MMW 13, Lecture 2
Tuesday, April 8th, 10AM-12PM,

- The UCSD Political Theory Workshop
- at UCSD Social Science Building 107,
- “Was Westphalia ‘All That’? Hobbes, Bellarmine and the norm of non-intervention”
- (1648)
Travels in Farangi Space:
The Perception of Modern Space in 19th Century Persian Travel Diaries

Vahid Vahdat Zad
Texas A&M University

Thursday, April 17, 2014
6:30-7:30pm
Literature Building, Room 155 (de Certeau)
Department of Literature, UCSD
Thursdays 3 to 3:45pm
Some notes

- Some pre-1200 period will be covered, but will not appear on the exam.
- Some dates are important (1648), some are not.
History as Interrelated and contingent
Conditional Probabilities

- History is nonlinear
- History is non-deterministic
Bunch of factors

- **Class and production**: those who produce or sell it
- **(Emerging) Market(s)**: how it is presented, distributed and consumed.
- **State**: how governments allow such markets to grow
- **Material conditions (technologies)** that allow such invention to take place.
- **Contact** (Tranregional) as a source of shaping new ideas
How about innovation?
Innovations are never made in a vacuum.
Innovations are historical creations, the way humans, through interaction, come up with novel ideas.

Then those ideas are shared, transported and reorient historical life as the nature of ideas shape in course of time.
Enlightenment fashion

- Rational and useful and an emphasis on education rather than privilege.
- Men's fashion shifted towards more practical clothing.
Bandwagon effect

- Groupthink phenomenon

Beliefs spread among individuals as more people come to believe in that something. People “hop” on the bandwagon regardless of its functionality.
Normative cultures (1990s)
Fads associated with an ethnic or racial group (1990s)
Class, gender and race (2000s)
Subcultures (1980s)
Origins

- Can we speak of something original in history?
Ipod?
CD
Cassettes
Radio
Gramophone
Original Print
Original is always a copy of something

- Everything is a copy of something else with a bit of change
The most celebrated works are
Original Copy
What about?
“An Extraordinary Film... Superb”★★★★

Winner

Best Actress Festival De Cannes
Starring: Juliette Binoche & William Shimell

Certified Copy
An Original Love Story

From acclaimed director Abbas Kiarostami
Steve Jobs
Douglas Engelbart
Harvard Mark I Computer (1944)
No ONE person invented the
Intertwined histories of innovations
Innovator
Genius
Isaac Newton (1642-1727)

If I have seen a little further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants.
Isaac Newton
Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543)
Zoroastrianism
Origins of Modernity
Greeks
How Greek was the Greek Spirit?
Cradle of Civilization
Plato (d. 347)
Jacobo Myerston: Thinking Across Networks: Naming the Cosmos from Derveni to Babylon

Wednesday, April 2, 2014
4:00-5:30pm
Literature Building Room 155 (de Certeau)
Although it has become increasingly accepted that ancient Greek literature is genetically related to the literatures of the Near East, scholars of the ancient world continue to conceptualize literary criticism in classical Greece as being an independent achievement of the Greek spirit. In this presentation I provide evidence against this idea.
Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831)
John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)
Francis Fukuyama

THE END OF HISTORY AND THE LAST MAN
Modernity as Westernization?
Westernization in historical context

1) **Expansion** and spread of the “west”
    (Western Europe and Anglo-America)

2) **Colonization**:
   a) Territories & b) culture
Spread of the West
Western Europeans
Americas
Australia frontiers (1835)
Greek and Persians: Battle of Thermopylae
More inclusive
Spartans: Militaristic
Idealized Greeks (19th century)
Lynda Norene Shaffer

“Southernization”
A historical and transregional process of interconnectivity occurred BEFORE Westernization.

1) Technological expansion, which made westernization possible in the first place.
2) Origins: India and China
Indian subcontinent and parts Southeast Asia

- Cotton and growth of Indian textile: 2300 and 1760 B.C.E.
- Indus Valley merchants in Mesopotamia.
- Egypt: market for Indian Cotton
4th century C.E.

- Rise of Commercial traffic through Java seas
Spices
Gupta (350 C.E.)

- Crystalize sugar and it spread.
- Rise of mathematics
- 0 is invented
China

- Buddhism enabled growing contact between China and India.
- Advanced mathematics developed under the Song (960-1279)
- Champa rice
- Population growth
Abbasids (750-1258)
By 1200s

Southernization was in full consolidated
Thanks to the Mongol conquests
Thanks to the Turkish migration
Thanks to the Persianate civilization
Thanks to Europeans

- Northern Europeans expanding
- Christianization of N. Europe

- Southern Europeans in contact with other regions (partly thanks to the Crusades)
Marco Polo (1254-1324)
Leonardo Fibonacci of Pisa (1170-1250); *Liber Abaci* (1202)
Basic theme

- Civilizations have always operated in a large system of exchange and meaning production embedded in region-wide processes.
Marshall Hodgson
“Europe is till ranked as one of the “continents” because our cultural ancestors lived there. By making it a “continent,” we give it a rank disproportionate to its natural size, as a subordinate part of no larger unit, but in itself one of the major component parts of the world.... With out division of the world by continent, we allow ourselves a similar projection of our interests.” p. 228.
Human construct

- “continent”
- “race”
Not to leave Europe as an “independent” division of the world.

No clear cut cleavages

Societies “were never closed wholes; there were always fields of activity, even important fields, that were but superficially moulded by central tradition in question.” p. 237.
Afro-Eurasian complex as interrelational societies

Cultures circulated and accumulated in complex ways, but always interconnected.
Afro-Eurasia
Contact Zones

1. Eurasia:
   a) Mediterranean-Mesopotamia
   b) Subcontinent
2) Euro-Africa
   a) Africa-Mesopotamia
3) Transatlantic
   • Africa-Americas
“Middle East” is a Concept
Mediterranean-Mesopotamia Complex:

- Rise of Islam as a World Religion and an Imperial Force. (Abbasid Empire)
- Rise of Roman-Germanic Medieval Europe (Western Europe).
- Byzantium (Eastern Europe)
- “Western Europe as an Afro-Eurasian Frontier” p. 248
Eastern Asia

Rise of Tang (618-907 C.E.) State Bureaucracy

Song Dynasties (960-1279). (Technological Developments).

- Spread of Buddhism & Neo-Confucianism
India: Post-Gupta (451 C.E.)

- Islam (in the north)
- 8th century
- The Hindu Kingdoms of Southern India
Africa-Mediterranean & Sub-Saharan Africa

- Northern Africa: Fatimads and various other Muslim territories.
- East Africa-Western Asia (Middle East): Swahili civilization
- Sub-Sahara and rest of Africa: Kingdoms, empires, and city-states 800-1500 C.E.
  Rise of Islam (Ghana in West Africa)
Study

- Southernization

- Hodgson’s article, especially “Outline history of the Afro-Eurasian Zone”