Building Europe 1850-2000
Code: AHESV112;AHSV10893;AHSV10894
Lecturer: Jiří Janáč, PhD.

Who, indeed, built Europe? Entrepreneurs and engineers? Politicians and scientists? Consumers and activists? Starting more than 150 years ago, this course charts the people and ideas, the goods and technologies that spread between countries—and between continents. Building Europe discusses the history of:

- Day-to-day practices, from drinking milk to commanding wind power
- Powerful infrastructures, from the railroads to the Internet
- Knowledge networks, from CERN to the European Space Agency

The course is based on the book series „Making Europe“ (http://www.makingeurope.eu/), an outcome of the cooperation of more than 150 european historians within the Tensions of Europe network (http://www.tensionsofeurope.eu/).

- It challenges traditional histories of European integration—through focusing on the role of materiality in long-term perspective
- It highlights the inextricable interconnections between nation state-building and cross-national networks in Europe
- it looks at Europe’s history through the lens of material artefacts, their designers and users

As a part of the course, students develop their own short story telling the modern European history through a particular object/artefact. To this end, students will visit the national museum of technology in Prague (http://www.ntm.cz/en) and work with the online european museum for science and technology Inventing Europe (http://www.inventingeurope.eu/).

Assignements
1) **Museum visit review (both 2 ECTS and 4 ECTS alternative)**

Prepare for museum visit by reading an Inventing Europe tour about TBD. After the visit, each student writes a one-page report explaining the main difference between the online and the museum exhibition. Tell what you find online, and what you miss in the museum.

2) **Presentation (ONLY 4 ECTS alternative)**

Prepare a 10-minute presentation about the tour that your group is going to create. Each presentation starts with a 1-minute pitch that gives the core conclusion of the tour. The idea is “to sell” your tour and conclusion to the other groups during this 1 minute, explaining why your tour should have a place in the Inventing Europe: European Digital Museum. Then follows a brief explanation of what, and why, the tour contributes to the theme of the course: “The bottom-up and top-down integration of Europe through material objects.”
3) **Writing a researched web story (ONLY 4 ECTS alternative)**

Explore the Inventing Europe website. Write a short essay (tour) in the Inventing Europe exhibit style, that is: a short historical context, a short state-of-the-art before the use of the object, the history of the object, and the consequences of its use. (1500 WORDS)

+ class participation

**Bibliography**


Diogo, Maria P. Europe Globalizing. Place of publication not identified: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016


Classes

1) What is Europe and how, when and why it has been built
Who built Europe? The lecture discusses current trends in historiography of European integration, marked by the shift away from politics towards anthropological approaches, from nations to transnational phenomena and from narrow focus on post-war developments further back to the 19th century. Instead of European integration scholars speak of cultural, social and political Europeanization.

2) Building Europe on Expertise
Focusing on experts in technology and science, the lecture delivers a new reading of European history. It shows that modern Europe was built by experts using their unique knowledge to shape societies, set political agendas, and establish collaborations which proved decisive in integrating the Continent.

   - It treats expertise as a powerful force that connected – and at times also fragmented – Europe
   - It explores the dark sides of European experts, from aligning with Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin to feeding the Cold War

3) Building Europe on Infrastructures
The lecture captures the conflicted story of European integration and focuses on questions of how the priorities were set and how the choices were made in constructing infrastructure connections within and beyond the continent; how Europe’s infrastructure both united and divided people and places via economic systems, crises, and wars. How transport, communication and energy infrastructure was used by economic actors for creating transnational productions systems and by militaries for waging war in novel ways? How and why Europe’s landscapes, waterscapes, and airscapes were transformed and turned into infrastructure?
4) Building Europe on Rules and Regulations

The lecture tells the story of how experts, cartels and international organizations have written the rules for Europe since around 1850. It shows that the present-day European Union was a latecomer in European integration, which is embedded in a long-term technocratic internationalist tradition. How have Europeans navigated cross-border technology issues over the last 150 years? Who wrote—and re-wrote—technology’s rules of engagement. How, long before the EU took shape, the work of integrating Europe was well underway?

5) Building Europe on Appropriation

Who has decided how Europeans have dressed and dwelled? Traveled and dined? Worked and played? Who, in fact, can be credited with the shaping of Europe?

Certainly inventors, engineers, and politicians played their parts. But in the making of Europe, consumers, tinkerers, and rebels were an unrecognized force. The lecture spotlights the people who “made” Europe—by appropriating technology, protesting for and against it. Using examples from Britain and the Continent, it illustrates the conflicts that accompanied the modern technologies, from the sewing machine to the bicycle, the Barbie doll to the personal computers. How Europeans have lived from the 1850s to the current century?

6) Building Europe on Communication and Media

“What hath God wrought?” – these words, sent by Samuel B. Morse via an electromagnetic telegraph line from Washington D.C. to Baltimore on the 24th of May 1844, inaugurated the age of modern communication. Since then, modernity at large is associated with technologies of electronic communication and information, such as the telephone, radio, television or internet. Lecture analyzes the role and function of these technologies in shaping European communication spaces, 1850-2000. Paying special attention to the geopolitical importance of communication and information technologies in a transnational perspective, the lecture details the crucial relationship between technology and culture in the age of electronic mass media. In problematizing the spatial dimension of mediated cultural flows in their material forms (technology, infrastructures), their institutional manifestations (transnational organisations, politics and industries) and their symbolic meanings (compression of time & space; distant participation), it develops the classical perspectives on information and communication technologies as both historical witnesses and actors of change.

7) Building Europe on colonization

Via technology, Europeans mapped non-European territories—and controlled the flow of people and resources, goods and information. Lecture focuses on stories of technologies introduced and creatively adopted. How globalization as we know it differs from what Europeans once intended? How it relates to the notion of Europeanization?

- It discusses unintended side-effects of the globalization process
- It examines the emergence of international exchange in information, resources and goods
- It is a vivid narrative of cultural clashes and creative adoptions

8) Inventing Europe: Writing European history for the web

How to write history for the web workshop.
We will explore the Inventing Europe website. Students will develop a design for a short essay (tour) in the Inventing Europe exhibit style, that is: a short historical context, a short state-of-the-art before the use of the object, the history of the object, and the consequences of its use.

http://www.inventingeurope.eu/

9) Visit to the National Museum of Technology
Prepare for the museum visit by reading an Inventing Europe tour which is closest to the topic of your own "tour" developed at the workshop last week. After the visit, each student writes a one-page report explaining the main difference between the online and the museum exhibition. Tell what you find online, and what you miss in the museum. How does musem exhibit speak to your story?


10) Presentations
Prepare a 10-minute presentation (in groups) about the "tour" your group is going to create. Each presentation starts with a 1-minute pitch that gives the core conclusion of the tour. The idea is “to sell” your tour and conclusion to the other groups during this 1 minute, explaining why your tour should have a place in the Inventing Europe: European Digital Museum. Then follows a brief explanation of what, and why, the tour contributes to the theme of the course: “The bottom-up and top-down integration of Europe through material objects.”

12) Wrap-up Session