History 150: Europe Since 1648

Study Guide for Final Examination

At Officially Scheduled Time:
1:15 – 3:15, Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Needed: ABSOLUTELY blank bluebook, pens (not red, not pencil)

I. IDENTIFICATION: (40%) Each item is worth 8 points. (You will be given a list of 7 items, from which you must chose 5 to identify. Your answer should include such things as "Who [or what], when, where, and historical significance." Your answers should not exceed 3 or 4 brief sentences or phrases for each item [complete sentences will NOT be required for identification answers].)


II. ESSAY QUESTIONS--NON-COMPREHENSIVE: (30%) (30 points) You will be given two or three essay questions, of which you must answer ONE (1). The actual questions will be similar, but not necessarily identical, to those provided here. (The material covered by the actual questions is included in the following samples, although the actual questions may cover 2 or more of the following examples.) Be sure to support your general statements with specific examples.

1. What were the causes of the so-called "New Imperialism?" Which countries benefitted most from their colonial efforts, and which gained little or nothing for their efforts. What problems did this cause following World War I?

2. What were the major causes of World War I? How did the war that developed in 1914 differ from what the Europeans expected?

3. To what extent did the Peace Settlement in 1918 represent a "New Diplomacy?" Or was it a continuation of earlier approaches to diplomacy and political relations?

4. What were the territorial and political results of the peace settlement at the end of World War I? To what extent can they be considered causes of the coming of World War II?
5. Trace the progress of revolution in Russia in the 20th century. Who were the revolutionaries? Who were their opponents? Was the 1905 Revolution a failure or a success? Were the 1917 revolutions successful? Why (or why not)? To what extent did Stalin change Lenin's policies?

6. To what extent were Lenin's "War Communism" and "New Economic Program" compatible with traditional Marxist theories?

7. Compare the coming of World War II to that of World War I. What were the major differences and similarities? To what extent can "blame" be placed for the outbreak of either war?

8. What were the key elements of Hitler’s foreign and domestic policies? How successful was he in carrying them out?

9. Explain the transformation from the "Grand Alliance" of World War II to the development of the "Cold War." Why was it impossible to maintain the former? Was the latter inevitable?

10. What is the relationship between NATO and the Warsaw Pact in the 1950's and 1960's? How are they related to the "Cold War" and the "Iron Curtain?"

11. What has happened in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union since 1989? What is the relationship of developments in Eastern Europe to those in the Soviet Union? What is the difference between glasnost and perestroika?

12. What do you consider the major similarities and differences between events of 1848 and 1989-91 in Central and Eastern Europe?

III. COMPREHENSIVE QUESTION: (30%) (30 points) You will be required to answer the following question, which will appear as it is here:

During the course of this semester, we saw Europe develop as the world’s major political and economic power in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. But the twentieth century witnessed what historian Hajo Holborn described as “The Political Collapse of Europe.” In addition to political changes, Europe also underwent significant social and cultural changes.

Not counting the obvious technological changes and innovations, what do you consider the three most significant ways Europe has changed since the beginning of the “modern era?”