EUROPE SINCE CA. 1740

Answer one question from Part I and one question from Part II. You have four hours to complete this examination. You are on your honor not to consult any materials, including notes or papers or anything stored in the computer. Please return your completed exam to the graduate office by 5:00 pm today. Good Luck.

If you are taking the German or French part of the exam, be sure to choose questions that emphasize your breadth.

Part I: Answer one question

1. Europe underwent a shift from the eighteenth to the nineteenth century from a society of orders or Stände or états to a society of class. Discuss the merits of this view.

2. To what extent was the relationship between religion and secularization shaped by issues of gender?

3. In what way did nineteenth-century intellectual life play out the controversies of the Enlightenment?

4. Was Russia part of European history during the nineteenth century? Compare its economic, social and political development with countries to the West.

5. Compare the Russian, Ottoman, and Austrian empires in their treatment of nationalism during the nineteenth century.

6. Which was the truly revolutionary class in the nineteenth century: the bourgeoisie or the proletariat?

7. Was racial thought in Europe in the nineteenth century driven more by internal or by external considerations and experiences?

8. Compare how culture and society within Germany, England, France and Spain were affected by global relations from the French Revolution to World War I.

9. Compare and contrast the economic and social developments of Mediterranean and Northern Europe during the “long” nineteenth century.
Part II: Answer one question

1. Explain the Dreyfus Affair and its impact. To what extent was it rooted in the specific French situation? To what extent did it reflect wider anti-Semitic and anti-democratic movements?

2. What was the Stalinist system of repression? What was its relationship to terror? Is there such a thing as "ordinary" or "everyday" Stalinism? Does the totalitarian model work for Stalinism?

3. How has Vichy France been viewed over the decades? What are the key issues for historians?

4. What is the state of the debate on the origins of Nazi genocide? How has the debate changed over the decades? How is this debate related to the Historikerstreit or the argument on the Sonderweg?

5. Was Italian Fascism sui generis? Discuss Italian Fascism, paying attention to its Italian and/or European antecedents as well as taking up its relationship to Nazism.

6. Discuss the waves of 20th century European decolonialization. What were its main features? How did the decolonialization process differ in the U.K. and France?

7. What were the causes of World War I? Which historians and what are the main contributors to this question in recent years?

8. In addition to politics, what were the main constituents of the division of Europe in West and East after World War II? What explains the collapse of the Soviet Bloc?

9. What was the impact of World War I on European society? Choose at least two countries to focus your answer.