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:
- Tony Judt, Postwar: a History of Europe Since 1945 (Heinemann, 2005)
- Keith Lowe, Savage Continent: Europe in the Aftermath of World War II (Penguin, 2012)
- Mark Mazower, Dark Continent: Europe’s Twentieth Century (Penguin, 1998)

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)
- Peter Hennessy, Never Again: Britain, 1945-1951 (Penguin, 2006)
- Charles Maier, The Cold War in Europe: Era of a Divided Continent (Princeton, 1996)
- Mark Mazower, Jessica Reinisch and David Feldman (eds), Post-War Reconstruction in Europe: International Perspectives, 1945-1949 (OUP, Past and Present Supplement No.6, 2011)
- Martin A.Schain and Tony Judt (eds.), The Marshall Plan: Fifty Years After (Palgrave, 2001)
- 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)
- Eduard Benes, Memoirs: from Munich to new war and new victory (London, 1954)
- Peter Perry, An Extraordinary Commission: the Story of a Journey Through Europe's Disaster (London, 1997)

Internet Resources:
- The Avalon Project at Yale Law School: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/
- Cold War International History Project: http://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/cold-war-international-history-project
- Modern History Sourcebook: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.asp
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:**

**Further Reading:**
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:
• Eleni Haidia, "The Punishment of Collaborators in Northern Greece, 1945-1946", in: Mark Mazower (ed), After the war was over: reconstructing the family, nation and state in Greece, 1943-1960 (Princeton, 2000), 42-61. [reader]
• Michael R. Hayse, Recasting West German elites, esp. Chapter 1: Complicity and Disenchantment by 1945, & Chapter 4: Denazification and its effects, 1945-1955.
• Pieter Lagrou, The legacy of Nazi occupation: patriotic memory and national recovery in Western Europe, 1945-1965 (Cambridge, 2000)
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
• Jan T.Gross, "Themes for a Social History of War Experience and Collaboration", in: Istvan Deak,
  Jan T.Gross, Tony Judt (eds), The Politics of Retribution in Europe: World War II and its aftermath
  (Princeton, 2000) (15-36) – Also available as J.T.Gross, "Social consequences of war: preliminaries to
  the imposition of Communist regimes in East Central Europe", East European Politics and Societies,
  1996)
• Philip E. Mosely, "Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia: Observations and Reflections", Political
• Norman Naimark, "Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Eastern Europe", in: Christian Lemke and
• Jessica Reinisch, "'We shall rebuild anew a powerful nation': UNRRA, internationalism and national
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:
• Richard Bessel, Germany 1945: from war to peace (London, 2009) – Chapter 13, "Conclusion: Life after Death" [reader]

Further Reading:
• 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"
• 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
• Ian Kershaw, The End: Hitler's Germany, 1944-1945 (Allen Lane, 2011)
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-?"
• Anita Prazmowska, A history of Poland (London, 2004)
Seminar 5: Czechoslovakia

Key Reading:
• Chad Bryant, "Either German or Czech: Fixing Nationality in Bohemia and Moravia, 1939-1946", Slavic Review, Vol.61, No.4, Winter, 2002, 683-706 [Jstor]

Further Reading:
Seminar 6: Soviet Union

**Key Reading:**

**Further Reading:**
Seminar 7: Britain

**Key Reading:**

**Further Reading:**
- 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 Rosselini)
• 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)
The Postwar Economy: 1945-1960. As the Cold War unfolded in the decade and a half after World War II, the United States experienced phenomenal economic growth. The war brought the return of prosperity, and in the postwar period the United States consolidated its position as the world's richest country. Gross national product, a measure of all goods and services produced in the United States, jumped from about $200 thousand-million in 1940 to $300 thousand-million in 1950 to more than $500 thousand-million in 1960. The automobile industry was partially responsible, as the number of automobiles produced annually quadrupled between 1946 and 1955. A housing boom, stimulated in part by easily affordable mortgages for returning servicemen, fueled the expansion.