

Oil Wars? – Armed Conflict, War and Foreign Power Intervention in the Persian Gulf and beyond (1898-1991)

WHAT IS THIS COURSE UNIT ABOUT?

This course unit explores the conflict-ridden 20th-century history of one of the world's most mineral resource-rich regions in transnational perspective based on a close reading of key primary sources including documents translated into English from Middle Eastern languages. It examines what made the wider Persian Gulf area so continuously volatile and prone to foreign intervention by assessing the role of oil but also such factors as strategy, ethnicity, religion, ideology (e.g. Nationalism, Marxism, Fascism, political Islam), and others. The instances of conflict and foreign power intervention to be analysed comparatively include Germany's so-called 'Drang nach Osten'; the Soviet invasion of Iran in 1920; the 1920 Iraqi uprising and the British intervention against it; the 1924-26 war that laid the foundations for modern-day Saudi Arabia; German, British, and Soviet interventions into Iraq and Iran during World War II; the 1967 'Aden Emergency' and Britain's 1971 Gulf withdrawal; the Iran-Iraq War (1980-88); and the 1991 Gulf War.



HOW IS IT TAUGHT?

Tuesdays 13:00-14:20

(20 lectures starting from 19 Jan. 2021)

Please, fill in the form to register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfa1O6-0rKb37PH39YVBfLNJZ3GUzkjZ_6nrfqL200HrZVEg/viewform?usp=sf_link

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WHAT STUDENTS HAVE SAID

“The module is so relevant and it was something I felt I should know as a history student, really pleased I have done it and this module truly has altered my perspective on current affairs that is often something other history modules don't do. Very worthwhile module.”

SAMPLE READING

McMeekin, Sean, *The Berlin-Baghdad express: The Ottoman Empire and Germany's bid for world power, 1898-1918* (London: Penguin 2011).

Cronin, Stephanie (ed.), *Iranian-Russian encounters: empires and revolutions since 1800* (London: Routledge, 2013).

Tripp, Charles, *A history of Iraq* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 3rd ed. 2007).

Lawless, Richard I. (ed.), *The Gulf in the early 20th century: Foreign institutions and local responses* (Durham: University of Durham Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, 1986).

Kostiner, Joseph, *The making of Saudi Arabia, 1916-1936: From chieftaincy to monarchical state* (New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press 1993).

Rezun, Miron, *The Iranian crisis of 1941: The actors, Britain, Germany, and the Soviet Union* (Köln: Böhlau, 1982).

Moushabeck, Michel & Bennis, Phyllis (eds), *Beyond the storm: A Gulf crisis reader* (New York: Olive Branch Press 1991).

Ehrenberg, John (ed.), *The Iraq papers* (New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press 2010).

TOPICS COVERED

- Berlin-Basra – Germany's 'Drang nach Osten' and the Persian Gulf in the early 20th century
- Revolutionising the 'Peoples of the East': The Soviet invasion of Iran in the aftermath of WWI
- Cracks in the 'Arab façade': Britain's suppression of the Iraqi uprising of 1920
- Najd v Hejaz in 1924-26: The war that paved the way for the emergence of modern-day Saudi Arabia
- The Nazis on the Tigris? – Germany, Rashid Ali's April 1941 coup and the British re-occupation of Iraq
- Once more in the cross-fire of Great Powers: Iran, Nazi Germany, and the Anglo-Soviet invasion 1941
- Kuwait Crisis, 'Aden Emergency', the UK's withdrawal & the Shah's bid for Gulf hegemony, 1961-78
- The Iran-Iraq War (1980-88) and the Superpowers
- War for oil? –The 1991 Gulf War following Iraq's annexation of Kuwait



Tehran, 1943