Historical Studies A70: International History  
September 18, 2001  
Modernization and the Age of the Great Powers

1. Review: How Is International Order (Global Community) Defined and Maintained?  
   a. The interconnected world: international trade after 1500  
   b. Multinational empires remain more or less autonomous (to 1800-1850)  
   c. European states, warfare, and international law, 1650-1815  
   d. Enlightenment ideas of “European republic,” “world citizen,” “rights of man,” etc.

2. The World of the Great Powers, 1815-1890  
   a. The “hierarchy of states”  
   b. The state as a power (sovereignty, “monopolizing violence,” “reason of state”)  
   c. How did some states become “great”? (territory, population, resources, military capabilities): Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia  
   d. War and peace among the great powers: Realpolitik, balance of power  
   e. The great powers as world powers: new empires (“informal” and “formal”)  
   f. Resistance to great powers: ethnic nationalism, anti-colonialism

3. Modernization and World Politics, 1800-1890: Era of European Supremacy  
   a. The transformation of states into modern nations (industrialization, scientific discoveries, technological innovations, political unification)  
   b. Modernization and cross-regional interactions  
   c. Modernization and Disorder: Turmoil in China, Ottoman empire  
   d. Resistance to modernization (traditionalism)

4. Economic Globalization, 1815-1900  
   a. European (and U.S.) domination of world trade: the “opening” of China (the opium war, 1839-1842), Siam, Japan, etc. and the establishment of the “treaty system” (consular jurisdiction, most-favored-nation treatment)  
   b. Exporting capital (building railways, canals, cable stations)  
   c. The era of the gold standard, 1880-1914  
   d. Why economic globalization did not lead to global integration