

## **SOSC 1190 China and the World: China's Development in Historical and Comparative Perspectives, 1550-1911**

Summer Semester, 2023

Classroom: Lecture Theater E (143)

Time: Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9.30 am to 12.50 pm

Meeting date: June 19<sup>th</sup> to July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### **Instructor:**

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### **Course Description and Objectives:**

The rapid economic development in China after 1978 and particularly the high-speed growth after the mid-1990s have attracted increasing attention to the historical background of this great economic transformation. Scholarship in recent decades has demonstrated the emergence of a vibrant market economy in China between the late seventeenth and early nineteenth centuries, many key characteristics of which were similar to those of the market economy in pre-Industrial Revolution Western Europe. Why, then, didn't an industrial breakthrough occur in late imperial China?

This course focuses on the interactions between the state and economy in late imperial China from comparative and social science perspectives. In the first two weeks of the course, we will introduce some basic historical background and critically examine the causal structure of "growth without development". Upon this basis, we will explore specific topics in agrarian economy, city and market, merchant ethics, state-market interactions in famine relief, industrial development and capital formation, and monetary system and public finance. Beyond observing parallels between pre-Industrial Revolution Western Europe and late imperial China, we will also examine some of the institutional defects of the Chinese economy (state?) and how they affected the transformation of China into a modern economy in the late nineteenth century.

Methodologically, this course will expose students to the basic concepts and analytic tools in political economy such as market economy, the state, conflict of interests, correlation and causality, and selection bias. The aim is to illustrate the importance of causal explanations in social scientific inquiry and encourage students to make comparisons with similar causal reasoning in science and engineering.

### **Requirements:**

Read the assigned readings before the class and participate in class discussion.

### **Grading:**

Final exam: 60 percent

Final Project: 40 percent

A written report of one modern factory or corporation, or important entrepreneurs in modern economic sectors such as banking, transportation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century: to examine the contribution of traditional Chinese market economy (networks, business ethics, or entrepreneurship, etc.) to the growth of modern sectors.

Page: 6-8 pages, double-spaced (Times New Roman, font 12)

The example must be specific: in addition to the necessary background introduction, you need to specifically examine how the resources (either material or spiritual) of the traditional Chinese market economy contribute to the success in modern sector.

You should try to use some primary materials such as business records, newspapers, autograph, or diaries.

Deadline: July 23, 2023

### **Readings:**

#### **Week 1: Introduction: The connection of late imperial China to the world**

Gang Zhao, *The Qing Opening to the Ocean: Chinese Maritime Policies, 1684-1757* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i, 2013), pp. 116-36.

#### **Week 2: Commercial development in China: 1684-1820**

Susan Naquin and Evelyn S. Rawski, *Chinese Society in the Eighteenth Century* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987), pp. 138-216.

#### **Week 3: Growth without Development?**

John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, enlarged edition (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1998), pp. 167-86.

Mark Elvin, *The Pattern of the Chinese Past* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1973), pp. 298-315.

#### **Week 4: The land issue: Cause or effect?**

Robert C. Allen, *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), Chapter 3, "The Agricultural Revolution"

Philip C.C. Huang, *The Peasant Family and Rural Development in the Yangzi Delta, 1350-1988* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1990), pp. 44-92.

#### **Week 5: Business ethics and development**

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976), "Author's Introduction", pp. 13-27 and Chapter 2 "The Spirit of Capitalism," pp. 47-78.

Yu Ying-shih, *The Religious Ethic and Mercantile Spirit in Early Modern China*, translated by Yim-tze Kwong, edited by Hoyt Cleveland Tillman, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2021), pp. 168-199.

**Week 6: Famine relief in late imperial China: State and Economy**

Lillian M. Li, *Fighting Famine in North China: State, Market, and Environmental Decline, 1690s-1990s* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007), Chapter 8, "Famine Relief: The High Qing Model," pp. 221-49.

Pierre-Etienne Will, *Bureaucracy and Famine in Eighteen-Century China*, translated by Elborg Forster (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1990), Chapter 12, "The Evolution of the State's Economic Means," pp. 289-301.

**Week 7: A revisionist view of the pre-20<sup>th</sup> century Chinese economy**

Madeleine Zelin, *The Merchants of Zigong: Industrial Entrepreneurship in Early Modern China* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005), Chapters 1 and 2.

Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe and the Making of the Modern World* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), "Technology?" pp. 43-68.

**Week 8: Silver in and silver out:**

Lin Man-houng, *China Upside Down: Currency, Society, and Ideologies, 1808-1856* (Cambridge: The Harvard University of Asia Center of the Harvard University Press, 2006), chapters 1 and 3.

**Week 9: The deadly good: The opium trade and the Opium War**

Chen Li, *Chinese Law in Imperial Eyes: Sovereignty, Justice, and Transcultural Politics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2016), Chapter 5.

**Week 10: Limitation in enhancement of fiscal capacity: 1863-1895**

Wenkai He, *Paths toward the Modern Fiscal State: England, Japan, and China* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2013), chapter 6.

**Week 11: Civil Society and the Public Sphere in the Chinese Society, 1870-1895**

Kathryn Edgerton-Tarpley, *Tears from Iron: Cultural Responses to Famine in Nineteenth-Century China* (Berkeley: The University of California Press, 2008), pp. 90-155.