




HURTWOOD HOUSE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Russia from Lenin to Yeltsin 1917-1991	Mao's China 1949-1976	Britain losing and gaining an Empire 1763-1914
		
<p>In our first study we chart the course of the Soviet Union from its beginnings in 1917; through the Stalinist period and into the Cold War era. We then focus upon the collapse of this monolithic political entity and try to explain how it had crumbled by 1991.</p>	<p>The second study focuses upon what happened in China under Mao. We look at how early promise descends into anarchy, chaos and scandal. Plotting the course from 1949's proclamation of the People's Republic of China to the end of the Cultural Revolution provides us with an unforgettable historical ride.</p>	<p>Our final study looks at how Britain lost its prized colonies in North America. Seemingly on the verge of calamity, Britain bounced back to dominate the globe throughout the 19th century and into the early parts of the 20th. We visit India, Canada, Australia and the Nile Valley throughout this deeply fascinating study.</p>

Getting started with YouTube:

There are many excellent documentaries that can bring to your attention some of the key issues that we will be studying. To get ahead of the game you could look at any, or indeed all, of the following:-

People's Century: (especially the episodes listed here:- Red Flag, Fallout, Brave New World, Great Leap and People Power)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZDXZBnsKRQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34leRgB-CE&list=PLuL26fXZ8eTNLLnugg2BTyOZQ7HT-QZk4&index=12>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34leRgB-CE&list=PLuL26fXZ8eTNLLnugg2BTyOZQ7HT-QZk4&index=12>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4srwSkD05ws&list=PLuL26fXZ8eTN--*--LLnugg2BTyOZQ7HT-QZk4&index=15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AQw9t0NUd4&list=PLuL26fXZ8eTNLLnugg2BTyOZQ7HT-QZk4&index=25>

Cold War : (especially the episodes listed here:- Iron Curtain, Korea, After Stalin, Sputnik, Red Spring, Detente, The Wall Comes Down)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzcZBFImLoA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYeWURHhr04>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7K-hcgPom7Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uGT0mZOhr0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQJAUfATBd0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bwcobw2KJO>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSd9xgoRtnc>

Lucy Worsley: (episodes include:- Empire of the Tsars - Reinventing Russia, British History's Biggest Fibs - episode 3)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HPWxCC9xPQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dyf3mjRjEKI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCyszj6-NZ0>

Dan Snow - Empire of the Seas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1-OxNSjmh0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jqDMmWhPHA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVDuOQVP08o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUi7gBjqOMA>

Jeremy Paxman – Empire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfTSUARuwTg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJg8MX5QStc>

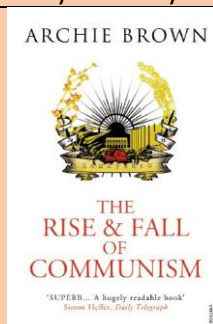
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRV90sg_joQ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCzQ5DzoQDA>

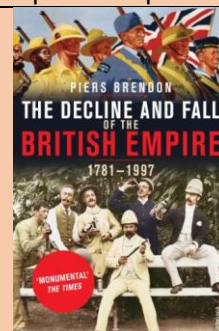
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5tM_X3Grhk

How about some reading?

Archie Brown is the 'go to' historian for all things Russia and China. A well written text; this will be the perfect introduction to our first year study.



This book is a big favourite of the History Department. Brendon has a most entertaining style and he charts the decline and fall of Empire with panache and humour.



History Online – Orlando Figes



Orlando Figes

If you are more attracted to the web for your History fix then there are a couple of good websites that you might like to have a nose around. One of the most celebrated writers on Russian history is Orlando Figes. He has a comprehensive website for students of Russian and Soviet history which can be found at the link below:

<http://www.orlandofiges.info/index.php>

History Online – Spartacus Educational (John Simkin)



<https://spartacus-educational.com/>

The Spartacus Educational website is one of the finest repositories of History known to this department. Covering Russia and Britain during the Imperial period (and much else besides) you can find here commentary and both primary and secondary material that throws open a window on the past. You can easily lose yourself within this site looking for material to fulfil a historical enquiry.

History Online - Frank Dikotter



Frank Dikotter is one of the foremost historians currently writing about China. His website contains synopses of his books, outlines of his key arguments and interviews where he explains some of the most perplexing issues about this amazing historical topic. It is well worth a visit to gain an insight into current thinking about China.

<http://www.frankdikotter.com/>

Three Historical Challenges



Find out and explain what you consider to be the most important reasons why Russia fell into a state of revolution in 1917. Things you might like to consider include:- the influence of Rasputin, the failures of the Tsar, the pressure of the First World War, the actions of political groups in Tsarist Russia.

Was Mao a cruel tyrant or a misunderstood genius? He clearly had a vision for China and won the Civil War against all odds. His early plans seemed to work – but then came the disasters of the Great Leap Forward and the catastrophe of the Cultural Revolution. What do you think? And why?

The British Empire was a force for good – or was it? This is a question that divides people to this day. Some point to the fact that Britain introduced modernisation to much of the world – railways in India and political stability in Canada for instance. Others point to the destruction of Australian Aboriginal tribes and the terrible bloodletting of the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Where do you stand on this particular question?

Feel free to tackle any of these challenges. Put your thoughts down on paper and email them to us. We can't wait to hear from you and would love to read what you come up with. We can feed back to you about your work and if you wish, help you to develop your expertise in History so that you are set-up to achieve when you join us here at Hurtwood in the new academic year.

Get in touch with us at the email addresses below:-

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