

## **Rethinking Europe**

### **Modernization in a Historical Perspective: The Western World and East-Asia**

Dr. Éva Bóka

PhD, Dr. Habil, honorary associate professor

Email: [bokaeva@gmail.com](mailto:bokaeva@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.eva-boka.name>

#### **Course description**

##### ***The aim of the course***

The course deals with the meeting of different countries representing different cultures aiming to modernize. It searches the meaning and characteristics of modernization in the case of Europe, the European Union, the United States of America, China, South-Korea and Japan in a comparative historical perspective. The European countries, China, South-Korea and Japan are in Eurasia, and their contacts represent the meeting of Europe and Asia: a dialogue about state and international organization. The United States of America is in North-America and had close cultural contacts with Europe during history. The course concentrates on modernization as a Western European product and searches the answers of the United States of America, China, South-Korea and Japan to the challenge of “European modernity” in the 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The modernization of Singapore, the comparison of the EU and ASEAN, and the reform of the United Nations are also involved in the programme.

The following themes are discussed: the meaning of modernization; European modernity, European integration as modernization (the EU model); European colonialism; Europeans globalizing; the modernity of the United States; Japanese modernity; new-Confucian modernization in China; Confucian modernization in South-Korea as a Confucian capitalist experience; modernization in Singapore, the ASEAN model; comparing EU and ASEAN; new regionalism and the reform of the international organization.

Modernization is a complex historical phenomenon: It means industrialization, the emergence of a liberal capitalist world system, the necessary reforms of state and international organization, and the formation of an ideology of Westernisation.

European modernity was thought to be unique by the Europeans because it could initiate the disintegration of classical agrarian societies world-wide, and inspired them to modernize and become modern. But the Western interpretations of modernization - in the most cases - forget that the Western world could not become modern without the cooperation and the reactions of the other – non-Western – countries and people. For example in Japan, in China and in South-Korea the economic and political ruling elite had been in deep thinking about modernization and Westernisation from the beginning of colonization. The necessity to adopt the results of modern Western science and technology, to reform the economy and the teaching material following Western knowledge was accepted in general, but Westernization (to become Western) was rejected in the most cases.

Modernization changed the landscape. The dynamic of industrialization, technological

development, and business capitalism created a modern world with a common outlook but with big differences in the livelihood among people and countries worldwide. Western European society changed more deeply than the countries belonging to other civilisations during the emergence of the modern capitalist world system. But history showed that capitalism could be successful on non-Western social and cultural bases, too. In East Asia mixed forms of state capitalism emerged resulting in economic prosperity. The real question is whether the European integration as modernization, and the East Asian and Southeast Asian economic modernizations could elaborate alternative capitalist economic models for a peaceful international system by influencing each other.

The course is based on the most important political essays, projects and legal documents of modernization of states and international relations opposing war and aiming to establish a peaceful world.

### ***Organization of the course***

The classes will be a mixture of lectures, seminars, and group discussion. PhD students are required to prepare presentations and to write an essay. The mark at the end of the semester is given on the basis of the presentation, of the activity during the course, and of the essay.

### **Programme of the course**

1. Introduction: the meaning of modernization; the model of peaceful world-federation versus centre-periphery world system
2. The United States as a modern presidential federal republic  
(The Constitution of the United States, 1787)
3. Modernization of Europe 1. The old feudal system and the new democratic European principles of social organization until 1815
4. Modernization of Europe 2. The struggle between the old system (Ancien Régime) and the new principles of state and international organization, 1815-1919; 1919-1945
5. Modernization of Europe 3. The history and problems of European integration
6. Modernization of Europe 4. Europe and the world (the problem of colonization)
7. Modernization in East-Asia 1. Modernization in China and Confucianism
8. Modernization in East-Asia 2. Europe-China dialogue in a historical perspective
9. Modernization in East-Asia 3. Modernization in Japan
10. Modernization in East-Asia 4. South-Korea and the Confucian modernization
11. Modernization in Singapore; Comparing EU and ASEAN
12. Together in the United Nations (the reform of the international organization)
13. Summary and discussion on modernization

For course informations, and informations for students see my website, URL: <http://>

### Required literature

Textbook: Bóka Éva (2010): *Európa és Ázsia. Modernizáció és globalizáció* (Europe and Asia. Modernization and Globalization). Grotius Könyvtár 4., Veszprém

E-reader: Bóka Éva: *Modernization and Intercultural Dialogue on Values and Principles. Europe and Asia*. Collection of texts and documents, and bibliography. *E-reader*. URL: <http://eva-boka.wdfiles.com/local--files/start/Intercultural%20dialogue%20%28Europe-Asia%29.pdf>

- Bóka Éva (2014): A modernizáció eszméjének társadalomszervező aspektusa. *Társadalomkutatás*, 32. 2014. 1., 1-9.

- Bóka Éva (2009): Az EU-modell és a nemzetközi kapcsolatok (The EU-modell and the international relations). *Európai Tükör*, 14. 2009. 5. 16-28. URL: <http://www.kum.hu/NR/rdonlyres/FC8E7383-D02E-40C6-8A6F-8C41796999D9/0/EUtukor2009majus.pdf>

- Bóka Éva (2010): Az EU-modell és egy ázsiai integráció dilemmája (The EU-model and the dilemma of an Asian integration). *Európai Tükör*, 15. 2010. 2. 53-67. URL: [http://www.kum.hu/NR/rdonlyres/44435098-6C92-4821-BE18-00C263386E43/0/Europai\\_Tukor\\_2010\\_02.pdf](http://www.kum.hu/NR/rdonlyres/44435098-6C92-4821-BE18-00C263386E43/0/Europai_Tukor_2010_02.pdf)

- Bóka Éva (2009): The Europe-China Dialogue in a Historical Perspective. *Grotius E-könyvtár*, 2009. URL: <http://www.grotius.hu/publ/displ.asp?id=FDWKZS>

- Bóka Éva (2008): Rethinking European Supranationalism in a Historical Perspective (Discussion Paper). *Grotius E-journal*, Corvinus University of Budapest. URL: <http://www.grotius.hu/publ/displ.asp?id=TJCVQS>

- Bóka Éva: *Rethinking the Role of the Federalist Ideas in the Construction of Europe*. Manuscript, URL: <http://eva-boka.wdfiles.com/local--files/start/RethinkingTheRole.pdf>

- Bóka Éva (2006): In Search of European Federalism. *Society and Economy* (Journal of the Corvinus University of Budapest), 28. 2006. 3. 309-331.

- Bóka Éva (2007): The Idea of Subsidiarity in the European Federalist Thought. *Grotius E-journal*, Publication of the Institute of International Studies of the Corvinus University of Budapest, URL: <http://www.grotius.hu/publ/displ.asp?id=ECICWF>

- Bóka Éva (2010): Europe in Search of Unity in Diversity. Can Personalist Federalism and Multilevelism Manage Diversity? *ISES Füzetek* 14. Társadalomtudományok és Európa-tanulmányok Intézete, Szombathely-Köszeg, 2010. URL: [http://www.ises.hu/webimages/\\_va\\_B\\_ka\\_Europe\\_in\\_Search\\_of\\_Unity\\_in\\_Diversity.pdf](http://www.ises.hu/webimages/_va_B_ka_Europe_in_Search_of_Unity_in_Diversity.pdf)

### **Recommended literature**

- Bóka Éva (2001): *Az európai egység gondolat fejlődéstörténete* (The history of the development of the idea of European unity). Napvilág, Budapest

- Bóka Éva (2008): *Az európai integráció. Elméletek történelmi perspektívában* (European integration. Theories in a historical perspective). Corvina Kiadó, Budapest

- Bóka Éva (2011): *Az európai föderalizmus alternatívája Közép-Európában* (Central Europe and the alternative of a European federalism). Dialóg-Campus Kiadó, Budapest

Further readings can be found in the Rethinking Europe Bibliography, URL: <http://www.eva-boka.name>