



YBN UNIVERSITY

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RAJAUlatu, NAMKUM, RANCHI, JHARKHAND-834010

Core Course VI
Rise of the Modern West- I

Course Objectives:

The focus of the course is on transition from feudalism to capitalism in Europe. The paper familiarises the student with important transitions and transformations in the economy, polity, and socio-cultural life from late medieval period to 1600 in various parts of Europe. The course shall critically examine the dynamics of economic and political power within Europe, and contact with the New World. The processes by which Europe's economy benefited from colonial expansion and exploitation of indigenous and slave labour will be explained. Students shall also engage with continuities and changes in intellectual and artistic realms; the social and economic milieu which influenced developments in religion; trends in state formation; and the relationship between state and religion. Students will be introduced to the concept of Eurocentrism in our understanding of the Rise of the Modern West.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course the student shall be able to:

- Outline important changes that took place in Europe from the medieval period.
- Acquire an integrated approach to the study of economic, social, political and cultural developments in Europe.
- Explain the processes by which major transitions unfolded in Europe's economy, state forms, social structure and cultural life. Examine elements of early modernity in these spheres.
- Critically analyse linkages between Europe's state system and trade and empire.

Course Content:

I. Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism

- [a] Issues and debates
- [b] Question of Eurocentrism

II. Early colonial expansion

- [a] Factors for colonization
- [b] Trade and Empire
- [c] Mines and plantations
- [d] Labour Systems - indigenous populations and African slaves

III. Renaissance

- [a] In Italy: its social roots
- [b] Humanism and its spread in Europe
- [c] Art

IV. Origins, course, and results of the European Reformation in the 16th century.

V. Economic developments of the 16th century

- [a] Shift of economic balance from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic
- [b] Commercial Revolution
- [c] Price Revolution

VI. Emergence of European State system: with two case studies (Spain, France, England, Russia).

ESSENTIAL READINGS AND UNIT WISE TEACHING OUTCOMES:

Unit I: The Unit will give an overview to the paper through issues and debates related to transition from feudalism to capitalism in Europe. The concept of Eurocentrism will be introduced. **(Teaching Time: 3 Weeks Approx.)**

- Aston, T.H. and C.H.E. Philpin, (Ed.). (2005). *The Brenner Debate, Agrarian Class Structure and Economic Development in Pre-Industrial Europe*. Cambridge/Delhi: Cambridge University Press.
- Blaut, J.M., et.al. (1992). *1492 - The Debate on Colonialism, Eurocentrism, and History*. Trenton, N J: Africa World Press, Inc.
- Hilton, Rodney, (Ed.). (1985). *The Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism*. London: Verso.
- Sinha, Arvind. (2009). *Sankrantikaleen Europe* (संक्रान्तिकालीन युरोप). New Delhi: Granth Shilpi. [and English edition].
- Wallerstein, Immanuel. (1974). *The Modern World System, Vol. I, Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World Economy in the Sixteenth Century*. New York: Academic Press.(Chaps: Introduction and 1)

Unit-II: The Unit discusses the process of early colonization, inter-linkages, and impact of trade and empire on Western Europe, the New World, West Africa and parts of Asia. **(Teaching Time: 2 weeks Approx.)**

- Braudel, Fernand. (1988). *Civilization and Capitalism, 15th to 18th Centuries, Vols. I, II, III*. London: Collins/Fontana Press.

- Burbank, Jane and Frederick Cooper. (2010). *Empires in World History - Power and Politics of Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Crosby, Alfred W. (2004). *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2nd edition).
- Davis, Ralph. (1973). *The Rise of the Atlantic Economies*. London: Weidenfield and Nicolson.
- Waites, Bernard. (1999) *Europe and the Third World: From Colonisation to Decolonisation, c 1500-1998*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Unit- III: The Unit emphasizes social roots of Renaissance, elements of continuity and change in intellectual and cultural realms, and debates on Renaissance and Humanism. **(Teaching Time: 3 weeks Approx.)**

- Burke, Peter. (1999). *The Italian Renaissance, Culture and Society in Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Chaps: Introduction, chaps: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6)
- Kaborycha, Lisa. (2011). *A Short History of Renaissance Italy*. New York: Pearson.
- Mac Kenny, Richard. (2005). *Renaissances: The Cultures of Italy, 1300-1600*. London/New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Winks, Robin W. and Lee Palmer Wandel. (2003). *Europe in a Wider World, 1350-1650*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Woolfson, Jonathan, (Ed.). (2004). *Palgrave Advances in Renaissance Historiography*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Unit-IV: The Unit outlines the economic, political, social and intellectual dimensions of Reformation and Reformation's impact on different regions of Europe. **(Teaching Time: 2 weeks Approx.)**

- Dixon, C. Scott. (2002). *The Reformation in Germany*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Limited.
- Ferguson, Niall. (2011). *Civilization: The West and the Rest*. London: Allen Lane.
- Greengrass, Mark. (2015). *Christendom Destroyed, Europe 1517-1648*. London: Penguin Books.
- Parish, Helen L. (2018). *A Short History of the Reformation*. New York: I. B. Tauris.
- Mac Culloch, Diarmaid. (2004). *Reformation: Europe's House Divided, 1490-1700*. London: Penguin Books Ltd.

Unit- V: The Unit deals with European economy, decline of Mediterranean and rise of Atlantic regions, and the impact of Trans-Atlantic commerce on Europe. **(Teaching Time: 2 weeks Approx.)**

- Frankopan, Peter. (2015). *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Heller, Henry. (2011). *Birth of Capitalism: a 21st Century Perspective*. London: Pluto Press. (Chapter 4.
- Hill, Christopher. (1969). *Reformation to Industrial Revolution*. London: Penguin Books. (Chap. 2, pp 11 - 93)
- Kriedte, Peter. (1983). *Peasants, Landlords and Merchant Capitalists: Europe and the World Economy, 1500-1800*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chap- 1)
- Wiesner-Hanks, Merry E. (2006). *Early Modern Europe: 1450-1789*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Unit- VI: The Unit emphasizes the nature of the European state system and interconnections between economy, society, religion, and polity with case studies. **(Teaching Time: 2 weeks Approx.)**

- Anderson, Perry. (1979). *Lineages of the Absolutist State*. London: Verso Edition. (pp. 15-42, 60-84, 85-142, 195-220, 328-360).
- Cameron, Euan, (Ed.). (2001). *Early Modern Europe, An Oxford History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Cuttica, Cesare and Glenn Burgess, (Eds.). (2011). *Monarchism and Absolutism in Early Modern Europe*. London: Routledge.
- Ertman, Thomas. (1997). *Birth of the Leviathan: Building States and Regimes in the Medieval and Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kumin, Beat, (Ed.). (2013). *The European World 1500-1800: An Introduction to Early Modern History*. New York: Routledge.

SUGGESTED READINGS

- Cipolla, Carlo M., (Ed.). (1994), *Before the Industrial Revolution: European Society and Economy 1000-1700*. New York: WW Norton & Co.
- Cipolla, Carlo M., (Ed.). (1976). *Fontana Economic History of Europe*, Vols. II, III. New York: Barnes and Noble.
- Dickens, A.G. (1974). *German Nation and Martin Luther*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Dobb, Maurice. (1963). *Studies in the Development of Capitalism*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- Findlen, Paula, (Ed.). (2002). *The Italian Renaissance. The Essential Readings*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd.

- ग्रन्थ शिल्पी, (2007) ग्रन्थ शिल्पी। New Delhi. Granth Shilpi.
- Kamen, Henry. (1996). *European Society, 1500-1700*. London: Routledge.
- Lee, Stephen. (1984). *Aspects of European History 1494-1789*. London: Methuen & Co. Ltd.
- Lynch, John. (1984). *Spain under the Habsburgs, Vol. I, Empire and Absolutism, 1516-1598*. New York: New York University Press.
- Parry, J. H. (1963). *Age of Reconnaissance*. London: Weidenfield & Nicolson.
- Scammell, G.V. (1989). *The First Imperial Age: European Overseas Expansion 1400-1715*. London/New York: Routledge.
- Tilly, Charles. (1992). *Coercion, Capital and European States, AD 990-1992*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Verma, Lal Bahadur. (2008). *Europe ka Itihas*. Bhag 9. Delhi: Prakashan Sansthan.
- Wood, E.M. (2002). *The Origin of Capitalism: A Longer View*. London: Verso, (rev. ed.).

Teaching Learning Process:

Classroom teaching, classroom discussions and student presentations in class and/or in tutorials. Presentations shall focus either on important themes covered in the class lectures, or on specific readings. As this is a paper tracing the history of regions outside the Indian subcontinent, supporting audio-visual aids like documentaries, maps and power point presentations shall be used widely. Students shall also be encouraged to participate in talks/seminar presentations by specialists in the field. Since this history is of an unfamiliar region an overview of the feudal background will be provided to students. Overall, the teaching and learning process shall emphasise the interconnectedness of themes within the different rubrics to build a holistic view of the time period/region under study.

Assessment Methods:

Students will be regularly assessed for their grasp on debates and discussions covered in class. Two written assignments will be used for final grading of the students. Students will be assessed on their ability to engage with a sizeable corpus of readings assigned to the theme for written submissions, i.e. being able to explain important historical trends and tracing historiography reflected in the assigned readings.

Internal Assessment: 25 Marks

Written Exam: 75 Marks

Total: 100 Marks

Keywords:

Dr. Sushma Gari, assistant Prof. YBN University, Ranchi

The Transition Debate, Eurocentrism, Colonialism, Renaissance, Humanism, Reformation, Commercial Revolution, European state system.