Study Questions, Jawaharlal Nehru, Week 10.

1. Are interpretations of any place—like India—necessarily conditioned by one’s “nationality”? In order to answer this question, please consider the following quote from Nehru: “An Indian’s and an Englishman’s view of India and her place in the world will inevitably diverge and differ, conditional as each is on a different individual and national past.” (p. 524)

2. What does Nehru mean by the following statement? “Behind some of these [European and American] democracies lay empires where there was no democracy at all.” (p. 481) Why would this bother Nehru?

3. Nehru argues that non-violence rendered Indians as a “force without arms”. Is he critical of non-violence? What would he say to Gandhi?

4. What is the condition of India according to Nehru? What does Nehru mean when he asks “But what kind of India will they [the British] leave behind, what stark misery?” (p.499)

5. Why are the British interested in partitioning territories in their Empire?

6. What would Savarkar say to Nehru’s claim that despite the problems of Empire, he favors “peace and co-operation” against “aggression.”