The Post-war Reconstruction of Europe, 1945-1955

Since the end of the Cold War, the decade following the Second World War has gained new significance. Historians have become particularly interested in the question of how Europe, which emerged from the war as a physical and moral wasteland, could rebuild itself so dramatically and successfully. In this course we will explore reconstruction agendas and policies in Europe in after 1945. Throughout the course we will examine questions surrounding the physical reconstruction of material life, as well as aspects of the political, economic, social and psychological reconfiguration of European states, and the idea of Europe itself. The broad thematic organisation of the course is complemented by a series of case studies: in the seminars we will consider individual European countries' post-war experiences. The course integrates the histories of the eastern and western halves of the continent and aims to provide ample possibilities for comparative perspectives. Overall, students will be able to read widely and gain a broad understanding of Europe's and European countries' post-war history.
**Key Books:**

**Further Reading:**
- Richard Bessel and Dirk Schumann (eds.), *Life After Death: Approaches to a Cultural and Social History of Europe During the 1940s and 1950s* (CUP, 2003)
- Anthony Sutcliffe, *An Economic and Social History of Western Europe since 1945* (Pearson, 1996)

**Published Memoirs & Diaries:**
- Dean Acheson, *Present at the Creation: My Years in the State Department* (W.W. Norton, 1969)

**Internet Resources:**
- The Avalon Project at Yale Law School: [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/)
- Cold War International History Project: [http://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/cold-war-international-history-project](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/cold-war-international-history-project)
Lecture 1
Europe in 1945

Key Reading:
• Tony Judt, Postwar, Chapter 1: "The legacy of war"
• Mark Mazower, Dark Continent, Chapter 7: "A brutal peace"

Further Reading:
• Keith Lowe, Savage Continent: Europe in the Aftermath of World War II (Penguin, 2012), Part I: The Legacy of War
Lecture 2

Reconstruction as an international problem

Key Reading:
• Andrew Williams, Failed Imagination? The Anglo-American New World Order from Wilson to Bush (Manchester, 2007), Chapter 5: "Joint Allied Proposals for a NOW: relationships and issues, 1941-1945" [reader]

Further Reading:
• David MacKenzie, A World Beyond Borders: An Introduction to the History of International Organizations (Toronto, 2010), Chapter 3: "Wartime Internationalism and International Organizations"
• Jessica Reinisch, "Internationalism in Relief: The Birth (and Death) of UNRRA", in: Mark Mazower, Jessica Reinisch and David Feldman (eds.), Post-War Reconstruction in Europe: International Perspectives, 1945-1949 (OUP, Past and Present Supplement 6, 2011)
Lecture 3
Allied Military Occupations

Key Reading:
• Frederick Taylor, Exorcising Hitler: the Occupation and Denazification of Germany (Bloomsbury 2011), Chapter 5: "Through Conqueror's Eyes" [reader]

Further Reading:
• Heide Fehrenbach, Race After Hitler: Black Occupation Children in Postwar Germany and America, (Princeton, 2005)
• Alice Hills, Britain and the Occupation of Austria, 1943-1945 (Palgrave, 2000)
• Pieter Lagrou, "1944-1955: The Age of Total War", in: Frank Biess and Robert Moeller (eds), Histories of the Aftermath: the Legacies of the Second World War in Europe (Berghahn, 2010) [reader]
Lecture 4

Collaboration, denazification, épuration

Key Reading:
- Tony Judt, *Postwar*, Chapter 2: "Retribution"

Further Reading:
Lecture 5

Refugees, Displaced Persons and Expellees

Key Reading:
- Jessica Reinisch, "Introduction", in: Jessica Reinisch and Elizabeth White (eds), The Disentanglement of Populations: Migration, Expulsion and Displacement in Post-War Europe, 1944-1949 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011) [reader]

Further Reading:
- Bertha Bracey, "Europe's Displaced Persons and the problem of relocation", International Affairs, Vol.20, No.2, April 1944 [Jstor]
- Michael Marrus, The Unwanted: European Refugees in the Twentieth Century (New York, 1985)
Lecture 6
Economic Reconstruction

Key Reading:
• Tony Judt, Postwar, Chapter 3: "The Rehabilitation of Europe" & Chapter 10: "The Age of Affluence"

Further Reading:
• Richard Bessel, Germany 1945: from war to peace (London, 2009) – Chapter 12: "Paying for War and Peace" [reader]
• Victoria de Grazia, Irresistable Empire: America's Advance through 20th century Europe (Harvard, 2005) – Chapter 7: "The Consumer-Citizen"
Lecture 7
Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe

Key Reading:
- Mazower, Dark Continent, Chapter 8: "Building People’s Democracy"
- Tony Judt, Postwar, Chapter 5: "The Coming of the Cold War"

Further Reading:
- Ivan T. Berend, Central and Eastern Europe 1944 –89: detour from the periphery to the periphery (Cambridge, 1997) – esp. Chapter 1: "Communist seizure of power, 1944-1948"
- Jessica Reinisch, "'We shall rebuild anew a powerful nation': UNRRA, internationalism and national reconstruction in Poland", Journal of Contemporary History, Vol.43, No.3, July 2008, 451-476.
Lecture 8
Party Politics in Western Europe

Key Reading:

Further Reading:
• Martin Conway, "Democracy in Postwar Western Europe: the triumph of a political model", European History Quarterly, 2002, Vol.32, No.1, 59-84. [and other papers in this special issue] [reader]
• Jeffrey K. Olick, In the house of the hangman: the agonies of German defeat, 1943-1949 – esp. Chapter 11: "The politics of the Past?"
Lecture 9
Reconstructing the Family

Key Reading:
• Joanna Bourke, "Going Home", in: Richard Bessel and Dirk Schumann (eds.), Life After Death: Approaches to a Cultural and Social History of Europe During the 1940s and 1950s (Cambridge, 2003) [reader]
• Richard Vinen, A History in Fragments (Abacus, 2000) – Part III, Chapter 5: "Rebuilding the Family"

Further Reading:
• Alan Allport, Demobbed: Coming Home after the Second World War (Yale, 2009)
• Heide Fehrenbach, Race After Hitler: Black Occupation Children in Postwar Germany and America, (Princeton, 2005) – Chapter 2: "Flaccid Fatherland: Rape, Sex and the Reproductive Consequences of Defeat"
• Pat Thane, "Family life and 'normalcy' in post-war British culture", in: Richard Bessel and Dirk Schumann (eds.), Life After Death: Approaches to a Cultural and Social History of Europe During the 1940s and 1950s (Cambridge, 2003)
• Tara Zahra, 'Lost Children: Displacement, Family, and Nation in Postwar Europe', The Journal of Modern History, 81, 1 (2009), pp. 45-86
• Tara Zahra, The Lost Children: Reconstructing Europe's Families after World War II (Harvard, 2011), and lecture on http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sakXIEaXMdk
Lecture 10

Empire and Europe's Place in the World

Key reading:
• Eric Hobsbawm, Age of Extremes: the short 20th Century (Penguin, 1994) – Chapter 7: "End of Empires" [reader]
• Tony Judt, Postwar, Chapter 9: "Lost illusions"

Further reading:
• John Darwin, The end of Empire: the historical debate (London, 1991)
• Nicholas Doumanis, "Europe and the Wider World", in: Robert Gerwart (ed.), Twisted Paths: Europe 1914-1945 (OUP, 2007) [reader]
• George Orwell, 'Shooting an Elephant', The Collected Essays, Journalism and Letters of George Orwell: Vol. 1 (London, 1968) [many online versions]
• K.Ross, Fast cars, clean bodies: decolonization and the reordering of French culture (Cambridge, 1995)
• J. Springhall, Decolonisation since 1945: The collapse of European overseas empire (London, 2001)
Lecture 11
Reconstructing 'Europe'

Key Reading:

Further Reading:
• Derek W.Unwin, The Community of Europe: a history of European integration since 1945 (2nd ed.) – esp. Chapter 1: "The persisting idea of Europe"
Seminar 1: Germany

Key Reading:

Further Reading:
• Elizabeth Heinemann, "The Hour of the Women: Memories of Germany's 'Crisis Years' and West German National Identity", in: Hanna Schissler (ed), *The Miracle Years: A Cultural History of West Germany*
Seminar 2: France

Key Reading:
• Stanley Hoffmann, "The effects of World War II on French society and politics", in Arthur Marwick (ed.), Total war and historical change (Open University Press, 2001), 177-197. [Also available in French Historical Studies, Vol.2, No.1, Spring 1961, 28-63 [reader]

Further Reading:
• Robert Gildea, "Myth, memory and policy in France since 1945", in: Jan-Werner Müller (ed.), Memory and Power in Post-War Europe: studies in the presence of the past (CUP, 2002)
Seminar 3: Greece

Key Reading:

Further Reading:
• Mark Mazower (ed), After the War was over: Reconstructing the family, nation and state in Greece, 1943-1960 (Princeton, 2000)
Seminar 4: Poland

**Key Reading:**

**Further Reading:**
- Jerzy Lukowski and Hubert Zawardzki, *A Concise History of Poland* (CUP, 2001) – Chapter 7: "Communism and Beyond, 1945-?"
Seminar 5: Czechoslovakia

**Key Reading:**

**Further Reading:**
Seminar 6: Soviet Union

Key Reading:

Further Reading:
Seminar 7: Britain

Key Reading:

Further Reading:
• Peter Hennessy, Never Again: Britain, 1945-1951 (Penguin, 2006)
• David Kynaston, A world to build: Austerity Britain, 1945-1948 (Bloomsbury, 2007) – Chapter 2, "Broad Vistas and All That"
• Paul Addison, Now the war is over: a social history of Britain, 1945-51 (London, 1985)
Seminar 8: Film Show (part I)

We will watch extracts from:
• A Defeated People (Humphrey Jennings, 1946)
• Berlin Express (Jacques Tourneur, 1948)
• Germany, Year Zero (Roberto Rossellini)
• The Third Man (Carol Reed, 1946)

Seminar: Film Show (part II)

Extracts from:
• The Way from Germany (Allied Control Commission, 1946)
• Cesta Zpatky – The Way Home (Ministersva Orcharny Prace e Socialni Pece, 1946)
• Chasing the Blues (J.D.Chambers, Jack Ellitt, 1947)
• A Diary for Timothy (Humphrey Jennings, 1946)
• Food – Secret of the Peace (Stuart Legg, July 1945)
• Suffer Little Children (Sydney Newman, December 1945)
• Family Portrait (Humphrey Jennings, 1950)
Did post war meetings and events in Eastern Europe cause the cold war? Feb 1945 YALTA â€“ (Stalin Roosevelt Churchill) Failure to agree over Poland. Free elections vs SUâ€™s desire for security and â€“friendly governmentsâ€™. 1945 Failure of Baruch Plan to limit nuclear weapons. 1949 SU develops its own atom bomb. 1950 NSC 68 recommends increased US spending on weapons. Material to be shipped from one zone to another in order to help reconstruction â€“ mostly agricultural produce from E and industrial produce from W. Reparations discussed. 1955 SU US GB and France sign Austrian State Treaty reuniting Austria but keeping her neutral. SU proposes similar agreement for Germany but not taken seriously so then sets up Warsaw Pact. In this course we will explore reconstruction agendas and policies in Europe in after 1945. Throughout the course we will examine questions surrounding the physical reconstruction of material life, as well as aspects of the political, economic, social and psychological reconfiguration of European states, and the idea of Europe itself. Key Books: J, Tony Judt, Postwar: a History of Europe Since 1945 (Heinemann, 2005) J, Keith Lowe, Savage Continent: Europe in the Aftermath of World War II (Penguin, 2012) J, Mark Mazower, Dark Continent: Europeâ€™s Twentieth Century (Penguin, 1998) J, Richard Vinen, A History in Fragments: Europe in the Twentieth Century (Abacus, 2000).