

Today's Class: Forster

"The Empire Strikes Back"

1. Hierarchies challenged by current reading
2. Brief Bio of Forster
3. "The Life to Come" (written 1922-60, pub. 1972)
 1. Religion as tool of conquest
 2. Homosexuality; fear of otherness in the self
 3. Wordplay of title
4. Class on Friday and reading questions

Remember: Optional revisions of Paper 1 are due Monday



British Cultural Hierarchies

Privileged; Govern

- British / European
- White
- Christian
- Men
- Heterosexuality
- Upper-class

Suppressed; Governed

- Colonial subjects
- Other races
- Other religions (“pagan”)
- Women
- Homosexuality
- Lower-class

E. M. Forster (1879-1970)



“The Life to Come”

(w. 1922-1960s, p. 1972)

- the “idea” (Christianity) as the tool of British takeover
- hatred of homosexuality part of same hatred of otherness behind racism, colonialism
 - fear of finding that **otherness in the self**
 - need to keep hierarchies intact leads to repression of others *and* of the self
 - contrast between real Christian love and Paul’s hypocrisy

Vithobai reclaims his powers; repression of self and other under colonialism only leads to suffering and death.

Title: “The Life to *Come*”

1. Religious (afterlife, whether Christian or no)
2. Sexual (pun on “come”)
3. Historical (a hopeful future?)



Upcoming Class Schedule

- For section meetings Friday, read Orwell's "Shooting an Elephant." This essay will *only* be covered in sections.
- For Monday, read Waugh's "The Man Who Liked Dickens."
- If you want to revise your first paper, that revision is due Monday. Please see the assignment sheet for details. Note: the revision is due as a hardcopy *only*.

Reading Questions: Orwell and Waugh

- As you read, watch for allusions to Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.
- Each author spends time on his main character's background. Think about why we need that information to understand the piece.
- Think about the relationship between Europeans and "natives" in these pieces. How is it like/unlike the story by Forster?