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Early Modern Europe and its Colonial World: A Guide to Course Readings

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THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HISTORY 41501
“EARLY MODERN EUROPE AND ITS COLONIAL WORLD:
POWER AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE AGE OF STATE AND EMPIRE BUILDING.”
INSTRUCTOR: BARBARA NADDEO

A Guide to Course Readings

Introduction

Students of early modern Europe are exceptionally well served by the resources of the digital age. As the primary sources they study were written and usually published prior to 1800, there are numerous editions of them both in the public domain and in the commercial databases to which the Library system subscribes. What is more, many of those same commercial databases make available to us secondary sources about early modern Europe of seminal importance. Thanks to this wealth of materials, this course could be redesigned as a ZTC class. As secondary sources are more appropriate texts for seminars such as this one, this course assigns important examples of the historical literature on early modern Europe and its colonial world that are available to us through the Library's commercial databases. Therefore, students must familiarize themselves with the Library's website and databases to access the readings and complete the accompanying assignments for this course. For the illustration of our topics, this course may also draw upon commercial and public-access databases that make available high-quality reproductions of early modern materials, from books to artwork. History majors with an interest in early modern Europe should gain familiarity with all these databases as well as others available through the Library, such as its numerous research engines.

Commercial Databases for Secondary Sources

For the purpose of studying early modern Europe at The City College, at the time of writing the following commercial databases to which the Library subscribes provide electronic copies of the historical literature most recently assigned for this course.

Ebook Central: This sizeable database provides a wealth of contemporary books on early modern Europe.

EBSCOhost: This immense database provides a wealth of contemporary books and articles on early modern Europe. Through this particular EBSCO database, it is possible to locate, select, and search in any one of Ebsco's individual engines, or even in multiple ones simultaneously.

JStor: This sizeable database provides a wealth of journal articles and book reviews.

Project Muse: This is another sizeable database with a wealth of journal articles and book reviews.

Sample Course Readings: Below is a sampling of possible course readings, based upon the recent past offering of this course and the current availability of ebooks and articles through the Library's databases. Readings will vary with the semester and the availability of electronic resources.

Pettegree, Andrew. *The Invention of News: How the World Came to Know about Itself*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014. (Ebook Central)

Head, Randolph. "Knowing Like a State." *The Journal of Modern History*, 75., no. 4 (December 2003): 245--82. (JStor)

Headrick, Daniel R. *When Information Came of Age: Technologies of Knowledge in the Age of Reason and Revolution, 1700—1850*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. (Ebook Central)

Burke, Peter. "Early Modern Venice as a Center of Information and Communication." In *Venice Reconsidered: The History and civilization of an Italian City-State, 1297--1797*, ed. John Jeffries Martin and Dennis Romano. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. (Ebook Central)

De Vivo, Filippo. "How to Read Venetian *Relazioni*." *Renaissance and Reformation* 34, no. 1-2 (2011): 25--59. (EBSCOhost: Humanities Source)

Rothman, Natalie. *Brokering Empire: Trans-Imperial Subjects between Venice and Istanbul*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2011. (Ebook Central)

Barrera-Osorio, Antonio. *Experiencing Nature: The Spanish American Empire and the Early Scientific Revolution*. San Antonio: University of Texas Press, 2006. (Ebook Central)

Portuondo, Maria. *Secret Science: Spanish Cosmography and the New World*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009. (EBSCOhost: eBook Collection)

Brendecke, Arndt. *The Empirical Empire: Spanish Colonial Rule and the Politics of Knowledge*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2016. (Ebook Central)

Safier, Neil. *Measuring the New World: Enlightenment Science and South America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008. (Ebook Central)

Soll, Jacob. *Information Master: Colbert's Secret State Intelligence System*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2009. (Ebook Central)

Rule, John C., and Ben S. Trotter. *A World of Paper: Louis XIV, Colbert, and the Rise of the Information State*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014. (Ebook Central)

Charles, Loic, and Paul Cheney. "The Colonial Machine Dismantled: Knowledge and Empire in the French Atlantic." *Past and Present* 219, no. 1 (2013): 127--63. (JStor)

Darnton, Robert. "An Early Information Society: News and Media in Eighteenth-Century Paris." *American Historical Review* 105, no. 1 (2000): 1-35. (JStor)

Popkin, Jeremy. "A Colonial Media Revolution: The Press in Saint Dominique, 1789—93." *Americas* 75, no. 1 (2018): 3-25. (Project Muse)

Kafka, Ben. "The Demon of Writing: Paperwork, Public Safety, and the Reign of Terror." *Representations* 98, no. 1 (2007): 1-24. (JStor)

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