

Beyond Apogee and Collapse: Empires and other Polities in the Ancient World (BCE)

Instructors: Rod Campbell/Lorenzo d'Alfonso

Week 1) Presentation of the course

- *Imperialism* – M. Liverani, in: *Archaeologies of the Middle East*, S. Pollok, R. Bernbeck (eds.), Malden 2005, 223-243.

Week 2) Ancient Empires and other polities: Foundations of Government

- *Polities: Authority, Identities, and Change* – Ferguson and Mansbach, introduction;
- *The Sources of Social Power* – Michael Mann, introduction, pp. 1-33;
- *A History of Government* – Samuel Finer, pp. 1-96, (or:)
- *The Political Systems of Empires* – Eisenstadt, 1-112.

Week 3) History and Process

- Selections from *The Logics of History* – Sewell
- Selections from *After Collapse: The Regeneration of Complex Societies* – Glen Schwartz and John Nichols
- Selections from *Questioning Collapse* – McAnany and Yoffee eds.
- Selections from *The Collapse of Ancient States and Civilizations* – Yoffee and Cowgill (I would prefer the myth of the archaic State)

Week 4) Discourses of Empire – Ancient Near East

- Selections from *Continuity of Empire: Assyria, Media, Persia* – Lanfranchi, Roaf, and Rollinger , Padua 2003.
- R. Rollinger, From Sargon of Agade and the Assyrian kings to Khursau I and Beyond: on the Persistence of Ancient Near Eastern Traditions, in: G.B. Lanfranchi et al. (eds.), *Leggo! Fs F.M. Fales*, Wiesbaden, 725-743.
- *On the Art of the Ancient Near East. Volume I: Of the First Millennium B.C.* – I. Winter, chapter 1: Royal Rethoric and the Development of Historical Narrative in Neo-Assyrian Reliefs, 3-52.

Week 5) Discourses of Empire – Ancient China

- Excerpts from *The Politics of the Past in Early China* - Vincent Leung
- Selections from primary texts in translation
- Selections from *Cambridge History of Ancient China*

Week 6) Authority and Opposition – ANE

- B. Pongratz-Leisten, Sacred Marriage and the Transfer of Divine knowledge: Alliances between the Gods and the King in Ancient Mesopotamia, in: *Sacred Marriages*, M. Nissinen, R. Uro (eds.), Winona Lake 2008, 43-73.
- Selection from: *The Province strikes back : Imperial Dynamics in the Eastern Mediteranean* – B. Forsén, G. Salmeri (eds.) Helsinki 2008.

- *La voix de l'opposition en Mesopotamie* – A. Finet, Bruxelles 1973 : Introduction, pp.2-27; J. Bottéro, Le pouvoir royal et ses limitations d'après les textes divinatoires, pp. 119-164.
- *Rebellions and peripheries in the Cuneiform World* – S. Richardson (ed.): New Haven 2010: S. Richardson, Writing rebellion back into the record: a methodologies toolkit; R. Westbrook, The law and politics of rebellion in the late Bronze Age.
- Selection from: *The Purity of the Kingship* – Th. Van den Hout, 1998.

Week 7) Authority and Opposition – AC

- Selections from *Cambridge History*
- Selections from primary sources (oracle-bones, bronze inscriptions, Zuo Zhuan, Zhan Guo Ci)

Week 8) Empires and Violence – ANE

- *Prestige and Interest* – M. Liverani, Part 2.
- Badalì et al., Studies on the Annals of Aššurnasirpal II. 1: Morphological Analysis, *Vicino Oriente* 5 (1982), pp. 13-73.
- A. Baadsgaard et al., Bludgeoned, Burned, and Beautified: Reevaluating Mortuary Practices in the Royal Cemetery of Ur, in: *Sacred Killing, The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*, A. Porter – G.M. Schwartz (eds.), Winona lake 2012, 159-190.
- Die Zerstörung der Stadt Hattuša, in: *Akten IV. int. Kong. für Hethitologie*, Wiesbaden 2001, 623-634.

Week 9) Empires and Violence – AC

- Sanctioned Violence in Early China – Lewis
- “Violence and Order” – Campbell
- “On Humanity and Inhumanity in Ancient China” - Campbell

Week 10) Law, Order and Governance – ANE

Norman Yoffee lecture on governance and society in Mesopotamia: gen. and late 3rd and 2nd Millennia BCE

- *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* – Volume I, 529-569.
- Selection from: *The House of the father as fact and symbol* – D. Schloen, Winona Lake 2001.
- d'Alfonso L., ‘Servant of the king, son of Ugarit, and servant of the servant of the king’: RS 17.238 and the Hittites, in: *Pax hethitica Fs Singer* – Y. Cohen, A. Gilan, and J. Miller (eds.), Wiesbaden 2010, 67-86.

Week 11) Law, Order and Governance – AC

- Li Feng – *Western Zhou Bureaucracy*
- Selections from *Cambridge history*
- Selections from primary sources in translation

Norman Yoffee's lecture on collapse of governance and society in the Ancient World

Week 12) Feasting, Festivals and Society – ANE

- *Selection from: Offizielle Religion, locale Kulte, individuelle Religiosität: Kleinasien und angrenzende Gebiete vom Beginn des 2. bis zur Mitte des 1. Jahrtausends v. Chr.* – M. Hutter, S.Hutter-Brausar (eds.), Münster 2004.
- *Syro-Hittite Monumental Art and the Archaeology of Performance* – A. Gilibert, Berlin 2011, chapters 1,2,5,6,7.

Week 13) Feasting, Festivals and Society – AC

- Selections from primary sources
- Intro from *Feasts* Deitler and Hayden

Week 14) Conclusions