

**Centre for Inner Asian Studies
School of International Studies, JNU**

Course: **Ph.D**

Course No.: **SA635N**

Course Title: **Great Power Interest in Central Asia during the Nineteenth Century**

Course Type (Core/Optional): **Optional**

Course Teacher: **Prof. Sharad K. Soni**

Credits: **Two (2)**

Contact Hours: **2 per week**

Course Objectives

The objective of the course is to provide an understanding of the British, Russian and Chinese interests in terms of policies and activities in Central Asia during the nineteenth century, i.e., at the height of the 'Great Game'. It primarily focusses on the geopolitics in Central Asia by exploring a period of political power struggles witnessed due to the Tsarist Russian expansion and the British move to contain it and create a buffer zone in the region. Since the Great Game had a stake that was much greater than Central Asia the course deals with the entire region from the Caspian Sea in the west to Tien Shan in the east, encompassing the whole of Central Asia, Xinjiang, Tibet, Mongolia and Afghanistan. Such treatment provides a holistic view of developments there. While discussing the Anglo-Russian strategies in the region, this course evaluates the implications of these developments for India's north and north-west frontiers.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, the students will be able to acquire an in-depth knowledge of the purpose and consequences of the Great Game, a political and diplomatic power struggle that existed in the 19th century between Tsarist Russia and the British Empire over Afghanistan and the adjoining territories of Central Asia. The course will also enable the students to grasp the significance of the policies and activities of the Great powers including China towards Mongolia, Tibet and Xinjiang besides demonstrating ability to analyse the implications of the related developments in the entire region of Central Asia for India's north and north-west frontiers.

Evaluation Methods

The evaluation of student's performance is done purely on the basis of academic merit. Grading and marks will be awarded for Class participation (10%), Sessional work (40%) and End semester examination (50%).

Course Content

The course will cover the following themes:

Section I: Great Powers and Central Asia in Historical Perspective

1. Central Asia: A Historical Overview
2. Geostrategic Significance of Central Asia and Great Power Interest

3. Tsarist Russian Annexation of Central Asia and Russian Policies
4. British Policy in Afghanistan and Central Asia

Section II: Great Power Policies and Activities in Central Asia

1. The 'Great Game': Anglo-Russian Rivalry over Central Asia and Afghanistan
2. Mongolia in Sino-Russian Relations
3. Chinese Policies in Xinjiang
4. British Policy towards Tibet

Section III: Geopolitics in Central Asia and Beyond

1. Changing Great Power Perspectives on the Pamirs and India's North West frontiers (late 19th Century)
2. Changes in Great Power Policies towards Xinjiang, Tibet and Mongolia
3. Geopolitical Implications for Central Asia-India Relations
4. Central Asia and adjoining territories at the dawn of 20th Century

Readings

Alder, G.J. (1963), *British India's Northern Frontier, 1865-95*. London.

Allworth, Edward (1994) (ed.), *Central Asia: 130 years of Russian Dominance*, Durham.

Bilgrami, Asghar H. (1972), *Afghanistan and British India, 1793-1907*, New Delhi.

Billé, Franck and others, eds. (2012), *Frontier Encounters: Knowledge and Practice at the Russian, Chinese and Mongolian Border*, Cambridge: Open Book Publishers.

Clubb, O. Edmund (1971), *China and Russia: The Great Game*, New York.

Christian, David (1998), *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia: Inner Eurasia from Prehistory to the Mongol Empire*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Davis, H.W. Carless (1927), *The Great Game in Asia (1800-1844)*, British Academy.

Dean, Riaz (2019), *Mapping the Great Game*, Oxford: Casemate

Dogra, Rajiv (2018), *The Durand Curse: A Line across the Pathan Heart*, Rupa & Co.

Ewans, Sir Martin (2004), *Britain and Russia in Central Asia*, vol.5, Routledge.

Holdsworth, M. (1959), *Turkestan in the Nineteenth Century*, Oxford.

Hopkrik, Peter (2006), *The Great Game: On Secret Service in High Sea*, London: John Murray

Hopkrik, Peter (1994), *The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia*, Kodansha International.

Huttenback, Robert A. (2004), *Kashmir and the British Raj, 1847-1947*, Oxford: OUP.

Kaushik, Devendra (1970), *Central Asia in Modern Times*. Moscow.

Khalfin, N.A. (1964), *Russia's Policy in Central Asia, 1857-1868*, London.

Lamb, Alastair (2018), *British India and Tibet: 1766-1910*, Routledge.

Lamb, Alastair (1973), *The Sino-Indian Border in Ladakh*, Canberra.

- Lamb, Alastair (1968), *Asian Frontiers: Studies in a Continuing Problem*, London: Pall Mall.
- Lamb, Alastair (1960), *Britain and Chinese Central Asia: The Road to Lhasa, 1867-1905*, London.
- Lattimore, Owen (1988), *Inner Asian Frontiers of China*. Oxford: OUP.
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- Meyer, Karl E. and S. B. Brysac (2009), *Tournament of Shadows: The Race for Empire in Central Asia*, Basic Books.
- Millward, James A. (2007), *Eurasian Crossroads: A History of Xinjiang*, New York: Columbia University Press.
- Mojtahed-Zadeh, Pirouz (2004), *Small Players of the Great Game: The Settlement of Iran's Eastern Borderlands and the creation of Afghanistan*, Routledge.
- Morgan, Gerald (2012), *Anglo-Russian Rivalry in Central Asia, 1810-1895*, Routledge.
- Norbu, Dawa (2001), *China's Tibet Policy*. Richmond: Curzon Press.
- Palace, Wendy (2005), *The British Empire and Tibet, 1900-1922*, Routledge.
- Paliwal, Avinash (2017), *My Enemy's Enemy: India in Afghanistan from Soviet Invasion to the US Withdrawal*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Pierce, R.A. (1960), *Russian Central Asia, 1867-1917*. Berkeley.
- Rastogi, Ram Sagar (1965), *Indo-Afghan Relations, 1880-1900*, Lucknow.
- Rossabi, Morris (1975), *China and Inner Asia: From 1368 to the Present*. London: Thames and Hudson.
- Rodenbough, Theo F. (1885), *Afghanistan and the Anglo-Russian Dispute*, New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.
- Sergeev, Evgeny (2013), *The Great Game, 1856-1907: Russo-British Relations in Central and East Asia*, John Hopkins University Press.
- Singhal, D.P. (1982), *India and Afghanistan, 1876-1907: A Study in Diplomatic Relations*, New Delhi: South Asian Publishers.
- Soni, Sharad K (2006), *Mongolia-China Relations: Modern and Contemporary Times*, New Delhi: Pentagon.
- Soni, Sharad K (2002), *Mongolia-Russia Relations: Kiakhta to Vladivostok*, Delhi: Shipra Publications.
- Soni, Sharad K. (2000), *Mongolia between China and Russia: An Historical Overview*, Kolkata: Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies.
- Soucek, Svat (2000), *A History of Central Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Stewart, Jules (2011), *Crimson Snow: Britain's First Disaster in Afghanistan*, History Press.
- Warikoo, K (2019), *Xinjiang- China's Northwest Frontier*, London: Routledge.
- Warikoo, K. ed. (2009), *Himalayan Frontiers of India*, London: Routledge.
- Warikoo, K., ed. (2002), *Afghanistan Crisis: Issues and Perspectives*. New Delhi.

Warikoo, K. (1989), *Central Asia and Kashmir: A Study in the Context of Anglo-Russian Rivalry*, Delhi: Gian Publishers.

Wheeler, G. (1964), *The Modern History of Soviet Central Asia*, London.

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Yapp, M.E. (1980), *Strategies of British India: Britain, Iran and Afghanistan, 1798-1850*. Oxford.