

HSTR 119 - Deportation and Exile

Spring 2020 – Instructor: Jordan Stanger Ross

Subject to change

Humans are a species on the move but we are also boundary-makers. We have transformed the globe by spreading across it, but we also understand and claim our places in the world by building walls of various kinds. Indeed, much of human history is found in the tension between relocation and home, migration and borders. Forced displacements of people across borders, deportation and exile, exemplify this formative friction in human experience. This course uses the global history of political exile to explore human ways of relating to one another and to place. The course covers a wide range of examples from ancient times to the present day, including the Babylonian Captivity, mass displacements in Europe, and the exile of Acadians and Japanese Canadians from Canada. We will examine how deportation and exile have been used by political authorities and communities, and how these events have been experienced and remembered by the banished. The course is an opportunity to contemplate what it means to belong, how exile has shaped human communities, and what the future of borders might yet hold.



Why did Canada banish this family in 1946? How does their story fit into the global history of exile?

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