

HIST 6400: Ends of Empire: A Paradigm Shift from the Balkans to Bengal
 Spring 2025
 Seçil Yılmaz



This course examines the rise of modern imperialism and the ends of empires in the 19th and 20th centuries with a geographical and conceptual emphasis on “the Balkans to Bengal” paradigm. It investigates the conceptual history of empire and imperialism as a political, social and cultural phenomenon from the early 19th century into the modern era. In what follows, the course will examine the comparative and competing histories of the British, French, Russian, Austria-Hungarian Empires along with Qajar Iran with a focus on the end of the Ottoman Empire and the formation of post-Ottoman East with emphasis on territoriality, international law, property regimes, legal reforms, religion, secularism, feminism, and formation of the institutions of imperial governance. In the second half of the course, we will explore the political, social, and cultural implications of the rise of modern imperial regimes, constitutional monarchies, formation of new [mandate] nation-states, the question of settler colonialism, decolonization and the lasting impacts of imperial legacies in the 20th century. Through a combination of seminar discussion, primary source analysis, and comparative case studies, the course will also address the legacies of empires in the modern world, considering issues of identity, power dynamics, and globalization.