungry World: America's Cold War Battle against Poverty in Asia* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2010)

Thursday, January 26, 6:15pm–8pm: Nick Cullather at Heyman Center

February 2: Dissent

- Wolfgang Sachs, *The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power* (1992), introduction
- James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine: "Development," Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho* (1994), chaps. 1–2, 9, epilogue
- Arturo Escobar, "The Problematization of Poverty," in *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World* (1995)
- Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works* (2004), preface, chapters 5 and 9.

February 9: Domestic Developments

- David Ekbladh, *The Great American Mission: Modernization and the Construction of an American World Order* (2009), introduction, chaps. 1–3
- Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization* (1995), introduction, part I
- James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (1998), introduction, chaps. 1, 5–6

February 16: The Imperial Foundation

- Partha Chatterjee, *The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories* (1993), chap. 10
- Gyan Prakash, *Another Reason: Science and the Imagination of Modern India* (1999), chap. 6
- Timothy Mitchell, *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity* (2002), introduction, chaps 1–3, 7–9

Friday, February 17, 10am-4:30pm: Development Policies in a Bipolar World (incl. Engerman and Latham)

February 23: Industry Promotion and Development as Modernization

- Ha-Joon Chang, "Kicking Away the Ladder: Infant Industry Promotion in Historical Perspective," *Oxford Development Studies* 31 (2003): 21–32.
- David C. Engerman, Nils Gilman, Mark H. Haefele, and Michael E. Latham, eds., *Staging Growth: Modernization, Development, and the Global Cold War* (2003), articles by Latham, Adas, Gilman, and Engerman.
- Michael Latham, *The Right Kind of Revolution* (2011)

March 1: The International System and Dependence

- Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment," *Monthly Review*, September 1966, 17-31
- Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16 (1974): 387–415.
- Cristóbal Kay, "Reflections on the Latin American Contribution to Development Theory," *Development and Change* (1991): 31–68.
- Thomas Pogge, "Achieving Democracy," *Ethics & International Affairs* 15 (2001): 3-23
- Frederick Cooper, *Africa since 1940: The Past of the Present* (2002), chaps. 3–5.

March 8: Economists Reflect

- Albert O. Hirschman, "The Rise and Decline of Development Economics," in *Essays on Trespassing: Economics to Politics and Beyond* (1981)
- Paul Krugman, "The Fall and Rise of Development Economics," informal paper, 1994
- William Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics* (2001)
- **By this day, you are expected to have handed in at least one of your two assignments.**

SPRING BREAK

Wednesday, March 21, 4:00pm-6pm: Workshop on Development and Empire (incl. Engerman and Cooper)

March 22: Demography

- Matthew Connelly, *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population* (2008)

April 5: Humanitarianism and Human Rights in the Age of Development

- Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1 (1972): 229–243
- Kenneth Cmiel, "The Emergence of Human Rights Politics in the United States," *Journal of American History* 86 (1999): 1231–1250.
- Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History* (2010)
- Daniel Sargent, "Oasis in the Desert?: America's Human Rights Rediscovery," forthcoming

April 12: Rolling back the State

- John Toye, *Dilemmas of Development: Reflections on the Counter-Revolution in Development Economics*, 2nd ed (1993), chaps. 2–4.
- Kristian Stokke and Giles Mohan, "The Convergence around Local Civil Society and the Dangers of Localism," *Social Scientist* 29 (2001): 3–24
- Joseph E. Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents* (2002)

April 19: Counterhegemonic Development

- Patrick Heller, "From Class Struggle to Class Compromise: Redistribution and Growth in a South Indian State," *Journal of Development Studies* 31 (1995): 645–672
- Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom* (2000)

April 26: Globalization, NGOs, and Social Movements

- Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (1998)
- Peter Evans, "Counter-Hegemonic Globalization: Transnational Social Movements in the Contemporary Global Political Economy," in Thomas Janoski, Alexander M. Hicks, and Mildred Schwartz, *Handbook of Political Sociology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

Monday, April 30 is the final day on which I will be accepting assignments. Both assignments should be handed in by Monday at 4pm.