MODERN EUROPE CA. 1740

Please answer one question from Part I and one question from Part II. You are allowed a total of four hours to complete this exam (two hours per question.) You are on your honor not to consult any materials, including notes or papers or anything stored in your computer. You are also on your honor not to discuss the exam or its content with any faculty or student until the exam period is over.

PART I:

1. Although all European nations industrialized, the routes they took, the speed along the way and the obstacles they had to surmount were far from alike. Take at least three countries and explain.

2. The working class is commonly thought of as the motor of modern developments. But in many countries, the agrarian classes have played an equally important role. Take at least two national examples and explain how.

3. What is modern conservatism? To what extent is it based on Edmund Burke and a response to the French Revolution? Draw upon at least two countries in your answer.

4. The Old Regimes of Europe were not all equally archaic. Some, indeed, neither needed nor suffered a revolution to function perfectly well in the world of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Taking at least two examples, explain why.

5. Did nationalism change between 1780s and 1920s? Was it “invented” or “constructed?” Discuss with reference to at least three countries.

PART II:

1. What use is the idea of imperialism for modern European history? Does it explain World War One? Colonialism?

2. Fascism was nationalism's bastard spawn, but no more so than it was the illegitimate child of democracy too. No Robespierre, no Hitler. Explain.

3. Does the model of “totalitarianism” work for the Soviet Union of the 1930s and 40s? Why or why not? Did the terror of those years differ from the Jacobin terror of the French Revolution? Explain.
4. How can the rise of anti-Semitism after 1870 be understood? What were its consequences? Did it differ country to country? Explain by drawing on at least two national histories.

5. World Wars One and Two are often referred to as the "Thirty Years War of the Twentieth Century." Is it accurate to characterize them as a single conflict? Why or why not?