

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

MODERN EUROPEAN PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Professors Fritzsche and Liebersohn

Fall 1999

The total time available for this examination is five hours. Choose one question from each of the four sections. Be sure to discuss specific scholars and scholarly works where appropriate. A passing answer should include a discussion of some of the relevant historiography.

I.

A. To what extent has organized labor been a force for social stability since the late nineteenth century despite its revolutionary rhetoric? Discuss for at least two major European countries.

B. E.P. Thompson's classic work, *The Making of the English Working Class*, emphasized the importance of class as a category of analysis. What categories would you add to modify or enrich the category of class - e.g., gender, ethnicity, linguistic analysis - to understand European working-class communities of the period 1815-1920?

II.

A. "European representation of non-Europeans has been an unbroken repetition of stereotypes." To what extent do you think this statement is accurate for the nineteenth and twentieth century? Be sure to discuss both original works and secondary literature.

B. It was once said that cultural history is "history with the politics left out." To what extent has this been true of recent cultural history? Discuss, with attention to the strengths and weaknesses of specific works.

III.

A. Was the Reign of Terror in the French Revolution a direct predecessor of the German and Soviet totalitarian reigns of terror of the twentieth century? Be sure to include some discussion of recent revaluations of the French Revolution in your answer.

B. Did Bismarck fatally weaken parliamentary government in Germany and prepare the way for dictatorship in the twentieth century? Include in your answer at least brief mention of one (or, if you wish, more than one) other political leader.

IV.

A. Discuss the appeal (social and intellectual) and applicability of *laissez-faire* economic liberalism in the second half of the nineteenth century. Discuss for at least two major European countries.

B. Compare and contrast the political and social consequences of economic inflation with those of economic depression in the twentieth century. Be sure to draw examples from more than one country.

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Department of History
Spring 1999

MODERN EUROPEAN Ph.D PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Examiners: Professors Fritzsche and McKay

The total time available for this examination is five hours. Choose one question from each of the four sections. Be sure to discuss specific scholars and scholarly works where appropriate. A passing answer should include a discussion of relevant historiography.

I. Answer one of the following two:

A. Outline and evaluate the historiographical challenge over the last thirty years to the notion that the French Revolution (1789-1815) was a bourgeois revolution. To what extent does the "bourgeois" interpretation still make sense of the events in revolutionary France?

B. Was the Reign of Terror in the French Revolution a direct predecessor of the German and Soviet totalitarian reigns of terror in the twentieth century? Be sure to include some discussion of recent reevaluations of the French Revolution in your answer.

II. Answer one of the following two:

A. What was the basic message of Romanticism as an artistic movement? What were its political implications? Discuss for at least two major European countries.

B. Is the concept of "industrial revolution" still a useful historical generalization in modern European history? Discuss the pros and cons and some of the evolving historiography relating to the industrial revolution. Support your arguments with a substantial comparative analysis of industrialization in two major European countries.

III. Answer one of the following two:

A. To what extent has organized labor been a force for social stability since the late nineteenth century despite its revolutionary rhetoric? Discuss for at least two European countries.

B. "World War I was not simply a disaster, but offered ways and means for political and economic construction." Discuss this statement for at least two major European countries in the period 1914-1924.

