

EMPIRE and POWER: British Foreign Policy, 1782-present.
Boston University

CAS IR 514 / HI 533
Spring Semester 2014
Tuesday / Thursday: 11.00 – 12.30
Classroom: IRC 220

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Office Hours:
Tu/Th 2-3
Weds, 10-11
and by appointment

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description

Examines the evolution of British foreign policy over time, as well as the nature of Great Power rivalry. Key themes include formulation of national diplomatic strategies, policy coordination, diplomatic vs. military considerations, alliance politics, and policy over-stretch.

Objectives

To provide an understanding of the nature of Great Power rivalry and to gain insight into the underlying factors affecting international relations, as well as to consider how governments develop and implement policy. The focus of the course will be the development of British policy overseas, and given the history of British policy it will involve considerations of events in all regions of the world, illustrating the evolving inter-locking nature of British foreign policy. Key themes running through the course are the formulation of national diplomatic strategies, policy co-ordination, the relationship of diplomatic and military considerations, alliance politics, and policy over-stretch.

Requirements

Mid-term examination	25% (17 March)
Research Paper	25% (2 April)
Comprehensive final examination.	50% (tba)

Research Paper

A research paper (10-15 pages) on a topic supportive of course objectives. Topics should be discussed in advance with the instructor.

Final manuscript will be submitted no later than the beginning of class on the dates indicated. Late turn-in of assignments, without prior written permission will be penalized with a failing grade. There will be no opportunity for work for extra credit. Make-up examinations will be administered only for excused absence.

Academic Conduct

All class members are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean's Office. A copy of the

Academic Code of conduct is available at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>. This should be read by all students.

Students are reminded that attendance is required, and reasons for non-attendance should be notified to the instructor.

Core Texts:

C.J. Bartlett. *British Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century* (1989)

Paul Kennedy, *The Realities behind Diplomacy: background influences on British external policy, 1865-1980* (London, 1981).

R.K. Webb, *Modern England: From the 18th Century to the Present*

All journal articles are available electronically through JSTOR from Boston University Libraries e-resources.

Lecture 1: Introduction: The British Tradition in Foreign Policy – Balance of Powers

Webb, chap 1: The Present Discontents, 1760-1789: Britain Overseas, pp. 86-94.

C.J. Bartlett, 'Statecraft, Power and Influence', in C.J. Bartlett, ed. *Britain Pre-eminent: Studies in British Influence in the nineteenth century* (London, 1969), pp 172-93.

Paul Kennedy, *The Realities behind Diplomacy: background influences on British external policy, 1865-1980*, chap 1. 'Structures and Attitudes'

Lecture 2: The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars: The Creation of the Concert of Europe

Webb: chap. 3: The French Revolution: 1789-1815, pp 134-56.

Lecture 3: Britain and the Concert: The Congress and the Conference Systems

Webb, Chap. 7. 'Palmerston', pp. 301-16

David Steele, 'Lord Palmerston' *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

Lecture 4: The Crimean War

J. L. Herkless 'Stratford, the Cabinet and the Outbreak of the Crimean War'

The Historical Journal Vol. 18, No. 3 (Sep., 1975), pp. 497-523

Lecture 5 & 6: Victorian Heyday: The Apogee of Empire

Webb, chap. 8, Britain Overseas, 1870-1886, pp. 352-372.

Paul Kennedy, *The Realities behind Diplomacy: background influences on British external policy, 1865-1980*, chap 2, Debates and Policies: The Recasting of Europe, 1865-74.

Lecture 7 & 8: Britain and the Eastern Question

Paul Kennedy, *The Realities behind Diplomacy: background influences on British external policy, 1865-1980* chap 2: Debates and Policies: Constantinople and Cairo, 1876-82.

Erik Goldstein, 'Religion and British Policy Towards the Ottoman Empire, 1875-1923' in John Fisher and Keith Robbins, eds. *Religion and Diplomacy: Religion and British Foreign Policy, 1815 to 1941* (Dordrecht: Republic of Letters, 2010), pp. 85-102

Lecture 9: The Boer War and Diplomatic Isolation

Paul Kennedy, *The Realities behind Diplomacy: background influences on British external policy, 1865-1980*, chap. 2: Debates and Policies: Under Pressure, 1883-90/ Guarding Imperial Frontiers, 1890-97/ Isolation or Alliance, 1898-1902/ Diplomatic Revolution, 1903-07.

Lecture 10: Origins of the Anglo-American Diplomatic Alignment

Melanie Hall and Erik Goldstein, 'Writers, the Clergy, and the "Diplomatization" of Culture: The Sub-Structures of Anglo-American Diplomacy, 1820-1914', in Anthony Best and John Fisher, *On the Fringes of Diplomacy* (London: Ashgate), 2011.

Erik Goldstein, 'Origins of the Anglo-American Special Relationship, 1880-1914' in Gaynor Johnson, ed. *Peacemaking, Peacemakers and Diplomacy 1880-1939. Essays in Honour of Professor Alan Sharp* (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars, 2010), pp. 3-16.

Lecture 11 & 12: The Road to the First World War: Anglo-German Naval Rivalry, Imperial Rivalry

Richard Langhorne, *The Naval Question in Anglo-German Relations, 1912-1914*
The Historical Journal Vol. 14, No. 2 (Jun., 1971), pp. 359-370

Jonathan Steinberg, 'The Copenhagen Complex, 1914' *Journal of Contemporary History*
Vol. 1, No. 3, (Jul., 1966), pp. 23-46.

David French, 'Spy Fever in Britain, 1900-1915' *The Historical Journal*, vol. 21, No. 2 (Jun., 1978), pp. 355-370

Samuel R. Williamson Jr., *The Reign of Sir Edward Grey as British Foreign Secretary*
The International History Review Vol. 1, No. 3 (Jul., 1979), pp. 426-438

Keith Neilson, 'Greatly Exaggerated': The Myth of the Decline of Great Britain before 1914
The International History Review Vol. 13, No. 4 (Nov., 1991), pp. 695-725

Lecture 13: Britain at War, the Diplomacy of the Great War

Webb, Chap. 11, 'Armageddon', pp. 481-91.

Bartlett, *British Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century*, Chap 1. 'Partial Commitment and Total War'

Paul Kennedy, *The Realities behind Diplomacy: background influences on British external policy, 1865-1980*, Chap 3. 'Total War and Its Impact, 1914-19: Structures and Attitudes'.
Chap. 4 'Debates and Policies'

Lecture 14: The Paris Peace Conference, 1919

Erik Goldstein, *Winning the Peace: British Diplomatic Strategy, Peace Planning, and the Paris Peace Conference, 1916-1920*.

Session 15: MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Lecture 16 & 17 & 18: The Interwar Period: the Constraints on British Power

Bartlett, *British Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century*, Chap 2. 'Too many challenges'

Paul Kennedy, *The Realities behind Diplomacy: background influences on British external policy, 1865-1980*, Chap 5. 'The Politics of Appeasement: Structures and Attitudes' and chap. 6 'The Politics of Appeasement: Debates and Policies'

A.J Sharp, 'The Foreign Office in Eclipse 1919-1922', *History* 61 (1976): 198-218.

Erik Goldstein, 'British Diplomatic Strategy and Planning for the Washington Conference, 1921-22' *Diplomacy & Statecraft* 4:3 (1993): 4-34.

John Ferris, "'The Greatest Power on Earth": Great Britain in the 1920s', *International History Review* 13:4 (1991): 726-50.

Erik Goldstein, 'British Diplomatic Strategy and the Locarno Conference' in M. Dockrill and B.J.C. McKercher, *Diplomacy and World Power: Studies in British Foreign Policy, 1890-1951* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 115-35.

B.J.C. McKercher and M.L. Roi, "'Ideal" and "Punch Bag": Conflicting Views on the Balance of Power and their Influence on Interwar British Foreign Policy', *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, 12:2 (2001): 47-78.

C.S. Maier, 'The Two Postwar Eras and the Conditions for Stability in Twentieth-Century Western Europe', *American Historical Review* 86 (1981): 327-52.

Darwin, J., 'Imperialism in Decline? Tendencies in British Imperial Policy Between the Wars', *Historical Journal*, 23:3 (1980): 657-79.

Parker, R.A.C., 'Great Britain, France and the Ethiopian Crisis 1935-1936', *English Historical Review* 89:1 (1974): 293-332.

Christopher Thorne, 'The Quest for Arms Embargoes: The Failure in 1933', *Journal of Contemporary History*, 5:4 (1970): 129-149.

Erik Goldstein, *The Munich Crisis: New Interpretations and the Road to World War II* (Erik Goldstein and Igor Lukes, eds.) (London: Cass, 1999).

Lecture 19: The Second World War: The Diplomacy of the Grand Alliance

Bartlett, *British Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century*, Chap 3. 'From World War to Cold War'

Winston Churchill, *The Gathering Storm*

Lecture 20 & 21 The Cold War

Erik Goldstein, 'Britain and the First Cold War', in M. Hopkins et al, eds. *Britain and the Cold War, 1945-1964: New Perspectives* (London: Palgrave Macmillan *Cold War History Series*), pp. 7-14, 193-5.

Paul Kennedy, *The Realities Behind Diplomacy*, chap. 7 'Defiance and Decline: Structures and Attitudes' and chap. 8. 'Defiance and Decline: Debates and Policies'.

R. Frazier. 'Did Britain Start the Cold War? Bevin and the Truman Doctrine' *Historical Journal* 27 (1984): 715-27.

Lecture 22: The End of Empire: Decolonisation and Retrenchment

C.J. Bartlett, *The Long Retreat* (London, 1972), chap. 4 'Retrenchment and Suez', pp. 105-28.

Lecture 23: The Suez Crisis, 1956

Bartlett, *The Long Retreat: A Short History of British Defence Policy, 1945-70* (London, 1972), chap 4. 'Retrenchment and Suez, 1955-6'

W. Scott Lucas, Redefining the Suez 'Collusion' *Middle Eastern Studies* vol. 26, No. 1 (Jan., 1990), pp. 88-112

A. Adamthwaite, 'Overstretch and Overstrung, Eden, the Foreign Office and the making of policy, 1951-5' *International Affairs* 64 (1988): 241-59.

Lecture 24 & 25: Britain's Diplomacy post-Suez

C.J. Bartlett, '*The Special Relationship*': *A Political History of Anglo-American Relations since 1945* (London, 1992). Chaps. 4-7.

Lecture 26: Britain, the United States and the First Gulf War, 1990-91

C.J. Bartlett, '*The Special Relationship*': *A Political History of Anglo-American Relations since 1945* (London, 1992). Chaps.8..

Lecture 27: Retrospective and Review Session.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

Use the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB)*. This is available electronically through the Boston University library.