

SUCCESSORS TO THE HABSBURGS: EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE, 1914-1945

This course investigates the problems caused by the collapse of Austria-Hungary and the creation of new states in East-Central Europe (Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia). These Habsburg 'successor' states were burdened with nationality problems as complex as those of the former Empire and were constantly under threat of territorial revision. In addition, these states lacked strong traditions of representative government and faced serious social and economic problems which were further aggravated by the onset of the Depression. They thus fell easy prey to authoritarian solutions and looked for support to the Great Powers who in turn sought to influence events within these countries. The history of these states thus tends to follow a similar pattern: a brief experiment with democracy after the First World War followed by the imposition of authoritarian rule; competition between authoritarian rulers and fascist movements in the 1930s; competition with one another in foreign policy; German occupation; war and communist takeover. Weekly seminars will be structured around both individual 'country histories' and themes common to all the 'successor' states, together with a study of the interaction between

PRELIMINARY READING

R J Crampton, *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century*, 1994
A Polonsky, *The Little Dictators: the History of Eastern Europe since 1918*, 1975
J Rothschild, *East-Central Europe between the Two World Wars*, 1974
H Seton-Watson, *Eastern Europe between the Wars*, 1945

Title: Successors to the Habsburgs: East-Central Europe, 1914-1945
Course Code: SEHI2006
Course-unit value: 1.0
Level: Advanced

Availability: 2009-10
Open to: All second and final year undergraduates
Prerequisites: All participants should normally have passed a full Intermediate Level course unit in History

Course leader: Rebecca Haynes, Rm 539, SSEES Taviton Street
Other participants:

Aims: To acquire a body of historical knowledge relating to the political and diplomatic history of Central and Eastern Europe from 1914 to 1945. This knowledge will relate not only to the facts of history but also to broader concepts and explanatory tools.

Objectives: By the end of the course, you will have acquired:

1. Enhanced ability to understand and to appreciate how people have existed, acted and thought in the past in the context of the complexity and diversity of historical situations, events and intellectual outlooks.
2. Enhanced ability to use and evaluate texts and other source materials both critically and empathetically, as well as appreciating the limits and challenges of the extant record. The critical evaluation of texts should include an understanding of the questions which historians ask and why they do so. By the end of the course students will have read and mastered a wide selection of historical works drawn from the historiography on this period.
3. Enhanced ability to frame an argument in a sustained manner both orally and in writing. Arguments should be structured, coherent, relevant, and concise, and should take into account all aspects of a given problem.
4. Enhanced generic skills: these may be defined as –
 - (i) self-direction and self-discipline
 - (ii) independence of mind, and initiative
 - (iii) the ability to work with others and to have respect for the reasoned views of others
 - (iv) the ability to identify, gather, deploy and organize evidence, data and information; and familiarity with appropriate means of achieving this
 - (v) analytical ability and the capacity to consider and solve problems, including complex problems
 - (vi) structure, clarity and fluency of expression, both written and oral
 - (vii) intellectual maturity and integrity
 - (viii) empathy and imaginative insight
 - (ix) ability to organize time, work and personal resources to optimal effect.

Teaching & Learning Methods:

Number of Hours:

Classes	40 hours
Private Study according to individual needs)	approximately 260 hours (although this will vary

Assessment:

Coursework: Two essays of 2500 words each, with full bibliography and footnotes, to be submitted according to a fixed deadline. The aggregate mark for the two essays will count for 25% of the total mark for the course.

Oral Assessment: A presentation of approx. 12 minutes on an agreed topic drawn from the course.

The mark for this part of the course is 10%. Evaluation will take into account content, argument and presentational skills.

Examination: A three-hour written examination of twelve questions, of which three must be answered. All questions carry equal weight and the aggregate mark counts for 65% of the total mark for this course.

AFFILIATE STUDENTS:

See regulations posted elsewhere.

100% fulfilment of coursework is required for the successful completion of this course. If this requirement is not met by the final departmental deadline, it will normally lead to you being debarred from the exam and the course unit being marked as incomplete on your final degree transcript.