



**HISTORY 593: STUDIES IN
EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC
HISTORY**

**THE EASTERN
QUESTION**



Instructor: Nicholas Pappas
Office:
Athens Institute for Education and Research
8 Valaoritou Street,
Kolonaki, 10671 Athens, Greece
Can be reached via BLACKBOARD or email
E-Mail addresses: nlzp001@shsu.edu
nep@atiner.gr
URL: http://www.shsu.edu/~his_nep/

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This web seminar will study of one of the most complex and convoluted problems in European diplomatic history--The Eastern Question. The Eastern Question emerged as a problem in European diplomacy in the late 17th century following the first major defeat of the Ottoman Empire at the hands of European powers. By the late 18th Century the Ottoman Empire, threatened with both partition by Russia and Austria and economic vassalage to England and France, had been transformed from the "Grand Turk" to the "Sick Man of Europe". The steady decline of Ottoman fortunes created an arena of potential conflict in the Near East and Southeastern Europe. Throughout the 19th and early 20th century, the issue of the continued existence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire, with its sprawling domain along the eastern Mediterranean, was a constant factor in European international politics. This course will investigate the shifting roles of the European powers in the Eastern Question in times of war and peace. The colloquium will look at the problems, crises, wars, treaties, and conferences surrounding the Eastern Question by having each member of the class represent the point of view or interests of one of the powers involved. Among the topics to be covered will be: The capitulations of the Ottoman Empire, the Treaties of Karlowitz and Passarowitz, Austrian and Russian partition plans, English and French commercial penetration, the impact of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars upon the Eastern Question, the Treaties of Unkiar Iskelleli and London, the Crimean War and the Treaty of Paris, Balkan nationalism and the Eastern Question, the Eastern Crisis of 1875-1878 and the treaty of Berlin, Germany and the Eastern Question, Anglo-French Imperialism in North Africa and Egypt, the Macedonian problem, the Bosnian Crisis, the Balkan Wars, the partition treaties of World War I, the Paris Peace Conference, the Treaties of Sevres and Lausanne. The colloquium will conclude with a discussion of the role of the Eastern Question in the making of the modern Middle East and Southeast Europe and their problems.

PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

- 1) To acquaint students with the history of the Eastern Question to 1923, and in so doing, give them an understanding of the Diplomatic history of Europe in the 18th and 19th Centuries.
- 2) To sharpen the students' skills in: (a) extemporaneous discussion; (b) prepared speaking; (c) historical interpretation; (d) research; and (e) writing.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE:

- 1) The class schedule will consist of one assignment every week. The format of each session will consist of: (a) reading of general book-length studies on the Eastern

Question; (b) reading of web secondary and primary web sources on specific problems and issues relating to assignments' discussion topics.

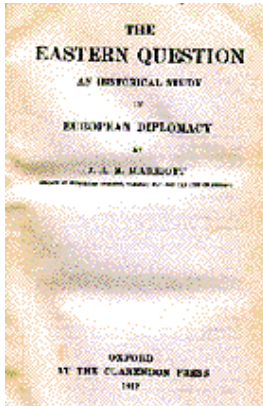
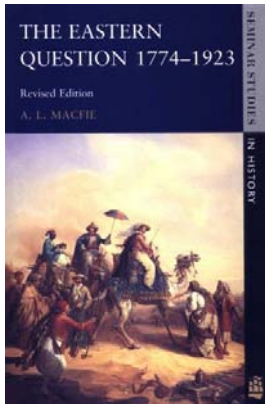
- 2) Lists of readings, discussion questions, and other supplementary materials will be distributed to students on Blackboard. Do not attempt to read all of the web readings. Peruse through them and read enough to answer the discussion forums on Blackboard.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:

- **1) Reading assignments:** Students are expected to read text assignments and enough web assignments to answer two short essays effectively. Readings from the text and supplementary sources are given on a weekly basis. Each student is expected to read general assignments (MacFie, Marriot and Fromkin) and specific assignments of primary and secondary on a particular topic. The students are expected to discuss assigned text readings in the scheduled chat rooms.
- **2) Discussion Forums:** Students are expected to participate in a discussion forum every week. Every week, the instructor will present two or more questions based upon the web and text readings. Within the first four, students are to address these questions in the discussion forum. Students should respond to the questions in one paragraph per question. They should briefly substantiate their answers and opinions with material culled from the web and text readings. In the subsequent three days, the instructor will comment on the response in the forum. In addition, students will react to one another's responses to the questions. They can also make comments and pose questions regarding other issues brought up in the forum. At the end of each discussion forum, the instructor will close and archive the previous week's discussion forum and introduce the next week's forum. If all members of the seminar agree, a discussion forum can be extended. Each student's participation will be evaluated in the following manner. A student can earn up to ten points for their answers to the week's questions and ten points for their other comments, questions, and reactions in the forum. (20 points per week; 200 points total for the course).
- **3) Two book reviews (2000 to 2500 words each).** Each student will write one book review on each of the hard-copy books assigned for this course (MacFie and Fromkin). MacFie is a short general survey of the Eastern Question while Fromkin covers the final phases of the Eastern Question in detail. Students are called upon to analyze the author's views on the Eastern Question. Each essay will be worth 100 points for a total of 200 points.
- **4) Power Specialty:** Each student will specialize in a particular European power during the course and will conduct readings on that power's general foreign policy. The student is expected to relate discussion forum topics to the experience and problems of their European power of specialty. The student can choose to specialize on the following powers: France, Germany, Great Britain, Russia, Austria, the United States and the Ottoman Empire.
- **5) Essays in Historiography.** Each student is required to write an essay on one of the problems or issues brought up in the course. The essay will cover the historiography of a particular problem of the Eastern Question. Each historiographical essay will include a 4000 to 5000 word text together with a bibliography. **The easiest way to do this assignment is to pick a topic or theme that is covered by the books or sources that we have read, analyze how each of the sources have dealt with the topic or theme, using other materials as additional evidence. The essay will be due at the end of the course.**
- **6) Course evaluation and grades.** Evaluation of student performance will be based upon the following criteria:
 - a) Discussion Forums (200 points or one-third of the course grade)
 - b) Book reviews (200 points or one-third of the course grade).
 - c) Historiographical essay (200 points or one-third of the course grade)

REQUIRED READINGS:

- [David Fromkin. *A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East*. New York.: Avon Books, 1990. \(Fromkin\).](#)
- [J. A. R. Marriott. *The Eastern Question: An Historical Study in European Diplomacy*. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1917. \(Marriott\).](#)
- [A. L. MacFie. *The Eastern Question 1774-1923. Seminar Studies in History*. Atherton, 1996](#)



Other selected secondary and primary source readings will be available on the Internet and Blackboard.

GENERAL READINGS AND COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1: THE NEAR EAST.

- The Origins and Definition of the Eastern Question. [Marriott, ch. 1; Marriott, ch. 2.](#)
- The Traditional Middle East. [Marriott, ch. 3; Marriott, ch. 4.](#)
- Secondary and Primary Source readings are found on the READINGS page found in the COURSE DOCUMENTS PAGE.
- READ MACFIE

Week 2: THE EASTERN QUESTION IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES.

- The Ottoman and Persian Empires in Decline. [Marriott, ch. 5.](#)
- From Carlowitz to Belgrade. Marriott, ch. 6, pt. 1.
- From Belgrade to Kuchuk Kainardji. Marriott, ch. 6, pt.2
- The Greek Project. Marriott, ch. 6, pt. 3
- Secondary and Primary Source readings are found on the READINGS page found in the COURSE DOCUMENTS PAGE.
- READ MACFIE

Week 3: THE EASTERN QUESTION IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY.

- The Eastern Question During the Napoleonic Wars. Marriott, ch. 7, pts. 1, 3.
- The Serbian Uprising. Marriott, ch. 7, pt. 2.
- Secondary and Primary Source readings are found on the READINGS page found in the COURSE DOCUMENTS PAGE.
- The Greek Revolution and the Eastern Question. Marriott, ch. 8.
- REVIEW OF MACFIE DUE

Week 4: THE EASTERN QUESTION IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY.

- Muhammad Ali and the Eastern Crises of 1830-1841. Marriott, ch. 9.
- Tanzimat and the Eastern Question. Marriott, ch. 9-10.
- Secondary and Primary Source readings are found on the READINGS page found in the COURSE DOCUMENTS PAGE.
- READ FROMKIN

Week 5: THE EASTERN QUESTION IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY.

- Crimean War and the Eastern Question. Marriott, ch. 10.
- Europe and the Eastern Question 1857-1878 Marriott, ch. 11-12.
- Secondary and Primary Source readings are found on the READINGS page found in the COURSE DOCUMENTS PAGE.
- READ FROMKIN

Week 6: THE EASTERN QUESTION IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

- The Balkan States and Eastern Question. Marriott, ch. 13.
- Germany and the Eastern Question. Marriott, ch. 14; Fromkin, pp. 1-78
- Secondary and Primary Source readings are found on the READINGS page found in the COURSE DOCUMENTS PAGE.
- READ FROMKIN

Week 7: THE EASTERN QUESTION AND THE ROAD TO WORLD WAR.

- The Macedonian Question. Marriott, ch. 15; Fromkin, pp. 79-118
- The Balkan Wars. Marriott, ch. 16; Fromkin, pp. 119-206.
- Secondary and Primary Source readings are found on the READINGS page found in the COURSE DOCUMENTS PAGE.
- REVIEW OF FROMKIN DUE

Week 8: THE EASTERN QUESTION AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

- World War I in the Near East to 1917 Marriott, ch. 17; Fromkin, pp. 207-350
- The Fall of the Ottoman Empire. Fromkin, pp. 351-41.
- Secondary and Primary Source readings are found on the READINGS page found in the COURSE DOCUMENTS PAGE.

Week 9: FROM THE EASTERN QUESTION TO THE MODERN BALKANS AND MIDDLE EAST.

- The Paris Peace Conference and the Eastern Question. Fromkin, pp. 415-464.
- Peace, Mandates and Revolution. Fromkin, pp. 465-492.
- From the Near East to the Middle East. Fromkin, pp. 493-568.
- Secondary and Primary Source readings are found on the READINGS page found in the COURSE DOCUMENTS PAGE.

Week 10: WRITING TIME

- HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY DUE
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