
FRENCH AND EUROPEAN POLICIES IN ASIA SINCE WWII

2 credits (Spring)

第二次世界大戦後のアジアにおけるフランスおよびヨーロッパの政策 2単位(春学期)

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2 credits (Fall)

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Course Description/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome:

Until the end of the Algerian crisis (1962) and even beyond if one refers to the African continent, French foreign policy has been trapped in its colonial past. Its foundations were defined and implemented by General de Gaulle: national independence and refusal of a bipolar world hence its overtures to the new China, the USSR and the Third World.

Under the Fifth Republic (from 1958 to the present day), French foreign policy is the responsibility of the President of the Republic, and the course will present the evolution of France Asia Policy following the chronology of the Presidents of the Republic.

However, the international situation is changing. The European Union plays an increasing role in spite of its weakness and the importance of Asia has profoundly modified the global balance of powers.

This class will teach the evolution of France Asia Policy after World War II in the European context following a chronological and thematic organization.

Course Plan:

- 1 Introduction to the course.
 - 2 The complex situation of the French colonies in Asia since WWII.
 - 3 The Indochina War and its consequences.
 - 4 General de Gaulle's diplomacy in Asia (1958-1969). La politique de grandeur.
 - 5 President Pompidou (1969-1974) - continuity and innovation. President Giscard d'Estaing diplomacy (1974-1981). The key point of his foreign policy.
 - 6 President Mitterrand's policy in Asia (first mandate 1981-1988 - second mandate 1988-1995). An active policy without consistency.
 - 7 President Chirac's policy in Asia (1995-2007). An Asian policy determined by France relation with China.
 - 8 President Sarkozy's policy in Asia (2007-2012). Asia is not one entity.
 - 9 President Hollande's policy in Asia (2012-2017). New "Inso-Asia-Pacific" French policy. (1)
 - 10 President Hollande's policy in Asia (2012-2017). New "Indo-Asia-Pacific" French policy. (2)
 - 11 President Emmanuel Macron (2017-2022) - Indo-Pacific Axis. New Vision of Asia.
 - 12 Asian EU policy.
 - 13 France soft power
- Other France Economic relations & Arms sales with Asian countries.
General discussion and advices.

Method of Evaluation:

- 40% : Final Essay on a chosen topic by the student in relation with the syllabus (4/5 pages - A4 - single spaced).
- 60% : regular attendance and active participation within the study group you belong to.

Textbooks:

There are no textbooks as such in English to my knowledge.

Reference Books:

- BODARD Lucien: The Quicksand War 1967 - The French Consul - Reprint 1978
BOYLAN Kevin & OLIVIER Luc: Valley of the Shadow: The Siege of Dien Bien Phu - 2018
BURUMA Ian: Year Zero - A History of 1945. - 2013.
CHIRAC Jacques: My Life in Politics. November 13, 2012.
DURAS Marguerite: The Sea Wall 1952 - The Lover 1984 (movie 1992) - The North China Lover 1992 - The Vice-Consul 1968.

ESTAING (d') Valérie Giscard: Towards a New Democracy, May 30, 1977.

FALL Bernard: Hell in a Small Place - Street Without Joy, 1961.

GAFFNEY John: France during the François Hollande presidency. The Unhappy Republic. Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

GREENE Graham: The Quiet American, 1955 - movie 1958 and 2003.

KISSINGER Henry: Diplomacy (1994).

JULIAN T. Jackson Julian T.: A Certain Idea of France: The Life of Charles de Gaulle, June 18, 2018. Allen Lane. 928 pages.

LONDON Jack: about Korea as a war correspondent 1904.

MALRAUX André: Man's Fate 1933.

NYE Joseph: Bound to Lead: the Changing Nature of American Power (1990)

Francis PIKE: Empires at War. A Short History of Modern Asia Since World War II, 2010.

RENOUVIN Pierre: The Question of the Far-East, 1840-1940. English Book Illustrated edition 1946.

SARKOZY Nicolas: Testimony: France, Europe and the World in the Twenty-First Century, October 13, 2009.

SHORT Philip: Mitterrand: A Study in Ambiguity, November 6, 2014, Vintage.

TIERSKY Ronald: François Mitterrand. The Last French President, July 21, 2000.

ANTLÖV Hans & TONNESSON Stein (edited by): Imperial Policy and Southeast Asian Nationalism, 1930-1957 - 1995.

WESTAD Odd Arne: The Cold War - A World History. 2017.

THE ECONOMIST: Pocket World in figures. 2020 edition.

www.OSPREYPUBLISHING.COM (illustrated collection on Wars)

Pick up a few volumes of the collection « A Very Short Introduction » - Oxford University Press: The Cold War - Geopolitics - Empire - The European Union - Globalization - International Relations - Postcolonialism - The United Nations - The World Trade Organization, amongst others.

For Readers of texts in French, you can find many interesting small size books from the « Presses Universitaires de France », collection « Que sais-je ? » (a few thousands volumes).

Lecturer's Comments to Students:

1. at the last course.

Questions/Comments:

if you have any question, please contact me at the following email address: oliviervaysset@hotmail.com