

DSE II

Economy and Politics: Histories of Capitalism and Colonialism - I

Course Objective:

The paper familiarizes the students with the basic concepts of Capitalism, Imperialism and Colonialism. It also introduces the strategies of European capitalism and the importance of slave trade, plantation economies in the emergence of Capitalism. It provides the student with an opportunity to analyze capitalism and the global economy.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Define what is meant by capitalism, colonialism and imperialism.
- Delineate the crucial linkages between Atlantic slavery and European capitalism,
- Explain the global interconnectedness of capital.
- Examine the process of colonial expansion via trade.
- Discuss the linking of the non-European economies with the capitalist-dominated world market via case studies of certain commodities.
- Describe the significance of the American Revolution.

Course Content:

- Unit I:** **Key Concepts and their implications:** Understanding capitalism, colonialism and imperialism
- Unit II:** **Atlantic slavery and European capitalism**
- Unit III:** **Dutch and English East India Companies and colonial expansion**
- Unit IV:** **Commodities, capital and empire:** Sugar, tea and cotton
- Unit V:** **The American Revolution**

ESSENTIAL READINGS AND UNIT-WISE TEACHING OUTCOMES:

Unit I: This Unit shall familiarize the students with the key concepts. It shall enable the students to outline the essential differences as well as connections between the concepts of capitalism, colonialism and imperialism. **(Teaching Time: 4 weeks approx.)**

- Hilton, Rodney. (2006). *The Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism*. Delhi: Aakar Books. [Available in Hindi].
- Bottomore, Tom. (1991). *Dictionary of Marxist Thought*. New Delhi: Blackwell (entries on “Capitalism”, “Colonialism” and “Imperialism and World Market”).
- Beaud, Michel. (2001). *A History of Capitalism 1500 to 2000*. Trans. by Tom Dickman and Anny Lefebvre. New York: Monthly Review Press (Ch.1).
- Sinha, A. (2010). *Europe in Transition*. Delhi: Manohar. [Available in Hindi].

Unit II: This Unit shall highlight the centrality of the African slave trade in European economic development. **(Teaching Time: 3 weeks approx.)**

- Williams, Eric. (1994). *Capitalism and Slavery*. Reprint. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina.
- Merriman, J. (2010). *A History of Modern Europe: From Renaissance to the Present*. Volume 1. New York, London: W.W. Norton, pp. 178-186, 200-204.
- Beaud, Michel. (2001). *A History of Capitalism 1500 to 2000*. (Trans. by Tom Dickman and Anny Lefebvre.) New York: Monthly Review Press (Ch.1)
- Sinha, A. (2010). *Europe in Transition*. Delhi: Manohar. [Available in Hindi].

Unit III: This Unit shall familiarize the students with the important features of commercial trading companies and their colonial expansion into resource-rich regions and vibrant non-European economies. **(Teaching Time: 3 weeks approx.)**

- Chaudhuri, K.N. (1978). *The Trading World of Asia and the English East India Company, 1660-1760*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (Ch.1, Ch.3 and Ch.6).
- Zwart, Pim de. (2016). *Globalization and the Colonial Origins of the Great Divergence: Intercontinental Trade and Living Standards in the Dutch East India Company's Commercial Empire c. 1600-1800*. Leiden, Boston: Brill (Ch.1, “Introduction”).
- Merriman, J. (2010). *A History of Modern Europe: From Renaissance to the Present - Volume 1*. New York, London: W.W. Norton, pp. 248-252.
- Sinha, A. (2010). *Europe in Transition*. Delhi: Manohar. [Available in Hindi].

Unit IV: This Unit shall use case studies of important commodities to trace the interconnectedness of the emerging capitalist economies and other economies linked to the world market. Using relevant case studies, this Unit shall equip students with global history of capitalism. **(Teaching Time: 3 weeks approx.)**

- Beckert, Sven. (2014). *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*. New York: Vintage Books (“Introduction” and Ch.2, Ch.5 and Ch.6).
- Chaudhuri, K.N. (1978). *The Trading World of Asia and the English East India Company, 1660-1760*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (Ch.12).
- Mintz, S.W. (1985). *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern Industry*. New York: Penguin (Ch.2, pp.32-72, Ch.4).
- Ellis, M.; R. Coulton and M. Mauger. (2015). *Empire of Tea: The Asian Leaf that Conquered the World*. London: Reaktion Books (Ch.3, Ch.4, Ch.8 and Ch.10).

Unit V: This Unit shall discuss the importance of the American Revolution in the coming of age of capitalism. This case study shall help students to identify important developments involving colonial settlers and the metropole. **(Teaching Time: 3 weeks approx.)**

- Foner, E. (2007). *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. Vol. I. Second edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
- Lyles, L. D. and E. T. Lyles. (2003). *Historical Development of Capitalism in the United States, 2 volumes*. New York, Lincoln, Shanghai: iUniverse, Inc.
- Beaud, Michel. (2001). *A History of Capitalism 1500 to 2000*. Trans. by Tom Dickman and Anny Lefebvre. New York: Monthly Review Press (Ch.2)
- Dattar, K. (1997). *America Ka Itihas*. Delhi:University of Delhi, Directorate of Hindi Medium Implementation Board.

Suggested Readings:

- Brenner, Robert. (1976). “Agrarian Class Structure and Economic Development in Pre-Industrial Europe.” *Past & Present* vol. 70, pp. 30-75.
- Ralph, Davis. (1973). *The Rise of Atlantic Economies*. Ithaca, N.Y: Cornell University Press.
- Drescher, S. (1997). “Capitalism and Slavery After Fifty Years.” *Slavery and Abolition* vol 18 no.3, pp. 212-227.
- Dutta, Arup Kumar. (1992). *Cha Garam: The Tea Story*. Guwahati. Paloma Publications.
- Galbraith, J.K. *American Capitalism: The Concept of Prevailing Power*. USA: Transaction Publishers, 1993 (8th printing).
- Joll, J. (1990). *Europe since 1870: An International History*. Fourth edition. London: Penguin (Ch.4, “Imperialism”). [Available in Hindi].

- Kocka, J. (2014). *Capitalism: A Short History*. (Trans. Jeremiah Reimer). Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press (Chs.1-3).
- Moxham, Roy. (2003). *Tea, Addiction, Exploitation and Empire*. New York: Carroll and Graff.
- Ormrod, D. (2003). *The Rise of Commercial Empires: England and the Netherlands in the Age of Mercantilism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Porter, A. (1994). *European Imperialism, 1860-1914*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Rappaport, E. (2017). *A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World*. Princeton and London: Princeton University Press (Ch.3 and Ch.5).
- Roy, Tirthankar. (2012). *The East India Company: The World's Most Powerful Corporation*. New Delhi: Penguin.
- Smith, Andrew F. (2015). *Sugar: A Global History*. London: Reaktion Books (Ch.2, “New World Sugar to 1900).
- Sweezy, Paul M. (1970). *Theory of Capitalist Development*. New York: Monthly Review Press.
- Wallenstein, Immanuel. (1989). *Modern World System- III*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Wood, E.M. (2002). *The Origin of Capitalism: A Longer View*. London: Verso (“Introduction”, and Ch.4, Ch.5, Ch.6 and Ch.7).

Teaching Learning Process:

Classroom teaching on key concepts and discussions on important readings. As this is a paper tracing aspects of European/world history, supporting audio-visual aids like documentaries, maps and power point presentations shall be used widely. Overall, the Teaching Learning Process shall focus on providing a broad historical overview of the period and region under study. The process shall also delineate certain linkages and parallel developments in Indian history and the socio-economic and cultural histories traced in this paper. This shall enable a smooth transition from the student’s prior engagement with Indian history and his/her engagement with history of regions outside the Indian subcontinent.

Assessment Methods:

Students will be regularly assessed for their grasp on debates and discussions covered in class. Two written submissions, one of which could be a short project, will be used for final grading of the students.

Internal Assessment: 25 Marks

Written Exam: 75 Marks

Total: 100 Marks

Keywords:

Capitalism, colonialism, imperialism, Atlantic slavery, American Revolution, trans-Atlantic trade, East India Companies.