

HIST 6934—History of the Third World Movement

This course will investigate the overlapping and reinforcing histories of the Third World Movement, the Nonaligned Movement, and Tricontinentalism from the 1950s to the 1990s. After World War II, various nations—particularly in Africa and Asia—began to conceive of a political project that would unite people and nations vulnerable to continued colonialism and the violence of the Cold War. Latin American nations like Cuba quickly aligned themselves with this new project and leftists from imperial metropolises like the United States and Britain proclaimed solidarity with the Third World.

Beginning with the Conference of Afro-Asian Peoples —popularly known as the Bandung Conference—in 1955, we will trace the various regional roots of these movements, their transnational trajectories, and their successes (or failures) in transcending Cold War politics to establish solidarity among black and brown peoples across the globe. Students interested in global twentieth-century history, intellectual history, and/or Cold War history will benefit from this colloquium.