

STS 007 Spring 2010

Class 21 Notes

Introduction

Beginning to synthesize , look back as well as forward – larger themes – in lieu of exam or quiz, reviewing what we have learned about “technology in history”

Emphasis today on ways of learning about “technology in history”

Beginning with cave art, not the usual way – artifacts (stone axes), parietal art, archaeology, DNA, pre-literate

Atomic bomb:

History books (Rhodes)

“imaginative non-fiction”

Could use fiction

Video narrative

Still images

Audio

Museum display: Enola Gay

Policy: logic, governments (later)

Today we begin with some video and then images (still)

What do you learn that you didn't get from the reading?

And then we'll go to the reading and ask same question

And then ask what all these different ways of looking at the event suggest about “technology in history”

Youtubes

Visualizing cultures

Hersey cover/stamp

More about Dower and Miyagawa

Dower as scholar, symposium for him

Book:

First question: what did you learn? What does this suggest about what we don't know about preliterate past?

General information

Religion – being Japanese – socialization – rituals

Language: nicknames

Confusion about what it is - secrecy – trying to hide

What are other technologies in the book? (ending of Aftermath)

Ethical stance

How is the book crafted?

Dower's similar emphasis on human experience rather than policy – sanitizing effect of word "technology" (recall Leo Marx)

Very choice of topic – at a time when Japan was still a hated enemy

Ending chapters with children, mother and baby

The weeds – nature gone awry

Conclusions about total war (people themselves reach conclusions)

Summarize "aftermath" - interwoven with dates of proliferation

Third question -

Yet again referring to New Yorker

recent Nuclear Security summit, preceded by Nuclear Posture Review, New Start

Earlier events: UN, Test Ban 1963, NPT 1970, Start under Reagan and GHWBush (20 years) to reduce warheads and launchers – missile defense issue

To be followed by UN session to strengthen NPT

US, USSR, UK, F, China: not to transfer to non nuclear state

Out: Israel, Pakistan, India

N Korea withdrew 2003

S. Africa signed

Iran (Gates memo)

MIT reactor

Communist-terrorist threat

Hoffman's book

Role of technology in history

How is this a new technology different from those of the past? (processes not natural to the earth)

Warfare

New possibilities (hell on earth)

Conclusion: reading for next time: my book, Hockfield (they look up), Bilger article (reading notes

Anyone want to present final project? Will they be able to get draft done by April 29?

Backup date: May 4

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