# **Decolonised reading list for Cambridge International Relations course**

*[Compiled by graduates in September 2018]*

The Cambridge International Relations first year course was previously primarily dedicated to the history of international relations theory from the Treaty of Westphalia up to the Cold War. In 2015-2016, the course was completely overhauled to focus on understanding global power relations and how they shaped the international world order. We believe that the course as it stands and has developed is a good example of the kind of progressive and constructive approach to knowledge production about politics and international relations that can and should be propounded in academic institutions. We offer this list of general recommendations to further the ability of students to undertake decolonial thinking in the field of international relations.

**General:**

* Nawal El Saadawi, [War Against Women and Women Against War: Waging War on the Mind](https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/41069950.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Ac360aeeed5a7d4c4056674cdab8bb142), 2008
* Noam Chomsky, *Hegemony or Survival,* 2003
* Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Modern World-System,* 1974
	+ For a summary of Wallerstein’s core views, see Wallerstein, Immanuel, 1983. [Historical Capitalism](https://libcom.org/files/immanuel-wallerstein-historical-capitalism.pdf). London: Verso [1996 Ed].
* Regional complexities
	+ Valentine Guerif, 2010, [Making States, Displacing Peoples: A Comparative Perspective of Xinjiang and Tibet in the People’s Republic of China](https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/files/files-1/wp61-making-states-displacing-peoples-2010.pdf) [the cost of China’s rise, particularly in light of the latest phase of the violent crackdown on Xinjiang]
	+ Parenti, M. 2003. [Friendly Feudalism: The Tibet Myth](http://www.swans.com/library/art9/mparen01.html)
	+ Wolpe, Harold (1975) [*The Theory of Internal Colonization: The South African Case*](http://sas-space.sas.ac.uk/4017/1/Harold_Wolpe_-_The_theory_of_internal_colonization%2C_the_South_African_case.pdf); republished in *Beyond the Sociology of Development: Economy and Society in Latin America and Africa*, Ivar Oxaal, Tony Barnett, David Booth (eds). London: Routledge
* Imperialism today
	+ Amin, S. (2015). [“Contemporary Imperialism”](https://monthlyreview.org/2015/07/01/contemporary-imperialism/), *Monthly Review* 67(3)
	+ Amin, S. (2003). *Obsolescent Capitalism: Contemporary Politics and Global Disorder* (trans. Patrick Camiller), London: Zed Books
	+ Smith, John, 2016. *Imperialism in the Twenty-First Century: Globalization, Super-exploitation, and Capitalism’s Final Crisis*. New York: Monthly Review.
* Disciplinary reflections
	+ de Matos-Ala, Jacqueline (2018) [Making the invisible, visible: challenging the knowledge structures inherent in International Relations Theory in order to create knowledge plural curricula](http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0034-73292017000100221). *Revista Brasileira de Política Internacional*. 60(1)
* See the [*Decolonising Politics and IR reading list*](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hqGoCHo59LC9a_TZ56gssA6w7TWvJYn_lXKN8gicqAQ/edit)for more on conflict/civil war/refugees/migration/peacebuilding/reconciliation/development/language/education, as well as [this discussion](https://thedisorderofthings.com/2018/03/04/decolonising-international-relations-some-pedagogical-reflections/).
* Anievas, Alexander; Nivi Manchanda and Robbie Shilliam (Eds), 2015. Race and racism in international relations : confronting the global colour line, Abingdon, Ox: Routledge
* Robert Vitalis, White World Order, Black Power Politics: The Birth of American International Relations, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015
	+ (See review: Ahmad, Mahvish, 2018. The Racial Origins of a Discipline. Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography)
* Long, David, and Brian C. Schmidt, eds. Imperialism and internationalism in the discipline of international relations. SUNY Press, 2005.
	+ (See review: Bell, D. (2005). Race and Empire: The Origins of International Relations. International Studies Review, 7(4), 633-635.)
* Sankaran Krishna, 'Decolonizing International Relations'
* Joseph Stiglitz, 'Globalization & its Discontents'
* Basil Davidson, 'The Black Man's Burden: Africa & the Curse of the Nation-state'
* Siba N Grovogui, 'Sovereigns, Quasi sovereigns, and Africans: Race & Self-determination in International Law'
* CK Raju & Vinay Lal, 'Is Science Western in Origin?'
* Amedeo Policante, 'The Pirate Myth: Genealogies of an Imperial Concept'
* Robert Vitalis, 'White World Order, Black Power Politics'

**Lecture 21: Extended Reading List**

*Note: in 2017-18, Lecture 21 was themed around “Alternatives to Modern Sovereignty – Anarchists to ISIS”. Although the lectures were broader, the reading list was almost exclusively about the religious-authoritarian approach of Daesh/IS. To contrast against this, the reading list below was compiled to give an introduction to the Zapatistas (Mexico) and the women’s revolution in Rojava (Northern Syria).*

**On Rojava (autonomous zone in northern Syria, directly in conflict with ISIS):**

Statements from the autonomous zone:

* People of the Democratic Autonomous Regions of Rojava, “*The Social Contract*”, in Stateless Democracy: New World Academy Reader #5, (2014): pp131-158. Available at:<http://www.jonasstaal.nl/site/assets/files/1180/nwa5_stateless_democracy.pdf> [essentially the democratically-decided constitution of Rojava]

Political Theory influencing the revolution:

* Öcalan, Abdullah, “*Democratic Modernity: Era of Woman’s Revolution*”, in Liberating Life: Women’s Revolution (2013) Available at:<http://www.freeocalan.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/liberating-Lifefinal.pdf>
* \*Öcalan, Abdullah, *Democratic Confederalism* (2011). Available at:<http://www.freeocalan.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Ocalan-Democratic-Confederalism.pdf> [especially pp32-34]
* Bookchin, Murray, “*The Communalist Project*”, in Social Ecology and Communalism (2006). Available at: [http://new-compass.net/sites/new-compass.net/files/Bookchin's%20Social%20Ecology%20and%20Communalism.pdf](http://new-compass.net/sites/new-compass.net/files/Bookchin%27s%20Social%20Ecology%20and%20Communalism.pdf)

Reflections on the revolution:

* M. Knapp, et. al. “*A Woman’s Revolution*,” in Revolution in Rojava. Democratic Autonomy and Women’s Liberation in Syrian Kurdistan (2016): pp.61-83.
* \*Dirik, Dilar, “*Rojava: Building Democracy Without the State*”, ROAR Mag. 18 March 2016. Available at:<https://roarmag.org/magazine/building-democracy-without-a-state/>
* Dirik, Dilar, “*The Women’s Revolution in Rojava: Defeating Fascism by Constructing an Alternative Society*”, in A Small Key Can Open A Large Door: The Rojava Revolution, Strangers in a Tangled Wilderness (Eds) (2015). Available at:<https://www.academia.edu/11963676/The_Women_s_Revolution_in_Rojava_Defeating_Fascism_by_Constructing_an_Alternative_Society>

**On the Zapatistas (group/philosophy of the autonomous zones in Chiapas, South-East Mexico):**

Statements from the autonomous zone:

* \* EZLN, “*Sixth Declaration of the Selva Lacandona [Lacandon Jungle]*” (2005). Available at:<http://enlacezapatista.ezln.org.mx/sdsl-en/>. [This can be read alongside the contextualisation provided in Khasnabish, A. “‘Never again a Mexico without us’: The National Impact of Zapatismo”, in Zapatistas: Rebellion from the Grassroots to the Global (2010) – see specifically “The Sixth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle and the Other Campaign”, pp148-163]
* Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos, “*Part Four: A Plan”, “Part Five: A History”, and “Part Six: A Good Government*”, in Chiapas: The Thirteenth Stele (2003). Available at:<http://chiapasproject.com/eng/resources/stories/chiapas-the-thirteenth-stele/#4>
* EZLN, “*First Declaration of the Lacandona Jungle*” (1993). Available at:<http://schoolsforchiapas.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/1st-Declaration-of-the-Lacandona-Jungle.pdf> [The ‘announcement to the world’ of the Zapatista movement]

Analysis from observers:

* Oikonomakis, Leonidas, “*Why We Still Love the Zapatistas*”, ROAR Mag. 9 December 2015. Available at:<https://roarmag.org/magazine/why-we-still-love-the-zapatistas/>
* Zibechi, Raul, “*The Art of Building a New World: Freedom According to the Zapatistas*”, Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (2013). Available at:<http://www.pcasc.net/2013/09/09/the-art-of-building-a-new-world-freedom-according-to-the-zapatistas/>
* \*Khasnabish, Alex, “‘*Everything for everyone, nothing for ourselves’: Zapatismo as Political Philosophy and Political Practice*”, in Zapatistas: Rebellion from the Grassroots to the Global (2010)
* Cuninghame, Patrick and Carolina Ballesteros Corona, “*A Rainbow at Midnight: Zapatistas and Autonomy*”, Capital and Class (22) 3, 1998: 12-22.

**Others/general:**

* Walia, Harsha, “*Journeys Towards Decolonization*” in Undoing Border Imperialism (AK Press, 2013).
* Pithouse, Richard, “*Decolonising the Commune*”, ROAR Mag. 18 March 2016. Available At:<https://roarmag.org/magazine/decolonizing-the-commune/> [There is also quite a lot written on/by Abahlali baseMjondolo, the South African shackdweller’s movement – Pithouse is one of the academics who write with & in support of them]
* Olin Wright, Eric, “*How to be an Anti-Capitalist in the Twenty-First Century*” (2016). Available At: [https://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~wright/How%20to%20be%20an%20anticapitalis/How%20to%20be%20an%20Anticapitalist%20(essay)%20-%20v6.0.pdf](https://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~wright/How%20to%20be%20an%20anticapitalis/How%20to%20be%20an%20Anticapitalist%20%28essay%29%20-%20v6.0.pdf) [For an extended piece, see his 2010 book, Envisioning Real Utopias, and for a summary, see his 2015 piece in Jacobin, [How to be an Anticapitalist Today](https://www.jacobinmag.com/2015/12/erik-olin-wright-real-utopias-anticapitalism-democracy/)]
* Roy, Arundhati, *Walking with the Comrades* (Penguin Books, 2011). [Focus on groups in India. Shortened version available at:<https://www.english.upenn.edu/sites/www.english.upenn.edu/files/WalkingwiththeComrades.pdf>]
* Ramnath, Maia (2011) [Decolonising Anarchism](https://libcom.org/files/Maia%20Ramnath%20-%20Decolonizing%20Anarchism.pdf)
	+ Ponni (2012) [Decolonizing Anarchism: An Anticolonial Critique](https://unsettlingamerica.wordpress.com/2012/05/27/decolonizing-anarchism-an-anticolonial-critique/)

**Films/podcasts:**

* John Pilger
	+ [*The Coming War on China*](https://vimeo.com/277975923), 2016 (article [here](https://newint.org/features/2016/12/01/the-coming-war-on-china) as well)
	+ [*The War You Don’t See*](https://vimeo.com/67739294), 2010
	+ [*The War on Democracy*](https://vimeo.com/16724719), 2007
	+ [*Breaking the Silence: Truth and Lies in the War on Terror*](https://vimeo.com/17632795), 2003
	+ [*Palestine is Still the Issue*](https://vimeo.com/17401477), 2003
	+ [*Death of a Nation: The Timor Conspiracy*](https://vimeo.com/17633599), 1994
	+ [*Nicaragua: A Nation’s Right to Survive*](https://vimeo.com/17633797), 1983
* Citations-Needed Podcast
	+ [02](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/episode-02-the-north-korea-memory-hole): The North Korea Memory Hole / [35](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/ep-35-the-total-blackout-of-the-korean-left): The Total Blackout of the Korean Left
	+ [04](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/episode-04-the-root-of-all-evil): Iran – The Root of All Evil / [14](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/episode-14-the-iran-deal-protection-racket): The Iran Deal Protection Racket
	+ [07](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/episode-07-bds-the-moral-narratives-of-colonization): BDS & the Moral Narratives of Colonisation
	+ [08](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/episode-08-the-human-rights-concern-troll-industrial-complex): The Human Rights Concern Troll Industrial Complex / [25](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/episode-25-the-banality-of-cia-curated-definitions-of-democracy): The Banality of CIA-Curated Definitions of ‘Democracy’
	+ [12](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/episode-12-new-atheist-celebrities-crusaders-for-empire): The New Atheists – Celebrity Crusaders for Empire
	+ [13](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/ep-13-the-always-stumbling-us-empire): Always Stumbling US Empire / [17](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/episode-17-whitewashing-americas-role-in-yemen): Whitewashing America’s Role in Yemen

[28](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/episode-28-the-asymptotic-two-state-solution-part-i)-[29](https://soundcloud.com/citationsneeded/episode-28-the-asymptotic-two-state-solution-part-ii): The Asymptotic ‘Two State Solution’ (Parts I & II)