RUSSIA SINCE CA. 800

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. How did serfdom arise in Russia? Which interpretations of this process have been presented in the historiography?

2. Discuss the relationship between nobility and state from the reign of Peter I.

3. What was the “peasant question” in the wake of emancipation? How/why did it arise, what were its various versions, and what solutions were proposed to resolve it?

4. What impact did the “revolutionary movement” have on the Imperial government in the period c. 1861-1914?

5. Gradual, conservative constitutionalism and inevitable revolution are dominant themes in the historiography of the period 1905-1917. Elaborate and discuss these two contrasting views.

PART II:

1. Historians of the Stalin period have debated the question of popular resistance to the regime. Discuss various viewpoints on this question, providing a definition of "resistance" in the process.

2. The "Stalin Revolution" that began in 1928-29 was a dramatic shift in economic policy direction, and historians have long debated its causes, results and, more basically, its necessity. Discuss the various interpretations of this event, indicating the positions of various historians.

3. Moshe Lewin described the period from the 1930s as the "ruralization of the cities." What did he mean?

4. Discuss the specific differences between "mainstream" and "revisionist" interpretations of the "Great Purges" of the 1930s, discussing not only specific events but also the
overall differences in approach; what makes an argument "revisionist" in Soviet historiography?

5. Historians have described (and disagreed on) what appear to be significant political changes in the period between the end of World War II and the death of Stalin. Discuss these changes, referring to the works of specific historians.