Historical Approaches in IR

Spring 2025

Instructor:	Joowon Yi	**Time:**	Thurs 3:55-6:45
Email:	joowon.yi@uga.edu	**Place:**	202 Herty Dr. Rm. 117

1. Class Guidelines

Course Pages:

- https://uga.view.usg.edu/d2l/home/3393824

Office Hours: Room 303, 202 Herty Dr. Thursdays 11:30 - 13:30, or by appointment. Virtual office hours are available at https://zoom.us/j/3990837355.

Objectives: This course explores recent IR literature using historical approaches. By the end of the course, students are expected to:

- Understand recent trends, data, and methods used in historical IR;
- Identify historical IR works covering diverse temporal and spatial ranges;
- Understand the merits and challenges in using historical methods and approaches;
- Find their own areas of interest in historical IR;
- Develop innovative research ideas grounded in the literature of historical IR.

Course Learning Environment: Every student should feel comfortable speaking in this class. We will highly value the opinions and ideas of our colleagues. As the instructor, I will foster a classroom environment that respects cultural, experiential, and intellectual diversity.

Grading Policy: The grading policy is offered in two tracks; students can choose either track based on their preferences. Students must inform the instructor of their chosen track no later than the second week of class.

- **Analysis Track: Weekly critiques (25%), Replication analyses (15%), Replication paper (30%), Class participation (30%)**
  - *Weekly critiques (25%):* Each week, students will write a 1-2 page critique addressing the following:
    - What is the major threat to inference?
    - How did the authors address it?
    - Are there any remaining concerns?
    - How would you address these concerns?

    Students should submit their critiques one day before class. The instructor will review them on the morning of the class day.

  - *Replication analyses (15%):* Students will submit three replication analyses of readings of their choice. Ideally, the chosen readings should be coherent in terms of subject, region, time, or data so these assignments can build toward the replication paper. Each replication analysis should include:
    * An explanation of the main method used in the paper;
    * A replication of the main regression table;
    * Suggestions (and if possible, implementation) of additional variables or different model specifications to provide a twist on the original findings.

    This assignment should be submitted before the class in which the chosen reading is discussed.
  - *Replication paper (30%):* The replication paper is based on one or more of your replication analyses. Expand the twist proposed in your replication analyses by adding new variables, changing theoretical/empirical assumptions, and/or using different model specifications. The replication paper should include:
    * A summary of the original research and literature;
    * An explanation of the theoretical/empirical innovations and their motivation;
    * A detailed account of mechanical changes made (data, model, assumptions);
    * Presentation of new or updated findings;
    * A discussion of what we have learned from your paper.

    The deadline is April 22 (midnight). Students will send their papers to the instructor and colleagues. We will have an open discussion about the replication papers on April 24.

- **Literature Track: Weekly critiques (25%), As-author presentations (30%), Literature review (15%), Class participation (30%)**
  - *Weekly critiques (25%):* Each week, students will write a 1-2 page review of the assigned literature covering:
    * Authors' motivations for writing the article;
    * The research question and answer;
    * The methods the authors used to support their answers;
    * Whether you are persuaded by the evidence;
    * Potential future directions based on the authors' findings.

    Students should submit their weekly critiques one day before class. The instructor will review them on the morning of the class day.
  - *As-author presentations (30%):* Students will choose three works and present them as if they were the authors. Ideally, these three readings should form a coherent set (in terms of subject, region, time, or data) to help develop the literature review. The as-author presentations should address:
    * Your motivations for writing this article;
    * Your research question and answer;
    * How you tested your answer;
    * Your findings;
    * What we know better after your research, and remaining questions for future research.

    Students must notify the instructor at least one week before their presentation.
  - *Literature review (15%):* Students will review one body of literature in historical IR. The review should include:

  - A clear definition of the research area reviewed;
  - A list of works reviewed (ideally more than 10, beyond assigned readings);
  - A clear comparative perspective on the works;
  - The student's own evaluation of these works;
  - Identification of weaknesses, challenges, or gaps that future research can address.

  The deadline is April 22 (midnight). Students will send their papers to the instructor and colleagues. We will have an open discussion about the literature review on April 24.

- **Class Participation (30%):** Students are expected to read all assigned readings and actively participate in in-class discussions.

- The overall class grade will be calculated on the following scale:
  - A ≥ 94
  - A- ≥ 90 and < 94
  - B+ ≥ 87 and < 90
  - B ≥ 84 and < 87
  - B- ≥ 80 and < 84
  - C+ ≥ 77 and < 80
  - C ≥ 74 and < 77
  - C- ≥ 70 and < 74
  - D ≥ 60 and < 70
  - F < 60

Grading Disputes: If you wish to dispute a grade, send the instructor a one-page memo within one week of receiving the graded assignment. The memo should respond directly to the instructor's feedback. After review, the instructor may re-grade the assignment. Students must accept the final decision, even if the re-graded score is lower.

Late Work Policy: Late work is defined as submitting assignments after the established deadline. Work submitted as a makeup for an excused absence is not considered late. A 10% deduction will be applied to late work.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend class and complete all assignments. To be considered for an excused absence, you must notify the instructor in writing (email is acceptable) before the day of the absence. If advance notice is not possible, you must provide notification by the end of the second business day after the last date of absence, including an explanation of why prior notice was not possible.

2. University Policies

These policy statements are provided by the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Georgia and may be adapted by the instructor as appropriate.

Academic Honesty: Please see the UGA Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." The policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi. Students

are expected to be fully aware of and follow the Student Honor Code. When in doubt, ask the instructor in advance.

Disclaimer: The course syllabus is a general plan. Deviations may be necessary and will be announced by the instructor.

Accommodations due to Disability: If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be contacted by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or at http://drc.uga.edu. See https://drc.uga.edu/content_page/sample-access-statements for additional examples.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

- For assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit https://sco.uga.edu/.
- UGA provides resources for students seeking mental health services (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga) or crisis support (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies).
- For help managing stress, anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga) for a list of free workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

FERPA Notice: FERPA grants students certain privacy rights regarding their educational records. See https://reg.uga.edu/general-information/ferpa for more information. Directory information may be disclosed unless a written request to the registrar is submitted.

3. Course Outline

Most required readings are available via Google Scholar or the University Library website. The instructor will upload readings upon request.

Week 1 (1/9): Introduction

- Syllabus review and course introduction

Week 2 (1/16): Early Works

- Abad, Leticia Arroyo, and Noel Maurer. 2021. "History Never Really Says Goodbye: A Critical Review of the Persistence Literature." *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 1(1): 31–68.
- North, Douglass C., and Barry R. Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England." *The Journal of Economic History* 49(4): 803–32.
- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." *American Economic Review* 91(5): 1369–1401.

- Banerjee, Abhijit, and Lakshmi Iyer. 2005. "History, Institutions, and Economic Performance: The Legacy of Colonial Land Tenure Systems in India." *American Economic Review* 95(4): 1190–1213.
- Posner, Daniel N. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98(4): 529–45.

Week 3 (1/23): State Formation & Building: Europe

- Gailmard, Sean. 2021. "What Are We Doing in Historical Political Economy?" *Broadstreet*.
- Cederman, Lars-Erik, Paola Galano Toro, Luc Girardin, and Guy Schvitz. 2023. "War Did Make States: Revisiting the Bellicist Paradigm in Early Modern Europe." *International Organization* 77(2): 324–62.
- Cederman, Lars-Erik, Yannick I. Pengl, Luc Girardin, and Carl Müller-Crepon. 2024. "The Future Is History: Restorative Nationalism and Conflict in Post-Napoleonic Europe." *International Organization* 78(2): 259–92.
- Blaydes, Lisa, and Eric Chaney. 2013. "The Feudal Revolution and Europe's Rise: Political Divergence of the Christian West and the Muslim World before 1500 CE." *American Political Science Review* 107(1): 16–34.
- Dincecco, Mark, and Massimiliano Gaetano Onorato. 2016. "Military Conflict and the Rise of Urban Europe." *Journal of Economic Growth* 21(3): 259–82.

Week 4 (1/30): State Formation & Building: Outside Europe

- Wang, Yuhua. 2022. "Blood Is Thicker Than Water: Elite Kinship Networks and State Building in Imperial China." *American Political Science Review* 116(3): 896–910.
- Huang, Chin-hao, and David Kang. 2021. "State Formation in Korea and Japan, 400-800 CE: Emulation and Learning, Not Bellicist Competition." *International Organization*, Forthcoming.
- Zaw, Htet Thiha. 2024. "The Pre-Colonial Roots of Colonial Coercion: Evidence From British Burma." *Comparative Political Studies* 57(12): 1939–77.
- Paine, Jack. 2019. "Ethnic Violence in Africa: Destructive Legacies of Pre-Colonial States." *International Organization* 73(3): 645–83.
- Kasara, Kimuli. 2007. "Tax Me If You Can: Ethnic Geography, Democracy, and the Taxation of Agriculture in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 101(1): 159–72.
- Huillery, Elise. 2009. "History Matters: The Long-Term Impact of Colonial Public Investments in French West Africa." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 1(2): 176–215.

Week 5 (2/6): Territory and Inter-state Border

- Keele, Luke J., and Rocio Titiunik. 2015. "Geographic Boundaries as Regression Discontinuities." *Political Analysis* 23(1): 127–55.

- Paine, Jack, Xiaoyan Qiu, and Joan Ricart-Huguet. 2024. "Endogenous Colonial Borders: Precolonial States and Geography in the Partition of Africa." *American Political Science Review*: 1–20.
- Goemans, Hein E., and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2017. "The Politics of Territorial Claims: A Geospatial Approach Applied to Africa." *International Organization* 71(1): 31–64.
- Carter, David B., and Hein E. Goemans. 2011. "The Making of the Territorial Order: New Borders and the Emergence of Interstate Conflict." *International Organization* 65(2): 275–309.
- Müller-Crepon, Carl. 2020. "Continuity or Change? (In)Direct Rule in British and French Colonial Africa." *International Organization* 74(4): 707–41.
- Simmons, Beth A., and Robert Shaffer. 2024. "Border Anxiety in International Discourse." *American Journal of Political Science* 68(2): 661–77.

Week 6 (2/13): Ethnic Groups and Intra-state Border

- Bazzi, Samuel, and Matthew Gudgeon. 2021. "The Political Boundaries of Ethnic Divisions." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 13(1): 235–66.
- Müller-Crepon, Carl. 2024. "Building Tribes: How Administrative Units Shaped Ethnic Groups in Africa." *American Journal of Political Science*.
- Griffiths, Ryan D. 2015. "Between Dissolution and Blood: How Administrative Lines and Categories Shape Secessionist Outcomes." *International Organization* 69(3): 731–51.
- Robinson, Amanda Lea. 2014. "National versus Ethnic Identification in Africa: Modernization, Colonial Legacy, and the Origins of Territorial Nationalism." *World Politics* 66(4): 709–46.
- Weidmann, Nils B., Jan Ketil Rød, and Lars-Erik Cederman. 2010. "Representing Ethnic Groups in Space: A New Dataset." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(4): 491–99.
- Michalopoulos, Stelios, and Elias Papaioannou. 2013. "Pre-Colonial Ethnic Institutions and Contemporary African Development." *Econometrica* 81(1): 113–52.

Week 7 (2/20): Political Legacies of War and Conflicts I

- Dippel, Christian, and Bryan Leonard. 2021. "Not-so-Natural Experiments in History." *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 1(1): 1–30.
- Sambanis, Nicholas, Stergios Skaperdas, and William C. Wohlforth. 2015. "Nation-Building through War." *American Political Science Review* 109(2): 279–96.
- Lee, Melissa M., Nan Zhang, and Tilmann Herchenröder. 2024. "From Pluribus to Unum? The Civil War and Imagined Sovereignty in Nineteenth-Century America." *American Political Science Review* 118(1): 127–43.
- Horowitz, Michael C., and Matthew S. Levendusky. 2011. "Drafting Support for War: Conscription and Mass Support for Warfare." *The Journal of Politics* 73(2): 524–34.
- Erikson, Robert S., and Laura Stoker. 2011. "Caught in the Draft: The Effects of Vietnam Draft Lottery Status on Political Attitudes." *American Political Science Review* 105(2): 221–37.

Week 8 (2/27): Political Legacies of War and Conflicts II

- Pepinsky, Thomas B., Sara Wallace Goodman, and Conrad Ziller. 2024. "Modeling Spatial Heterogeneity and Historical Persistence: Nazi Concentration Camps and Contemporary Intolerance." *American Political Science Review* 118(1): 519–28.
- Finkel, Evgeny. 2015. "The Phoenix Effect of State Repression: Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust." *American Political Science Review* 109(2): 339–53.
- McNamee, Lachlan. 2018. "Mass Resettlement and Political Violence: Evidence from Rwanda." *World Politics* 70(4): 595–644.
- Huff, Connor, and Robert Schub. 2021. "Segregation, Integration, and Death: Evidence from the Korean War." *International Organization* 75(3): 858–79.
- Joo, Hojung. 2023. "Difficult to Bend: Prewar Resistance and Violence Against Civilians during the Korean War."

Week 9: Spring Break (No Classes)

Week 10 (3/13): Historical Methods in Recent IR

- Marbach, Moritz. 2024. "Causal Effects, Migration, and Legacy Studies." *American Journal of Political Science* 68(4): 1447–59.
- Bertrand, Marianne, Esther Duflo, and Sendhil Mullainathan. 2004. "How Much Should We Trust Differences-in-Differences Estimates?" *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 119(1): 249–75.
- Dippel, Christian, and Bryan Leonard. 2021. "Not-so-Natural Experiments in History." *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 1(1): 1–30.
- Imai, Kosuke, Luke Keele, Dustin Tingley, and Teppei Yamamoto. 2011. "Unpacking the Black Box of Causality: Learning about Causal Mechanisms from Experimental and Observational Studies." *American Political Science Review*: 765–89.
- Sekhon, Jasjeet S., and Rocío Titiunik. 2012. "When Natural Experiments Are Neither Natural nor Experiments." *American Political Science Review* 106(1): 35–57.
- Valente, Matthew J., Judith J.M. Rijnhart, Heather L. Smyth, Felix B. Muniz, and David P. MacKinnon. 2020. "Causal Mediation Programs in R, Mplus, SAS, SPSS, and Stata." *Structural Equation Modeling* 27(6): 975–84.

Week 11 (3/20): Military and Conscription

- Harkness, Kristen A. 2016. "The Ethnic Army and the State: Explaining Coup Traps and the Difficulties of Democratization in Africa." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 60(4): 587–616.
- Samii, Cyrus. 2013. "Perils or Promise of Ethnic Integration? Evidence from a Hard Case in Burundi." *American Political Science Review* 107(3): 558–73.
- Horowitz, Michael C., and Allan C. Stam. 2014. "How Prior Military Experience Influences the Future Militarized Behavior of Leaders." *International Organization* 68(3): 527–59.

- Asal, Victor, Justin Conrad, and Nathan Toronto. 2017. "I Want You! The Determinants of Military Conscription." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 61(7): 1456–81.
- Scheve, Kenneth, and David Stasavage. 2010. "The Conscription of Wealth: Mass Warfare and the Demand for Progressive Taxation." *International Organization* 64(4): 529–61.

Week 12 (3/27): Slavery and the Slave Trade

- Cirone, Alexandra, and Arthur Spirling. 2021. "Turning History into Data: Data Collection, Measurement, and Inference in HPE." *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 1(1): 127–54.
- Nunn, Nathan, and Leonard Wantchekon. 2011. "The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa." *American Economic Review* 101(7): 3221–52.
- Whatley, Warren, and Rob Gillezeau. 2011. "The Impact of the Transatlantic Slave Trade on Ethnic Stratification in Africa." *American Economic Review* 101(3): 571–76.
- Suryanarayan, Pavithra, and Steven White. 2021. "Slavery, Reconstruction, and Bureaucratic Capacity in the American South." *American Political Science Review* 115(2): 568–84.
- Sharman, J. C., and Ayşe Zarakol. 2024. "Global Slavery in the Making of States and International Orders." *American Political Science Review* 118(2): 802–14.

Week 13 (4/3): Legislature and Representation

- Teele, Dawn Langan. 2018. "How the West Was Won: Competition, Mobilization, and Women's Enfranchisement in the United States." *The Journal of Politics* 80(2): 442–61.
- Fernandes, Jorge M., Mariana Lopes da Fonseca, and Miguel Won. 2024. "Political Competition and the Effectiveness of Gender Quotas: Evidence from Portugal." *The Journal of Politics* 86(1): 183–98.
- Wasow, Omar. 2020. "Agenda Seeding: How 1960s Black Protests Moved Elites, Public Opinion and Voting." *American Political Science Review* 114(3): 638–59.
- Ternullo, Stephanie. 2022. "The Electoral Effects of Social Policy: Expanding Old-Age Assistance, 1932–1940." *The Journal of Politics* 84(1): 226–41.
- Gulzar, Saad, Apoorva Lal, and Benjamin Pasquale. 2024. "Representation and Forest Conservation: Evidence from India's Scheduled Areas." *American Political Science Review* 118(2): 764–83.

Week 14 (4/10): Economic Development and Trade

- Dell, Melissa, Nathan Lane, and Pablo Querubin. 2018. "The Historical State, Local Collective Action, and Economic Development in Vietnam." *Econometrica* 86(6): 2083–2121.
- Guardado, Jenny. 2018. "Office-Selling, Corruption, and Long-Term Development in Peru." *American Political Science Review* 112(4): 971–95.
- Gartzke, Erik, and Dominic Rohner. 2011. "The Political Economy of Imperialism, Decolonization and Development." *British Journal of Political Science* 41(3): 525–56.
- Puga, Diego, and Daniel Trefler. 2014. "International Trade and Institutional Change: Medieval Venice's Response to Globalization." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129(2): 753–821.

- Head, Keith, Thierry Mayer, and John Ries. 2010. "The Erosion of Colonial Trade Linkages after Independence." *Journal of International Economics* 81(1): 1–14.

Week 15 (4/17): Historical Legacies and Public Goods

- Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N Posner, and Jeremy M Weinstein. 2007. "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review* 101(4): 709–25.
- Wilfahrt, Martha. 2018. "Precolonial Legacies and Institutional Congruence in Public Goods Delivery: Evidence from Decentralized West Africa." *World Politics* 70(2): 239–74.
- Chapman, Jonathan. 2024. "Gradual Franchise Extensions and Government Spending in Nineteenth-Century England." *The Journal of Politics* 86(1): 369–74.
- Xu, Alice Z. 2023. "Segregation and the Spatial Externalities of Inequality: A Theory of Interdependence and Public Goods in Cities." *American Political Science Review*: 1–18.
- Cansunar, Asli. 2022. "Distributional Consequences of Philanthropic Contributions to Public Goods: Self-Serving Elite in Ottoman Istanbul." *The Journal of Politics* 84(2): 889–907.

Week 16 (4/24): Replication Paper & Literature Review Discussion (Instructor Conference)