

BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCE EXPLORATION ASSIGNMENT

Most history books offer a narrative about what happened in the past. These narratives are based on *primary sources*--documents and artifacts created at the time of the events in question, or by eyewitnesses to those events--, as well as *secondary literature*--books and articles written by people (historians, memoirists, novelists) who used primary sources to craft their own narratives.

Your goal: **choose a historical figure** from the textbook index and **find 10 primary sources** documenting that person's life. For some figures it may be difficult to find ten. If you can't find that many primary sources about your person, you may substitute *eyewitness accounts* ("category 2") by people who knew that person, the most important *works written by* that person ("cat. 3"), and the first/oldest biographies *about* them ("cat. 4). The effort and creativity you show in tracking down leads will count as much as the clearly written-up 10 items themselves.

Research Procedure

1. **Choose a person significant enough for world history to be mentioned in our textbook:**
 - a. in the textbook index pp. 1199-1231 all names are in **boldface type**, any of these would be ok
 - b. choose someone with the same initial as your last name (TAs can make/approve exceptions)
 - c. the index page reference should be from p. 611 on--the portion of the textbook we're reading
 - d. Check what the textbook says about that person--if you don't find it interesting, choose another
2. **Search the general web:** google the person's name; assess the URL of each result before you visit it. Who is posting that information? What can you tell about them from the URL? How reliable is that information likely to be? Perhaps you will find primary sources this way as well, or information that supplements the information you found on melvyl/worldcat.
3. Go to the UCSB library homepage <http://www.library.ucsb.edu> and **search melvyl/worldcat** for the name first as author. Note the most important publications you find *by* that person. In the "Details" section click on the "Find more information about" dropdown about that person.
4. From the UCSB library homepage, on the **databases tab**, select the "**Academic Search Complete**" database (ASC), and search the person's name there. What do you find? Do those articles (and their foot- or endnotes!) yield any additional sources you can cite?
5. Go to the library, into the stacks, and look at one or more biographies of that person.

What the Paper Should Look Like:

- A. Each paper should begin with a short narrative paragraph describing the person's life, with vital dates, and why they are important in world history (or what they are most known for). This might be from the textbook or Wikipedia or another reference source, which should be credited for the information in the narrative with a full citation (Turabian preferred, others ok) in a *footnote*. For example:

Mawlana Mawdudi (1903-1979) is an example of a leading figure of Islamic renewal movements since the 1940s that offered an "alternative to Western models of modernity" (Strayer 2013, 1158). According to Wikipedia, Abul 'Ala Maudoodi was "an Islamic scholar, journalist, theologian, Muslim revivalist leader and political philosopher, and a 20th-century Islamist thinker in India" (after partition in 1947, in Pakistan).¹ According to WorldCat his most widely distributed work, published in 1940, was *Towards Understanding Islam: A Step Towards the Study and Better Understanding of the Religion and Teachings of Islam* (Lahore [Pakistan]: Tarjuman-ul-Quran, 1940). 144 editions of that book were published between 1940 and 2013 in English and other languages, which are held by 931 libraries worldwide. In the UC system, only Berkeley holds a copy of this book. Most of Mawdudi's publications are in Urdu (the official language of Pakistan, spoken like Hindi but written with Persian script).

¹ "Abul A'la Maududi," in *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia* (Wikimedia Foundation Inc., updated 13 April 2013, 17:57 UTC), available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abul_A%27la_Maududi; retrieved 14 April 2014.

B. The paper would then continue with 10 numbered items, each beginning with a full citation of a source document (or publication by that person, or biography about that person). It may be in the citation style used by your major, e.g. APA, MLA, etc., or Chicago/[Turabian](#)—in any case it must have: **author** if known, **title**, **place** and **date of publication**). No separate bibliography or reference list is necessary. Starting on a new line (use shift-enter) after that citation, each entry will be followed by a short narrative describing the significance of that source (what it tells about that person), and how and where you found the document or publication. You should also say where (which libraries or archive) the document or book can be found. Use 12-point font and 1.5 line spacing throughout. These entries should be arranged *in chronological order* by date of primary document or date of *first* publication. Bold the date. For example [[prof's comments in square brackets](#)]:

1. Jamā‘at-i Islāmī-yi Pākistān. *Trial of Maududi*. Karachi: Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan, **1953**.
From the timeline on Mawdudi’s Wikipedia page I see that he was jailed in Pakistan from 1948 to 1950, and sentenced to death in 1953 (sentence commuted the same year), so I presume this book gives information about that trial.
This is the first result for a subject search on Melvyl (su:Maudoodi, Syed Abul ‘Ala, 1903-1979), when limited to English language books and sorted by date. It is not held by any UC library; worldcat lists 2 US, 2 Canadian and one Dutch library that have copies. The Wikipedia page for “Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan” is the Islamic political party that Mawdudi founded in 1941.
2. Khan, M. Rafiq. *The Delusion of Grandeur; An Analysis of Maulana Maudoodi and His Jamaat*. Karachi: Lahore Book House, **1964**.
This came up as the second result for a subject search on Melvyl (su:Maudoodi, Syed Abul ‘Ala, 1903-1979), when limited to English language books and sorted by date. It is held by UC Berkeley only. It is also available as a search-only ebook from the Haithi trust, but it is still in processing. From the title and information about Rafiq Khan on his Wikipedia page, I presume that this book is critical of Mawdudi’s interpretation of Islam. [[say more here](#)]
3. Ahmad, Khurshid, and Zafar Ishaq Ansari. *Islamic Perspectives: Studies in Honour of Mawlana Sayyid Abul A La Mawdudi*. Leicester: Islamic Foundation in association with Saudi Pub. House, Jeddah, **1979**.
This book was named as the best biographical source by Siddiqi in no. 4, below. It is held by UCSB: Library BP20 .I753. I found **sources #X-#Y above** [[enter these as the new 1-4 above](#)] cited in the introductory essay by the editors. [[note: the citation information--date, editors--of this work varies; add some narrative about this essay collection from the preface here](#)]
4. Siddiqi, Mohammad Nejatullah. "A Meeting with Mawla-na Mawdu-di." *Muslim World* 95, no. 1 (January **2005**): 121-124.
This was the first result of a keyword search in ASC database; it is available in full text. This is a description of the author’s visit with Mawdudi in Lahore in July 1978. Siddiqi writes in the endnotes that the best English-language source about Mawdudi is: *Islamic Perspectives: Studies in Honour of Syyid Abul A’la Mawdudi* (Leicester, UK, The Islamic Foundation, 1980) [[see listing 3 above](#)].
5. Baker, Deborah. *The Convert: A Tale of Exile and Extremism*. Minneapolis, Minn: Graywolf Press, **2011**. [[note: while this is a primary source, it is rather remote from Mawdudi, thus not the best one](#)]
The blurb on Melvyl reads: “*The Convert* tells the story of how Margaret Marcus of Larchmont became Maryam Jameelah of Lahore, one of the most trenchant and celebrated voices of Islam's argument with the West.” Thus I presume that Baker writes about how Jameelah was influenced by Mawdudi’s writings and teachings.
This book is available at 5 UC libraries, but not UCSB.
6. Jackson, Roy. *Mawlana Mawdudi and Political Islam Authority and the Islamic State*. London: Routledge, **2011**. This book was the first result of an unsorted subject search on Mawdudi in Melvyl. It is held by the UCSB library: BP80.M34 J33 2011, but was checked out. The ebook table of contents begins with chapter 1: “A noble lineage (1903–19),” which may cite original sources. However, the google books version has no text available, while the amazon kindle version makes only a limited selection visible without purchase. Still, in that section Jackson writes “Although not much else is factually known about Mawdudi’s family history, he says himself that the Mawdudis moved to Delhi in the eighteenth century.” However neither the chapter about Mawdudi’s own early life nor this book’s footnotes were available online.