

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
School of International Relations

IR 302: International Relations of the Great Powers  
In the Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries

Spring 2001  
Thurs 5:30-6:50  
Room: VKC 150

Prof.: Scot Macdonald  
Office: VKC 303  
Office hours: T/Th 6:50-7:30  
or by appointment

The modern world, as we have come to define it politically, began in the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, with the spread of industrialization, the race for colonies, the thrust of imperialism, and the rapid growth of nationalism. These factors contributed to unprecedented levels of prosperity in the “West” and also to wars of unprecedented violence and cruelty. The United States, whose economic power had been growing rapidly through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, burst on the world stage in the last years of the century as a full-blown industrial and military power, and, with the acquisition of its new colonies, a nascent imperial one. It was not until the final breakdown of the 19<sup>th</sup> century system as a result of the First World War (1914-18) that the 20<sup>th</sup> century can truly be said to have begun in a political sense. The aftermath of that conflict, the rise of the totalitarian dictatorships in the 1930s, the Second World War, the protracted Russo-American “cold war” that followed, and the eclipse of both colonialism and the European state system have brought an era to its end.

During this 15-week course, we will examine the forces – political, military, economic, cultural – that have given shape to this era and created its consciousness. This will entail considerable reading in the history of the period. Our purpose, it must be stressed, is not to memorize dates and battles, but to understand the interplay of major forces, as well as the theories that attempt to explain these events.

The following books will be assigned, mostly in their entirety:

Keylor, William	<i>The 20<sup>th</sup> Century World</i>
Kennedy, Paul	<i>The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers</i>
Kissinger, Henry	<i>Diplomacy</i>
McCauley, M.	<i>Origins of the Cold War</i>
Steel, Ronald	<i>Temptations of a Superpower</i>

The first two books are available at the bookstore and all the books have been requested to be put on reserve at Leavey Library.

In addition to the mid-term and final exams, each student will be graded on a term paper, due April 10 and on participation in class discussions and attendance. Allocation of grades:

Mid-term examination	25%
Term paper	30%
Final examination	30%
Participation/attendance	15%

January 9	Introduction
January 16	The Shifting Balance in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Kennedy, <i>Rise and Fall</i> , pp.143-193 Kissinger, <i>Diplomacy</i> , pp.137-167 Keylor, <i>20<sup>th</sup> Century</i> , pp.3-39
Jan. 23	The Gathering Storm: 1885-1914 Kennedy, <i>Rise and Fall</i> , pp.194-256 Kissinger, <i>Diplomacy</i> , pp.168-200
Jan. 30	Breakdown: The Great War (1914-1919) Kennedy, <i>Rise and Fall</i> , pp.256-74 Kissinger, <i>Diplomacy</i> , pp.29-55 & 201-45 Keylor, <i>20<sup>th</sup> Century</i> , pp.43-91
Feb. 6	Aftermath: The 1920s Kennedy, <i>Rise and Fall</i> , pp.275-290 Kissinger, <i>Diplomacy</i> , pp.246-87 Keylor, <i>20<sup>th</sup> Century</i> , pp.92-127
Feb. 13	Rise of a New Order: The 1930s Kennedy, <i>Rise and Fall</i> , pp.291-343 Kissinger, <i>Diplomacy</i> , pp.288-318 Keylor, <i>20<sup>th</sup> Century</i> , pp.128-175
Feb. 20	The Second World War: 1939-45 Kennedy, <i>Rise and Fall</i> , pp.347-357 Kissinger, <i>Diplomacy</i> , pp.332-393 Keylor, <i>20<sup>th</sup> Century</i> , pp.176-196 & 220-247
Feb. 27	The Turning Point: 1945 Kissinger, <i>Diplomacy</i> , pp.394-445 McCauley, <i>Origins</i> , pp.1-70

- March 6            Division: 1946-48  
                      Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.446-472  
                      Keylor, *20<sup>th</sup> Century*, pp.251-275  
                      McCauley, *Origins*, pp.71-98
- March 8            Mid-term Examination – in class
- March 13/15      Spring Break
- March 20           Confrontation  
                      Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.473-521  
                      Keylor, *20<sup>th</sup> Century*, pp.275-283, 348-365  
                      Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, pp.357-395
- March 27           Agonizing Appraisals  
                      Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.522-593  
                      Keylor, *20<sup>th</sup> Century*, pp.284-347  
                      Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, pp.395-413
- April 3             The Endless Tunnel  
                      Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.594-673  
                      Keylor, *20<sup>th</sup> Century*, pp.365-381  
                      Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, pp.413-437
- April 10           Cold War II: Détente and Anti-Détente                      TERM PAPER DUE  
                      Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.674-761  
                      Keylor, *20<sup>th</sup> Century*, pp.382-427
- April 17            End of the Cold War  
                      Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.762-803  
                      Keylor, *20<sup>th</sup> Century*, pp.428-492  
                      Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, pp.439-514
- April 24            A World in Flux  
                      Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, pp.804-835  
                      Kennedy, *Rise and Fall*, pp.514-540  
                      Keylor, *20<sup>th</sup> Century*, pp.527-543  
                      Steel, *Temptations*, pp.1-139  
                      Huntington, articles to be distributed
- May 1                Final Exam