

## Worksheet 2 – Politics

### Review: Lecture 1 A Short History of Vampires

In the previous lecture of the unit, Prof. Nick Groom discussed how most 19<sup>th</sup> century writing on vampires focused on female vampires rather than male ones. How does this tie into *Dracula*, and how does *Dracula* also explore contemporary fears about powerful women?

### Recall: Lecture 2

**Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.**

1. Which genre does Prof. Nick Groom say that the opening of *Dracula* falls into?
  - a) Travel narrative
  - b) Romance
  - c) Autobiography
  - d) Horror
2. Why is Prof. Nick Groom sceptical about the idea that *Dracula* is founded on the fear of ‘reverse colonialism’?
  - a) Stoker supported British imperialism
  - b) *Dracula* successfully invades England
  - c) Eastern Europe wasn’t part of the British empire
  - d) Van Helsing is Dutch
3. Which public figures were traditionally satirized as vampires, ‘sucking the blood of the people’?
  - a) Politicians
  - b) The monarchy
  - c) The aristocracy
  - d) The military

### Analysis

4. In the lecture (0:08) Prof. Nick Groom reads from the opening chapter of Jonathan Harker’s diary, which is copied below. Read the extract and then answer the following questions:
  - a) What do we learn about Jonathan Harker’s character from this opening passage?
  - b) How does Stoker immediately establish the contrast between the rationality of the West and the irrationality of the East here?

3 May. *Bistritz*.—Left Munich at 8:35 P. M., on 1st May, arriving at Vienna early next morning; should have arrived at 6:46, but train was an hour late. Buda-Pesth seems a wonderful place, from the glimpse which I got of it from the train and the little I could walk through the streets. I feared to go very far from the station, as we had arrived late and would start as near the correct time as possible. The impression I had was that we were leaving the West and entering the East; the most western of splendid bridges over the Danube, which is here of noble width and depth, took us among the traditions of Turkish rule.

We left in pretty good time, and came after nightfall to Klausenburgh. Here I stopped for the night at the Hotel Royale. I had for dinner, or rather supper, a chicken done up some way with red pepper, which was very good but thirsty. (*Mem.*, get recipe for Mina.) I asked the waiter, and he said it was called “paprika hendl,” and that, as it was a national dish, I should be able to get it anywhere along the Carpathians. I found my smattering of German very useful here; indeed, I don’t know how I should be able to get on without it.

Having had some time at my disposal when in London, I had visited the British Museum, and made search among the books and maps in the library regarding Transylvania; it had struck me that some foreknowledge of the country could hardly fail to have some importance in dealing with a nobleman

of that country. I find that the district he named is in the extreme east of the country, just on the borders of three states, Transylvania, Moldavia and Bukovina, in the midst of the Carpathian mountains; one of the wildest and least known portions of Europe. I was not able to light on any map or work giving the exact locality of the Castle Dracula, as there are no maps of this country as yet to compare with our own Ordnance Survey maps; but I found that Bistritz, the post town named by Count Dracula, is a fairly well-known place. I shall enter here some of my notes, as they may refresh my memory when I talk over my travels with Mina.

In the population of Transylvania there are four distinct nationalities: Saxons in the South, and mixed with them the Wallachs, who are the descendants of the Dacians; Magyars in the West, and Szekelys in the East and North. I am going among the latter, who claim to be descended from Attila and the Huns. This may be so, for when the Magyars conquered the country in the eleventh century they found the Huns settled in it. I read that every known superstition in the world is gathered into the horseshoe of the Carpathians, as if it were the centre of some sort of imaginative whirlpool; if so my stay may be very interesting.

### Evaluation

5. In the video Prof. Nick Groom briefly mentions the 'Eastern Question' (2:01). Use the internet to find out more about the 'Eastern Question', using the following questions to guide your research:
- What was the 'Eastern Question'?
  - Why was the 'Eastern Question' important?
  - How does the 'Eastern Question' relate to *Dracula*? What anxieties about the 'Eastern question' might Stoker be exploring?

Hint: this website provides a useful starting point for your research -  
<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldhistory2/chapter/the-coming-of-war/>

**Challenge:** Critics Marko Lukić and Ljubica Matek say that "Stoker tackles the issue of colonisation ... through Count Dracula's desire to become a part of the English society". Do you agree? Why / why not? Write a paragraph explaining your views.

### Glossary

- **Ancestry** – A person's family or ethnic descent.  
*e.g. He was proud of his Scottish ancestry.*
- **Antiquarian** – An adjective used to describe something that relates to antiques or rare historical items or sites; it can also be used as a noun for a person who is interested in these things.  
*e.g. The bookkeeper was interested in collecting antiquarian books.*
- **Magyar** – Another word for Hungarian; the dominant historical tribe of Hungary.  
*e.g. Historians are trying to establish who the last Magyar king was.*
- **Consumerism** – A social and economic state that encourages people to consume as many goods and services as possible; similar to materialism.  
*e.g. American shopping malls are palaces of Western consumerism.*