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History 104: Europe from Napoleon to the Present  
Spring 2008

## FINAL EXAM

Write all answers in a bluebook. Please write legibly. If we cannot read your answer, you will not get credit for it. Put your name on all bluebooks.

### **PART ONE (60%): ESSAYS**

Answer **TWO** of the following questions. Each answer should take you 30-40 minutes to write, and should be approximately five paragraphs long. Remember to use specific examples as evidence in support of your arguments. Please also note that none of these questions is of the form “Tell me everything you know about *x*.” You therefore need to ensure that your essay *answers the question*.

1. How significant was the first Industrial Revolution for European history?
2. In 1900, Europe was the economic, military, and diplomatic center of the world. Today, Europe remains important, but most would say it no longer plays such a dominant role. How would you account for that transformation?
3. Was the Soviet Union a Communist country?
4. To what extent is racism in contemporary Europe a result of nineteenth-century imperialism?
5. How was *either* Fascism *or* Nazism a continuation of existing developments in European politics, culture, and society? In what ways was it revolutionary?
6. It is often said that people should study the past in order to keep history from repeating itself. Based on the materials you have studied for this course, to what extent do you think this is a good argument for studying history?

### **PART TWO (40%): SHORT COMMENTARIES**

Comment on **FOUR** of the following passages or images. Each answer should take you approximately 10 minutes and should be a substantial paragraph. Put the passage/image in its historical context (when, where, and why it was produced), analyze its content, and explain its significance.

1. . “In such circumstances, moral indignation would be useless. To protest in the name of morality against ‘excesses’ or ‘abuses’ is an error which hints at active complicity. There are no ‘abuses’ or ‘excesses’ here, simply an all pervasive *system*.”

Simone de Beauvoir, Introduction to Gisele Halimi, *Djamila Boupacha* (1961).

2. “Changes and corrections were absolutely essential if the socialist system was to function effectively in Czechoslovakia. I carefully avoided all terms—such as *reform*, *reformist*, or *revision*—which might trigger hostility. Instead, I consistently used words such as *renewal* and *revival* which I knew they could not connect with any ‘sinful’ episode from the past.”

Alexander Dubcek, *Hope Dies Last* (1993).

3. “The third element of the Conservative Party's policy is that all who are in this country as citizens should be equal before the law and that there shall be no discrimination or difference made between them by public authority. ... This does not mean that the immigrant and his descendent should be elevated into a privileged or special class or that the citizen should be denied his right to discriminate in the management of his own affairs... There could be no grosser misconception of the realities than is entertained by those who vociferously demand legislation as they call it ‘against discrimination.’ The discrimination and the deprivation, the sense of alarm and of resentment, lies not with the immigrant population but with those among whom they have come and are still coming.”

Enoch Powell, “Rivers of Blood” speech (April 1968).

4. “I have a strong admiration and regard for the valiant Russian people and for my wartime comrade, Marshal Stalin. There is deep sympathy and goodwill in Britain—and I doubt not here also—toward the peoples of all the Russias... It is my duty, however, to place before you certain facts about the present position in Europe. From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent.... The safety of the world, ladies and gentlemen, requires a unity in Europe, from which no nation should be permanently outcast. It is from the quarrels of the strong parent races in Europe that the world wars we have witnessed, or which occurred in former times, have sprung.”

Winston Churchill, “Iron Curtain” speech (1946).

5. “No more dull lectures; no more mumbling; no more exams for trained monkeys...”  
“Under the paving stones: the beach!”

Slogans from the French Students’ Movement (1968).

6. “In the Hague, Milošević tried to do what Serbs have always been good at: presenting themselves as victims of historical events, plots, misunderstandings, and the wrongdoings of others. And these court appearances gave him a chance to demonstrate his extraordinary ability to adapt to any new situation and use it to his advantage.”

Slavenka Drakulić, *They Would Never Hurt a Fly* (2003).



7. IMAGE: "Whatever the weather, we must move together" (1949-1950).



8. IMAGE: "Be young and shut up" (1968).