

Egypt between Empires
University of California, Berkeley

History 103M
F: 12:00-2:00
Room: 3104 Dwinelle

Prof. Aimee Genell Office: 2207 Dwinelle Hall
Office Hours: Monday 11:30-1:30 PM and by appointment
E-mail: amg21@berkeley.edu



The Citadel and Mamluk tombs in Cairo

Course Description:

This course analyzes the political, social and cultural history of Egypt between the Ottoman and British Empires from the late eighteenth century through 1956. Between the Ottoman conquest of the Mamluk Sultanate in Egypt in 1517 and the outbreak of World War I, Egypt was part of the Ottoman domains. In 1841 Egypt gained special status within the empire as a “privileged” or autonomous province and had wide control over its internal administration. As a result, for much of the 19th century, historians have viewed Egypt as “quasi-independent” and detached from the Ottoman imperial center in Istanbul. This interpretation was further supported by the British military occupation of Egypt between 1882 and 1914. During this period, Egypt was often referred to as the “veiled

protectorate” and viewed as a British colony in all but name. Egypt’s international legal status came under scrutiny once again in the aftermath of World War I. In order to quell an anti-colonial uprising in Egypt against Britain’s “illegal protectorate,” the British High Commissioner in Cairo unilaterally declared Egypt independent in 1922. Yet, much like the period of occupation, Egypt’s economy, security and foreign affairs were determined by London. Britain did not leave Egypt until the last British troops were evacuated from the Canal Zone in 1956. This course examines modern Egyptian history vis-à-vis its relationship to the Ottoman and British Empires. It will consider the ways in which Egypt’s unusual political status between empires shaped politics, culture and society on the ground. What did autonomy mean for the development of state institutions? How did permanent military occupation shape culture and the state?

In addition to participating in weekly discussions, students are expected to produce an historiographical essay and complete a final research paper. Research projects should be decided upon early in the semester and in consultation with the instructor.

Course Requirements

3 Mini-Research Projects

Students will track a particular issue related to the weeks’ readings within a particular set of primary sources and write a brief account of their findings (1-2 pages, single spaced)

1. First mini-research project – Mehmet ‘Ali Paşa in British Parliamentary Debates
2. Second mini-research project – Egypt, Sudan and Slavery in the Nineteenth Century Press
3. Third mini-research project - The Material Culture of Cairo and Istanbul

Research Paper

Students will produce a research paper. The papers must be based upon original research. All research projects should be decided early in the semester and in consultation with the instructor. An outline of the research paper including a list of primary and secondary sources is due by March 19th.

Assessment

Class participation 20%

Mini-research projects: 30%

Final Research Paper 40%

Required Readings

All readings will be available on bCourses. Items will also be available on reserve at the library.

Fri. Jan. 20 – Introduction: Egypt in Ottoman, British and Middle East History

Fri., Jan. 27 – How did Egypt become Ottoman? - NO CLASS

Michael Winter, “Ottoman Egypt, 1525-1609” in *The Cambridge History of Egypt*

Jane Hathaway, "The Place of Egypt in the Ottoman Empire," *The Politics of Household in Ottoman Egypt: The Rise of the Qazdağlıs*

Fri. Feb. 3 – Egypt in the 18th Century Ottoman World

Alan Mikhail, *Nature and Empire in Ottoman Egypt: An Environmental History*, intro. chap. 1-3, 6, conclusion

The Nizâm-nâme-i Mişir of Cezzâr Ahmed Pasha, selection

Fri., Feb. 10 – Napoleon in Egypt

Juan Cole, *Napoleon's Egypt* (2007), 12-36, 45-56 and 237-244

'*Abd al-Rahman al-Jabarti's Chronicle*, selection

Napoleon Bonaparte's letter to troops

Images from *L'Description d'Egypte*

Fri., Feb. 17 – Mehmet Ali, Autonomy and the Making of Modern Egypt?

Khaled Fahmy, *All the Pasha's Men: Mehmed Ali, his Army and the Making of Modern Egypt*, intro., chap. 1-4, 6, conclusion

Rifa'a Rafi' al-Tahtawi, *An Imam in Paris*, selection

Four Powers' Declaration and the Ottoman Imperial Firman granting Egypt autonomy

Mini-research project – Mehmet 'Ali Paşa in British Parliamentary Debates

Fri., Feb. 24 - Health, Disease and Development under the Khedives

Khaled Fahmy, "An Olfactory Tale of Two Cities: Cairo in the Nineteenth Century" in *Historians in Cairo: Essays in Honor of George Scanlon*, ed. Jill Edwards. Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2002, pp. 155-187

Adam Mestyan, "Arabic Theatre in Early Khedivial Culture, 1868-1872: James Sanua Revisited," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 46, n. 1 (February, 2014): 117-137

Emily Haddad, "Digging to India: Modernity, Imperialism and the Suez Canal," *Victorian Studies* 47 (2005): 363-396

Egypt Alan Mikhail, *The Animal in Ottoman Egypt*, chap. 6 "Encagement"

Fri., Mar. 3 – The Problem of Sovereignty in Late 19th Century North Africa: Algeria and Tunisia

Mary Lewis, "Geographies of Power: The Tunisian Civic Order, Jurisdictional Politics, and Imperial Rivalry in the Mediterranean, 1881-1935," *The Journal of Modern History*, 80 (December 2008): 791–830

Julia Clancy-Smith, *Mediterraneans, North Africa and Europe in an Age of Migration, c. 1800–1900*, chap. 1, 5, 7

Alexis de Tocqueville's reports on Algeria in Jenifer Pitts, ed., *Writings on Empire and Slavery*, selection

Fri., Mar. 10 – The 'Urabi Revolt and the Egyptian Crisis

Selim Deringil, "The Ottoman Response to the Egyptian Crisis of 1881-82," *Middle Eastern Studies*, 24, 1 (January 1988)

Donald Malcolm Reid, "The 'Urabi Revolution and the British Conquest, 1879-1882" in *The Cambridge History of Egypt*

Oded Peri, "Ottoman Symbolism in British-Occupied Egypt, 1882–1909," *Middle Eastern Studies*, 41 (2005)

"Reorganization in Egypt," Cmd. 3529. Egypt. No. 6 (1883), selection on the *fellahin*

Mini-research project - The Material Culture of Cairo and Istanbul

Fri., Mar. 17 – Law and the Courts in Lord Cromer's Egypt

James Baldwin, *Islamic Law and Empire in Ottoman Cairo*, intro., chaps. 1-3 (background - skim)

Iza R. Hussin, *The Politics of Islamic Law: Local Elites, Colonial Authority, and the Making of the Muslim State*, chap. 1, 3

Samera Esmeir, *Juridical Humanity: A Colonial History*, selection

Fri., Mar. 24 – Al-Azhar and Islamic Modernism under Occupation

Marwa Elshakry, *Reading Darwin in Arabic, 1860-1950*, chap. 5-7

On Barak, "Effendi Hauntologies" in *On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt*

Maurus Reinkowski, "Hapless Imperialists and Resentful Nationalists: Trajectories of Radicalism in the Late Ottoman Empire" in *Helpless Imperialists: Imperial Failure, Fear and Radicalization*

Recommended:

Pankaj Mishra, "The Strange Odyssey of Jamal al-Din al-Afghani," *From the Ruins of Empire: The Revolt Against the West and the Remaking of Asia*

Fri., Mar. 31 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Fri., Apr. 7- The Egyptian Empire and the Problem of Sudan

Hassan Ahmed Ibrahim, “The Egyptian Empire, 1895-1885” in *The Cambridge History of Egypt*

Eve Troutt Powell, *Tell This in My Memory: Stories of Enslavement from Egypt, Sudan, and the Ottoman Empire*, selection

Heather Sharkey, *American Evangelicals in Egypt: Missionary Encounters in an Age of Empire*, chap. 3

Mini-research project: Egypt, Slavery and the Nineteenth Century Press

Fri., Apr. 14 – Literature, the Press and Culture in Occupied Egypt

Ilham Khoury Makdisi, “The *Nahda*, the Press and the Construction and Dissemination of a Radical World View” in *The Eastern Mediterranean and the Making of Global Radicalism, 1860-1914*

Ziad Fahmy, *Ordinary Egyptians*, chap. 5-6

Recommended:

Samah Selim, “The People's Entertainments: Translation, Popular Fiction, and the Nahdah in Egypt” in *Other Renaissances* (2006), ch.2

Marilyn Booth, “What’s in a Name? Branding Punch in Cairo, 1908,” in *Asian Punches: A Transcultural Affair*, pp. 271-303

Fri., Apr. 21 – Sovereignty and Liberalism in Egypt in the 1920s and 1930s

Will Hanley, “When Did Egyptians Stop Being Ottomans? An Imperial Citizenship Case Study”

Omnia El Shakry, “The Problem of Population, 1925-1945,” *The Great Social Laboratory: Subjects of Knowledge in Colonial and Postcolonial Egypt*

Beth Baron, *The Orphan Scandal: Christian Missionaries and the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood*, chap. 1, 5

Recommended:

James Whidden, “The Generation of 1919” in *Re-Envisioning Egypt: 1919-1952* (2005), 19-45

Abdeslam M. Maghraoui, *Liberalism without Democracy: Nationhood and Citizenship in Egypt, 1922-1936*

Fri., Apr. 28 – Nasser, the Canal and the British

Timothy Mitchell, “Can the Mosquito Speak?” and “Invention and Reinvention of the Peasant” in *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity*

Terje Tvedt, *The River Nile in the Age of the British*, chs. 5 and 6

Gamal ‘Abd al-Nasser in *Contemporary Arab Political Thought*, selections

Fri., May 5 – Conclusions