

# **EUROPE AND THE WORLD SINCE 1900: FROM GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TO PERIPHERY?**

**Type:** Lecture

**Time for the course:** 32 hours – type 5 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 8:00-12:00)

**Location:** TBA

**Credits:** 2

**Lecturer:** Professor Jiří Lach, Ph.D., M.A.

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## **I. DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE**

This course concentrates on changing role of Europe in a global area from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to present. There had been a massive shift in this era from supremacy of European colonial powers, (general dominance of European like culture, political and economic control) prior to WWI and decline of it all in its aftermath. Whole set of processes led to decomposition of Old Continent's dominant position in the world. The course will analyze how these processes developed from perspectives of different European political powers as well as how former exploited territories worked on dwindling Europe's influence. European reflections of retreat from the World leader no. One to an almost peripheral player in confrontation to rising powers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries (USA, USSR/Russia, China) will be discussed too. Course focuses on four main periods: 1. Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> – climax of European supremacy; 2. Two World Wars and their impact on Europe's retreat from global dominance; 3. Europe in the shadow of bipolar supremacy (USA/USSR); 4. Multipolar world of present.

## **II. TEACHING METHODS**

This course is based on lectures. Every teaching unit will be open to students questions in the end. Students are encouraged to combine lectures with optional reading, but participation in lectures establishes sufficient ground for preparation for final test. Tutorial will be offered if required by students.

Lecturer takes into consideration that participants of the course do not have previous knowledge of European history.

### III. REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

All students must participate at lectures sessions and pass the exam.

Exam description:

- a) Sit-in written exam that will consist of:
  - a. open questions (5 questions);
  - b. multiple choice (10 questions);
- b) Students are allowed to use their notes from lectures

### IV. COURSE PROGRAM

#### Week 1

Tuesday, July 18, 8:00-9:50

Topic: *"Great White Man leads the world" – Vertex of European global dominance before WWI: Myth and reality*

Tuesday, July 18, 10:10-12:00

Topic: *Sobering through the trenches of Great War: a) non-Europeans saving the Old continent; b) seeds of national self-determination outside Europe; c) new global players born: USA and communist Russia*

Wednesday, July 19, 8:00-9:50

Topic: *1918–1938: fiction of dominance and coming of non-European century (nationalism, socialism and other doctrines outside Europe)*

Wednesday, July 19, 10:10-12:00

Topic: *Ending the European Age through WWII*

Thursday, July 20, 8:00-9:50

Topic: *Beginning of Cold War and Western Europe: failure of colonial territories and acceptance of US dominance in international relations*

Thursday, July 20, 10:10-12:00

Topic: *Beginning of Cold War and Eastern Europe: Soviet imperialism from within and the end of Europeanism*

Friday, July 21, 8:00-9:50

Topic: *Western Europe as second-rate player in Cold War or happy years under American umbrella? (Europe focusing on economic and political integration)*

Friday, July 21, 10:10-12:00

Topic: *Dreams and disillusionment: politics, society and culture in Communist Eastern Europe*

## **Week 2**

Tuesday, July 25, 8:00-9:50

Topic: *End of Cold war and its impact on Europe*

Tuesday, July 25, 10:10-12:00

Topic:

*How did liberal democracy influence European perspective of a global player?*

Wednesday, July 26, 8:00-9:50

Topic: *End of the Cold war and idea of ever strongest democratic union – new principles of global leadership and their failure? (social security, environmental responsibility and human rights as principles of international politics)*

Wednesday, July 26, 10:10-12:00

Topic: *Europe integrated – EU 1993 to 2017: from great hopes and optimism to dissolution?*

Thursday, July 27, 8:00-9:50

Topic: *Who after Europe, USA, and Russia? Will China reflect Europe's 20<sup>th</sup> century*

Thursday, July 27, 10:10-12:00

Topic: *(West)European Paradox: declined power as a dream home for millions (immigrants, social stability and luxury seekers, investors and adventurers)*

Friday, July 28, 8:00-9:50

Topic: *Lessons learned? Do Europe and other powers of today reflect 20<sup>th</sup> century power changes?*

Friday, July 28, 10:10-12:00

Topic: *Exam*

## ***Recommended Reading***

Jarausch, Konrad H., 2016. *Out of Ashes. A New History of Europe in the Twentieth Century*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

- Simms, Brendan, 2013. *Europe: The Struggle for supremacy, from 1453 to Present*. London: Basic Books
- Ferro, Marc, 1997. *Colonization. A Global History*. London: Routledge.
- Hobsbawm, Eric, 1995. *Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century 1914-1991*. London: Abacus
- Snyder, Timothy, 2015. *Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning*. New York: Tim Duggan Books.
- Diner, Dan, 2008. *A History of the Twentieth Century from Europe's Edge*. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Judt, Tony, 2005. *Postwar. A History of Europe since 1945*. London: William Heinemann.
- Snyder, Timothy, 2011. *Bloodlands. Europe between Hitler and Stalin*. London: Vintage Books.

### ***Internet resources***

- Cold War International History Project [Internet]. Available at [http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=topics.publications&topic\\_id=1409&imageField.x=12&imageField.y=5](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=topics.publications&topic_id=1409&imageField.x=12&imageField.y=5)
- Modern History Sourcebook [Internet]. Available at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html>
- Perry-Castañeda LibraryMap Collection [Internet]. Available at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/histus.html>
- Virtual Library Eastern Europe. The academic portal for the countries of Eastern, Central Eastern and Southeastern Europe [Internet]. Available at <https://www.vifaost.de/en/>