This course on twentieth century global history covers key themes, events, and processes from the 1870s through 1945, which were some of the most transformative, turbulent and violent decades in all human history. Rather than attempting to cover the whole of this massive swath of history superficially, the course focuses selectively and in considerable depth on different areas and societies that were epicenters of key developments worldwide at different points in time. Special emphasis is placed on social and political change and the forces that drove it – including wars and revolutions, economic crises, social divisions and racial ideologies, and strong (in some cases ruthless) leaders. The first half of the twentieth century saw nationalism peak as a force in world affairs as well as the development of fascist, communist, and militarized states that sought to supplant the nineteenth-century world order that was dominated by a contradictory combination of democratic states controlling vast colonial empires that sprawled across much of the globe.

The interactions among different societies and across culture zones are also stressed. These include the movement and exchange of peoples, ideas, technologies and commerce, with comparisons of the different effects of cross-cultural transmissions in different times and places. Using narrative histories, primary source materials and contemporary literary works, we will read about, analyze and discuss these themes, issues and events, the ways in which they developed over time, and their effects on human behavior, socio-political organization and conditions of everyday life. Lecture materials, reading assignments, discussion sessions, and take-home essay and analytical in-class exams – as well as periodic quizzes -- will be used to enhance comprehension of key themes and issues and understanding of historical and socio-political dynamics.
1. THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM AND THE BIRTH OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

September 1 - Darwin’s Caution and an Era of Unprecedented Violence

September 6 - Watershed: The Franco-Prussian War and a New Global Order

September 13 - France Restored? Haussmann’s Paris & the Century of the City

September 15 - Britain’s World Empire and the First Surge of Globalization
   Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, ch.3; ch.4, pp. 85-92.

September 20 - DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Patterns of Colonial Domination

September 22 - Industrial Acceleration and the Rise of the German Colossus

September 27 - Emerging Powers on the Periphery: Russia & the United States
   Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, ch.1, pp. 27-32, ch.2 pp. 37-44.

September 29 - Road to Wounded Knee: Settler Frontiers & Vanquished Nomads
   Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, ch.3, pp. 65-70, ch.4, pp. 75-85.

October 4 - DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Empire’s Impact, Worlds We Have Lost
   Reading: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*, entire.

2. THE COMING OF THE "GREAT WAR" AND ITS LEGACY

October 6 - Inevitable Collisions: China Implodes, Japan Expands
   Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, ch.4, pp. 92-99; ch.2, pp. 36-7, 43-50.

October 11 - South African Genesis, Anglo-Boer Conflict and the Deluge to Come

October 13 - Machines over Men: Lost Lessons of World War I

October 18 - The "Peace to End All Peace"-- Debacle at Versailles
   Reading: *Turbulent Passage*, Pt 2, Intro; ch.5, pp. 113-123; ch.6, 145-48.
   *Perils of Prosperity*, chapters, 1 & 3.

Mid-Term Exam Essays Distributed
October 20 – Picasso’s Pivot & A Rising Tide of Revolution: Egypt and China
Reading: Turbulent Passage, ch.5, pp.123-35; ch.6, pp.157-66.
Maurice Meisner, “The Chinese Revolution” (ER)

October 25 – DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Legacies of Total War
Reading: Perils of Prosperity, chapters, 2, 4, 9
Sigmund Freud, “Why War?” (Electronic Reserve – ER)
George Orwell, “Shooting an Elephant”
Midterm Essay Exams Due in Sections

3. CAPITALIST COLLAPSE AND ANOTHER GLOBAL WAR

October 27 – The Fascist Alternative: Mussolini and the New Rome
Reading: Turbulent Passage, ch.6, pp. 139-45.

November 1 - Europe Eclipsed, America Ascendant
The Metropolis as a Celebration of the Machine Age
Reading: Perils of Prosperity, chapters, 5-8 &10.
Turbulent Passage, ch.6, pp. 145-150.

November 3 - Stalin Takes Charge, Command Communism in the Soviet Union &
Genocide in the Ukraine & Central Asia
Reading: Turbulent Passage, ch.6, pp. 152-57, 186-188.

November 8 - The Great Depression: FDR and the Interventionist State
Reading: Turbulent Passage, ch.7 pp. 169-76.
Perils of Prosperity, chs.12, 14 & Epilogue.

November 10 - The Destruction of Weimar and Rise of the Hitler’s Reich
Reading: Turbulent Passage, ch. 7, pp. 176-84.

November 15 - DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Totalitarianism - Nazi Style
Reading: Sebastian Haffner, The Meaning of Hitler, entire.

November 17 - Civil War in Spain, Turmoil in East Asia and the Coming of a Second
World War in Europe and the Pacific
Reading: Turbulent Passage, ch.7, pp. 184-86; ch.8 pp. 180-186, 188-90.
November 22 – Total War to Genocide: World War II in Europe and the Middle East
Reading: Turbulent Passage, ch.8, pp. 193-205.

November 29 – DISCUSSION SECTIONS: The Nadir – World History Bottoms Out
Reading: Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., Slaughterhouse Five, entire.

December 1 - FILM: Nighttime Showing of Agnieszka Holland’s Europa Europa
Room and Time TBA.

December 6 - The Pacific War to Hiroshima
Reading: Turbulent Passage, ch.8, pp. 205-208.

December 8 - Sources of Regeneration, Forces of Division - From Hot to Cold War
Reading: Turbulent Passage, ch.8, pp. 208-217; ch.9, pp. 228-42.

December 13 – Aftershocks: Nuclear Standoff, Population Explosion, Environmental Fallout
Reading:

Most of the Required READINGS listed on the syllabus are taken from the following paperbacks, which are available at the University Bookstore and Online. Additional short essays have been assigned. These can be downloaded from Alexander Library’s electronic reserve (ER)
<http://www.iris.rutgers.edu/uhtbin/cgisirsi/0/0/0/36/485/X/BLASTOFF>

Adas, Stearns, Schwartz, Turbulent Passage: A Global History of the Twentieth Century to 1945 (4th edition, used editions have been ordered for the course)
Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness
Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart
William Leuchtenburg, Perils of Prosperity
Sebastian Haffner, The Meaning of Hitler
Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., Slaughterhouse Five

All readings listed on the syllabus are required. Further information on specific topics is listed in the "Further Reading" and "On the Web" sections of each of the chapters in Turbulent Passage. The reading in Turbulent Passage is intended to provide background for the materials covered in lectures and discussions. Because lectures will sometimes refer to assigned readings, but WILL NOT DUPLICATE textbook or other reading materials (in fact, they will focus for the most part on different ideas, themes, and narratives of events), regular attendance is ESSENTIAL if you wish to do well in the course. Attendance sign-up sheets will be distributed in each class session.
Major WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS for the course will consist of a TAKE-HOME ESSAY EXAM at MID-TERM and a FINAL EXAM. In addition, there will be at least three SHORT QUizzes in the discussion sections. These assignments will count towards the final grade in the course as follows: Mid-term Essay (40%), Final Exam (45%), & Quizzes (15%). Extra credit will be given for students who respond to questions or raise them in response to lectures or participate actively in the five full-period discussion sessions, depending on the quality and frequency of that participation.

Discussion Sections: Five times over the course of the semester the class will divide and meet in sections of about fifty students to facilitate discussion. On days when discussion sections are held, there will be no general lecture in Van Dyke 211, but one of the discussion groups (from Agosto-Mcgettigan) will meet in 211; the other (from McGill to Zwirz) will meet in Hardenberg A7. Each of these sessions is indicated in bold letters on the syllabus, and all are scheduled on Tuesdays. On days listed for discussion sections you should report in the 7th period to the room where your section meets. Because quiz scores and discussion participation count significantly towards your grade (15% divided between quizzes and participation, depending on the level of the latter), it is CRUCIAL that you prepare assigned readings and responses to the questions that will be provided in advance for each of the discussion sections and posted on the Sakai site for the class.

Office Hours and Contact Information-
Professor Michael Adas -- Van Dyke Hall 116
Regular Office Hours -- Tuesday 4:30-5:30; Friday 11-12:30 & by Appointment.
E-mail <madas@rci.rutgers.edu>

Teaching Assistant: Ben Resnick-Day -- Van Dyke Hall 009
E-mail <benjamir@eden.rutgers.edu>