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Honors Theses

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Honors Theses

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HONORS THESES

QUIET REVOLUTION: THE CURRICULAR REFORM MOVEMENT AT UMASS AND HARVARD

Siobhan C. Atkins

Along with protesting the war in Vietnam, organizing civil-rights marches, and staging campus “love-ins,” many American college students of the late 1960s were also engaged in a quieter struggle: changing their schools’ curricula and grading requirements. Not only was the movement widespread—virtually no university remained untouched—but it also resulted in tangible reforms, many of which remain to this day. In my thesis, I examine the movement at the University of Massachusetts and Harvard University. The questions I ask of the movement are: what hopes and concerns that America’s youth had towards their society at the dawn of the postindustrial era manifested themselves in efforts to change their own education? How did school administrators, parents, and intellectuals react? And what do these findings reveal about the generational conflicts at the heart of student dissent of the 1960s?

LUCIE AUBRAC: AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE HISTORY AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY OF THE FRENCH RESISTANCE

Ashley Barriere

This paper examines the unusual story of the French *résistante*, Lucie Aubrac, to investigate the relationship between the history and collective memory of the French Resistance. Aubrac’s most recognized contribution to the Resistance was the escape of her husband, Raymond Aubrac, from the Lyonnais Gestapo in October 1943. After the war, she emerged as the symbol of the female Resistance, an identity that endured until 1997 when historians and fellow *résistants* questioned her role in the Resistance in what came to be known as the “Aubrac Affair.” Aubrac was the female Resistance symbol despite the fact that her activities differed from most women, indicating a Resistance history that for many years resembled memory and distorted female Resistance activities. Participants in the “Aubrac Affair” questioned Lucie Aubrac’s innocence, demonstrating a Resistance history

that relies too much on testimony and a corrupted Resistance memory. Both instances, Lucie's assignment as the face of the female resistance and her role in the Aubrac Affair, highlight the fluidity of Resistance history caused by the symbiotic relationship between Resistance history and memory, and this topic will be thoroughly investigated in this thesis.

GOOD HAIR, BAD HAIR: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HAIR RELATIONS IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

Abby Brisbon

Why an African-American woman chooses to do her hair in any particular style embodies a complex history of an evolving relationship with acceptable standards of beauty, both within the community and as part of the larger society. This project will examine that evolution from the opening of Madame CJ Walker's business in 1905 through the Great Depression. What do cultural expressions such as advertisements, literature, and art say about how African-American women might have internalized the beauty standards that were placed upon them, and how did their ideas about hair evolve over the first part of the century?

SERBIAN NATIONALIST NARRATIVES AND THE POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE IN KOSOVO

Barbara Coons

Unfortunately, western observers, journalists, and intellectuals alike all have a strong tendency of simplifying the Kosovar conflict to a case of 'ancient hatreds' flaring up. But in actuality, this description could not be further from the truth. Rather, the 1990s conflict in Kosovo epitomized keen politicians manipulating nineteenth-century nationalisms for political purposes. The exploitation of the Kosovar Albanian 'other' solidified Serbian popular support for Slobodan Milošević during and immediately after the transition away from the Socialist Federalist Republic of Yugoslavia. Eyewitness accounts of the violence witnessed in Kosovo in 1998 reveal how effectively the redeployment of Serbian nationalism permeated the Serbian populace down to an individual level. Hence, the Kosovo conflict serves as a perfect case-study of the dangers that accompany a top-down mobilization of nationalism.

FERDINAND MARCOS: APOTHEOSIS OF THE PHILIPPINE HISTORICAL POLITICAL TRADITION*Nicole CuUnjieng*

My research centers on the Philippine historical political tradition and contextualizing President Ferdinand Marcos's 1972-1986 dictatorship within that perspective. I intervene within the existing academic debate and challenge the established scholarship, which presents Marcos's regime as the anomaly of the Philippine political tradition. Instead, I argue that Marcos is the apotheosis of the system, embodying all the ills already present. Other scholars have also championed this reading and I further the argument by examining the legitimizing role that the judiciary and the Cold War context played in this history.

THE CULTURE OF AMERICAN HOME OWNERSHIP AND THE SAVINGS AND LOAN CRISIS: HOW A POLITICAL-ECONOMIC STRATEGY CAN LEAD TO FINANCIAL CATASTROPHE*Sarah Gibbons*

Owning your own home is often considered as big a part of American life as voting or apple pie. But who are what created this culture of home ownership, and has it always been beneficial to America's economy and citizens as a whole? I will explore the encouragement of home ownership by the U.S. government and how it has led to financial crisis for America in the form of the Savings and Loan Crisis of the late 1980s. I will trace the government-sown culture of home ownership beginning with the New Deal, explore historical motives and reasoning for this mission, and explain in an historical context how this culture led to and worsened the Savings and Loan Crisis.

INTERPRETING ANTIQUITIES: ARCHAEOLOGY AND NATIONAL IDENTITY AMONG ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS*Hannah Lau*

Antiquities and archaeological sites have long been used as the tangible symbols of nations. These objects and places become synonymous with the nations and nation-states associated with them, and are often appropriated by government and cultural leaders as the physical expression of the shared his-

tory that binds a group of people together. This thesis seeks to explore how archaeology has fit into the national historical narratives of Israelis and Palestinians, and how its place in articulating what it means to be an Israeli or a Palestinian has changed over time. These questions are explored through an evaluation of how Israelis and Palestinians write about their own history, how they display it in museums, and incorporate it into tourism experiences.

CARTOGRAPHIES OF EAST ASIAN WORLDS: FROM BUDDHISM TO THE JESUIT ARRIVAL

Julia Harte

The Buddhist cartography that Japan dutifully accepted as part of the package of Chinese civilization in the sixth and seventh centuries was a map of Buddhism, rather than a Buddhist map of the world. It glorified India, the holy land of Buddhism, and served as a template to record the devotional journeys of Chinese Buddhist priests across that landmass. Yet Japanese cartographers early on displayed an impulse toward empirical geographical mapping; for example, they revised and updated the standard Buddhist cosmography based on the observations and travel narratives of Chinese Buddhist pilgrims. When European Jesuit missionaries arrived in China, Korea, and Japan, most Chinese intellectuals rejected European cartography outright, arguing that it belittled China unfairly and aggrandized the rest of the world, while the Japanese embraced it eagerly, though selectively. The world maps that sixteenth-century East Asians watched Jesuit missionaries draw were not just new depictions of the world—they were a new, more precisely empirical *type* of depiction of the world. Rather than worship the European provenance of this cartographic method, however, their new view of the world enabled the Japanese to realize that they occupied a world in which no single landmass—or reigning power—was necessarily predominant.

THE PASSED AND THE PRESIDENT: PRESIDENTIAL OBITUARIES

Chloé O. Hurley

Although tradition dictates that in eulogizing the dead, we turn ordinary qualities into great virtues and minimize the flawed or banal, the presidential obituary is more complex than it may appear. How the death of a president is presented to the public has a far greater impact on later perceptions of that president than does any coverage during his administration. Using the

obituary as an entrance point, this study is an investigation not just into presidential legacies, but into how a president is characterized at the moment of death, and whether that characterization can thereafter be redrawn.

THE *CHRISTIAN RECORDER*: AFRICAN-AMERICAN IDENTITY AND RACIAL UPLIFT

Aimee Joblove

The Philadelphia-based African Methodist Episcopal Church began publishing a newspaper, the *Christian Recorder*, in 1852. The *Recorder* helped construct a national African-American identity by facilitating the emergence of a national consciousness and creating a sense of unity among blacks. This thesis demonstrates how religious and political advice in the *Recorder* served as tools to elevate the African-American race in the second half of the Nineteenth Century. The *Recorder* illustrates how Methodism fostered individual uplift and a cohesive community, how blacks' identification as Americans guided their political goals, and how African Methodists' expectations for their future were shaped by a merging of the spiritual and the secular.

LEGACY OF A MULTICULTURAL NATION: ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISM IN TURKEY DURING THE 1920S AND 1930S

Mary Robin Kreamer

The Republic of Turkey officially became a state on October 30, 1923, replacing the last remnants of the Ottoman Empire. This paper argues that in the period immediately after the founding of the Turkish Republic, loosely defined as the 1920s and 1930s, Turkish nationalism became increasingly tied to Turkish ethnicity, excluding non-Muslim minorities and attempting to include members of non-Turkic communities into a limited definition of nationality. Turkish society included both religious and ethnic minority communities and large population movements both before and during this period contributed to a constructed quality to ethnicity in the case of the Turkish Republic. Government policies of assimilation attempted to homogenize society while members of the Turkish public asserted their own interpretations of what it meant to be part of the Turkish nation. Social and political changes in this period led to the replacement of a multi-ethnic empire with a state unified by its relation to a single ethnic community. This conflation of terms had

a profound affect on ethnic minorities and Turkish identity, with repercussions for Turkish society that continue into the present day.

THE RISE, DECLINE, AND FALL OF BRITISH PRIVATEERING, 1756-1856

Doug Lotz

Privateering, the practice of private naval warfare on behalf of a sovereign state, was a vital component of British maritime strategy throughout the Age of Sail and an industry that saw continued growth up until its apogee in the late eighteenth-century. However, British privateering's heyday was immediately followed by its rapid decline and fall in the early nineteenth-century and by the mid nineteenth-century, it had ceased to exist as a part of British wartime strategy.

This study traces the story of the last century of British privateering from the influential 'rule of 1756,' to privateering's abolition in the Declaration of Paris of 1856. By examining a variety of factors including Britain's interpretation of neutral rights at sea, the relative size and strength of the Royal Navy, the proliferation of the British merchant fleet, the rise of liberal economic thought and policy, and the changing technologies of naval warfare, this study aims to provide insight as to why and how privateering in Britain went from a vibrant and successful maritime industry, to an illegal practice that contradicted the goals and interests of the British Empire.

SHAPING MINDS, MAKING BODIES: COLONIAL *SAGES-FEMMES* IN FRENCH WEST AFRICA FROM WORLD WAR I THROUGH INDEPENDENCE

Laura Mandel

This thesis analyzes the complex role of African midwives, or *sages-femmes*, who were recruited, trained and posted throughout colonial French West Africa in the post-World War I era. Broadly speaking, these women represented the complex, often paradoxical, role of a French-educated African elite: while it is true that they were complicit in colonial domination, helping to displace local knowledge systems, they were also committed to their work and to the welfare of their communities. Furthermore, they embodied the tensions between traditional and modern medicine, particularly in relation to the sacred process of childbirth. The research is significant because these tensions persist in West Africa today. How does a culture integrate

modern knowledge with traditional systems of health and healing? Of course, French colonialists did not ask this question, but we must ask it today since the future of maternal and infant health in Africa depends on it.

COME SI PUÒ VEDERE: COLLECTING EVIDENCE IN ULISSÉ ALDROVANDI'S DE CRUCE

Hannah Marcus

My thesis is a study of a lengthy and largely unexplored, sixteenth-century Italian manuscript written by the Bolognese naturalist Ulisse Aldrovandi. Aldrovandi's work in this 2,200 page manuscript, titled *De Cruce*, incorporates several different methods for gathering and analyzing evidence. From the reading and note-taking practices that he used to write *De Cruce* to his complementary uses of literary research and direct observation, this manuscript exemplifies many of the intellectual processes of the sixteenth-century scientist and scholar. I demonstrate that this manuscript is unfinished and that, although the ultimate goal of *De Cruce* remains unresolved, the goal of this draft was to create a collection that assembled all possible information about the cross and made this data more retrievable.

THE DAY THE EARTH SCREAMED: GILLES DELEUZE AND THE PROBLEM OF PHILOSOPHY IN POSTWAR FRANCE 1944-1984

Justin McBrien

This paper addresses the life and work of the philosopher Gilles Deleuze through an analysis of French pedagogy of philosophy in the postwar era, with a particular focus on the polemics and panegyrics which characterized both the institutional and cultural reception of his work. The problem of philosophy's decline as the alpha discipline in France's educational system and the turbulent post-May '68 reorganization of Parisian universities are investigated in detail, as well as the work of Deleuze's contemporaries and close predecessors. The philosopher of mathematics Albert Lautman is crucial in this regard, but he has as yet received neither translation nor commentary in the English speaking world. Important emphasis, then, is placed on the influence of the Neo-Kantian epistemological tradition in France, which is generally neglected in interpretations of Deleuze's work. This thesis seeks to unravel the myths and rhetorical constructions that emerged during the postwar epoch, within their respective institutional contexts, and thus to understand how these myths acted as the catalysts of actual events and led

to their eventual idealizations.

THE EXILE, THE PRISONER, AND THE ÉMIGRÉ: THREE CZECH WRITERS AND NONCONFORMIST FICTION FROM 1956 UNTIL 1984

Dina McKenney

For centuries, Czech writers have assumed the responsibility of promoting their cultural identity often through dissident behavior against the reigning power. This thesis examines the role of Czech literary fiction in expressing opposition to Communism by examining the work and lives of the three most internationally recognized Czech authors – Milan Kundera, Václav Havel, and Miloš Forman. Their books, plays, and movies act as a cultural lens through which to view the effects of large historical events of the time, specifically de-Stalinization, the Prague Spring, and normalization. Often-times scholars and literary critics attempt to define these works as being either “social” or “political.” This thesis will show that these abstract terms are an ineffective means of conceptualizing Czech fiction at the time because they are limited and overlap significantly.

THE AESTHETIC OF THE ASCETIC

Kojo Minta

Despair forms an inextricable part of the Christian tradition. When Christ hung on the cross at Golgotha, he cried out in anguish. Those desperate cries express a somber finality, yet Christ’s sufferings were merely the first in a long historical progression in which the highest form of spiritual agony – despair – was contemplated, theologized and combated. The practical divinity of William Perkins, an eminent Elizabethan puritan divine, is instrumental to understanding despair as experienced by puritans in the late sixteenth century and throughout the long seventeenth century. Puritan divines acknowledged that despair was a serious issue among their flock, and the literature, treatises and sermons read and composed by the godly indicate a sustained engagement with despair, which was often precipitated by uncertainty over the assurance of one’s election. The practical divinity of Perkins, specifically, his *Cases of Conscience*, are emblematic of a conscious and concerted effort on the part of Elizabethan divines in the 1590s both to pre-empt and treat a specific malady, despair, among the godly.

BEYOND THE HOLY LAND: THE PARTITION OF GREATER SYRIA AND THE BIRTH OF THE BRITISH MANDATE IN PALESTINE

Max Reibman

Contrary to popular belief, the creation of a British Mandate in Palestine was not an inevitable event that unfolded along a precise, linear trajectory. Even in December 1917, when a British expeditionary force under the command of General Edmund Allenby conquered Jerusalem, a prolonged British occupation of the *Holy Land* was by no means a foregone conclusion. The British Mandate, ultimately encompassing a greater territory than Lloyd George's initial demand for "Dan to Beersheba," emerged as the result of a confluence of various geopolitical, commercial, and national forces. It did not emerge in a historical vacuum nor can it be marginalized as the logical outcome of deliberations held in the smoke filled cloak rooms of the *Quai d'Orsay* in Paris. This paper both systematically challenges the traditional narrative of the British Mandate and dismantles the notion that the post-war negotiations were unidirectional and immune to political developments emanating from the region itself. It is true, of course, that the Great Powers convened in Paris in 1919 and ultimately partitioned Greater Syria, but they did so not without misinterpreting the major political, economic, and social trends of Ottoman Syria in its twilight. Even as they debated partition, however, they tried, along with their regional clients whose own agency cannot be ignored, to keep the peace. Although they failed, for any optimist of peace in the Middle East, the reasons for this failure must be understood if we ever hope to foster mutual understandings and recognition of the legitimacy of the region's many national ideological currencies.

OIL AND THE EASTERN FRONT: US FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICY IN IRAN, 1941-1945

Naomi Rosenblatt

During World War II, the United States established a military presence in Iran, marking a dramatic change in its involvement in the Middle East. Unlike earlier centuries when Americans traveled to the Middle East primarily as missionaries, merchants, and pilgrims, during World War II, the American government began to establish deep political and economic ties to the region. How did U.S. foreign policy towards Iran develop within the context of a global war? What sorts of tensions developed between the State De-

partment's long-term diplomatic goals and the War Department's urgent short-term military aims? In my thesis, I illuminate how the United States balanced its own competing interests in Iran: that of ensuring a speedy victory at minimal human and financial cost, while all the while keeping in mind that its military efforts could very well disrupt its long-term diplomatic interests.

JEW LIKE ME: AN ORAL HISTORY OF CONGREGATION TEMPLE BETHEL, A BLACK SYNAGOGUE IN THE WEST OAK LANE NEIGHBORHOOD OF PHILADELPHIA

Dan Ross

Congregation Temple Bethel is a 58 year-old Black synagogue in the West Oak Lane neighborhood of Philadelphia. It began as a prayer group in the living room of the founder, Rabbi Louise Elizabeth Dailey, and is today a thriving Jewish community. Mother Dailey died in 2001, but she was succeeded by her daughter, Rabbi Debra Bowen, who shares, along with several older members of the congregation, memories of the synagogue's earliest days. Theirs is a story that deserves telling, in the form of this oral history. The American Jewish community is considered whitewashed, yet a survey of the American Jewish universe increasingly uncovers a constellation of ethnic, class, and social backgrounds. This project is about the changing face of American Judaism, and the emerging identities behind it.

THE EVOLVING HISTORY OF A FREE PEOPLE

Andrew J. Schiera

While Americans have held the textbook at the center of history education since the nineteenth century, and have generally deferred to its tone and trappings of authority. Because of this, we are not always aware of what Frances FitzGerald called "slippery history"—the process by which publishers and authors write and rewrite their texts ensure they sell in the present social and political environment. In the 1960s and 1970s—in the wake of the effects of the Civil Rights Movement—Black Americans finally developed sufficient political influence to force textbook authors to revise their prejudiced portrayals of Blacks in American history textbooks. In this study, I analyze textbooks from the 1940s and 1950s, demonstrating how they

portrayed Blacks as passive and slavery as a benign institution. I then track track the changes publishers made in the 1960s and 1970s, arguing for a new method of analyzing past textbooks—by following the changes within the same “textbook lineage” from one year’s edition to the next. When applied to this topic, my method reveals how these authoritative tomes came to more honestly portray the Black American experience by illustrating the dehumanizing aspects of racism in early America and detailing Blacks’ efforts to resist.

DON’T SHOOT CASPER HOLSTEIN: STORIES OF A HARLEM NUMBERS KING

Aaron Walker

Harlem. The 1920s. That’s the place and that’s the time that our man hungered for. Before the white gangs took his turf. Before his problems with the Elks—that’s right, the Black fraternal order. Before his passion, black advocacy, was played out. His name, his face, his history were worth five cents a day, six days a week. And after him a new case hit the headlines. Yet some will remember Casper Holstein. He won’t be entirely forgotten. Not entirely. Not altogether. There are five stories in this thesis. This has not been one of them. (It’s just the abstract.)

THE REPUBLICAN REVOLUTION?: THE TRANSFORMATION AND MATURATION OF THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN PARTY, 1980-1995

Noah Weiss

On January 4, 1995, as Rep. Richard Gephardt, Democrat of Missouri, handed the gavel of the House of Representatives to the newly elected Speaker of the House, Rep. Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, it was clear that a momentous change had occurred in American politics. For the first time in four decades, Republicans comprised a majority of the House after winning a sweeping victory in the 1994 elections in which 54 seats changed party hands from the Democrats to the Republicans. In fact, not a single member of the GOP had ever seen a Republican majority, save Congressman Bill Emerson of Missouri who had been a sixteen year old page during the 83rd Congress in 1954. This thesis examines the development of the House Republican Party from the early 1980s until 1995 and evaluates whether or not the origins and effects of the 1994 Republican landslide merit the name Republican Revolution.

PRESSING CHARGES: THE IMPACT OF THE SAM SHEPPARD MURDER TRIAL ON CRIMINAL LAW AND COURTROOM COVERAGE*Tali Yahalom*

National and local media sensationalized the 1954 trial of Sam Sheppard (accused of murdering his wife in the couple's Cleveland home), his acquittal in 1966, and post-prison years. The intense coverage, often compared to that of the O.J. Simpson trial, set journalistic and legal precedents; despite public disapproval of how the trial was conducted, coverage of the trial motivated various judges to address, in legal terms, the role of the press during pretrial investigations and courtroom proceedings. This thesis uses newspaper clippings, magazine features and court documents to explore the extent of the media blitz, and addresses the question of whether a circus-like atmosphere during the murder investigation and trial compromised Sam Sheppard's Constitutional right to a fair and speedy trial. This thesis also examines the case's continuing relevance: How was the U.S. Supreme Court able to reverse such a publicly supported conviction? Why was this case so popular, earning coverage in local, national and international media for decades after the original trial? As an indelible presence in American public memory, how did the Sheppard trial change the legality and culture of murder trial coverage in the US? The recurring presence of the Sheppard trial in publicity-related cases today highlights the recurring tension between a public's right to a free press and a defendant's right to a fair and speedy trial.

FLUKE OR FATE? THE 'PRESIDENT-KING' SIDÓNIO PAIS AND THE STALLED RISE OF PORTUGUESE AUTHORITARIANISM*Chris Yeager*

On December 7, 1917, not long after celebrating its seventh birthday, the Portuguese First Republic prepared to eulogize its nascent democracy. Having cast off monarchical rule in a relatively unchallenged revolution in October of 1910, the Portuguese people had, for a time, opted to cast their lot with republican politics. But by the dawn of 1918, Portugal's fledgling democracy had been replaced by a rightwing dictatorship. Counterintuitively enough, however, one year later, republican rule would return to Lisbon.

This paper will examine the peculiar one year dictatorship of Sidónio Pais

in hopes of shedding light upon why a country would emphatically part with democratic rule only to restore it a year later. While this paper does not pretend to be able to “explain away” the Pais regime, it will make the case that, despite seeming something of a political and historical aberration, the 1918 dictatorship was very much a product of its time and place, occupying a distinct and logical place in Portuguese history and continental politics alike.