

Preliminary Doctoral Examination, Modern Europe
Fall 1995

The total time available for this examination is five hours. Choose one question from each section. A passing answer will include discussion of the relevant historiography.

1A. Discuss the causes of the so-called New Imperialism after 1870 with particular attention to motives, forms of "empire", and the question of economic gain. Some of the slogans suggested by scholars as general or partial causal factors are: "pull of the periphery," "man on the spot," "turbulent frontier," "official mind," and "imperialism of free trade." Explain as many of these as you can, and show where they are supposed to apply and how.

1B. World War Two has sometimes been characterized as the renewal or second round of World War One. Discuss the ways in which this view could be defended and criticized.

2A. Describe the course of industrial development in either France or Germany in the nineteenth century, giving some periodization scheme and including quantitative data where possible. Having described and periodized the development, analyze its causes and the explanations scholars have given for it, evaluating them against each other.

2B. Discuss the development of the European international economy and international economic relationships roughly between 1919 and 1960.

3A. Trace the evolution of liberalism as a political and economic ideology from 1815 to 1890 in France OR Germany. Who were the leading liberal thinkers? What was the social composition of the advocates of liberalism at different periods, and who were their political allies?

3B. A major debate over the nature of the Nazi regime has arisen between so-called "intentionalists" and "institutionalists". What is the basic difference between these two lines of interpretation, and how does it affect such questions as the nature of Nazi foreign policy and war aims, the Holocaust, the character of Hitler's leadership, the administrative structure of Nazi Germany, and other aspects of the regime?

4A. Explain the remarkable success of the Vienna System in preventing war and preserving international stability in 1815-1848. What international, domestic-political, social, economic, and cultural factors played into it?

4B. Explain the remarkable success of West European political and economic recovery and integration after World War II along the same lines as 4A.

