GERMANY FROM 1450 TO THE PRESENT

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. What were the political consequences of the Reformation?

2. Discuss the development of popular culture in Germany from 1450 to the Enlightenment.

3. Discuss the issue of confessionalism and social discipline from the Reformation to the Enlightenment.

4. How did the German and Jewish Enlightenments play out in the nineteenth century?

5. Discuss the development of the Holy Roman Empire from the late Middle Ages to its dissolution.

6. Compare the developments of rural and urban society in the early modern period with the nineteenth century.

Part II

1. The “failure of German liberalism in the nineteenth century stood in direct relationship to the success of the German state. Why argue for invisible hands, when the fingerprints of German bureaucrats were to be found over all aspects of modern life, and when their successes, whether provisioning the working class with pensions, setting the stage for world class industries, or running the world’s best universities, were so evident.” Discuss

2. The Weimar Republic was a hothouse flower. Whether you look at its economic performance, its political system or its cultural flourishing, it was too delicate to survive the harsh realities of the interwar years. Discuss.

3. What Hitler was brought to power to do and what he actually did were significantly different matters. It is in the divergence of the two that lies the difficulty of interpreting the Nazi regime. Discuss.
4. What the French accomplished in 1789, the Germans had done for them in or around 1945. Explain.

5. What is the state of the debate on the Sonderweg? What were and are the main issues? Identify the main contributors and their contribution.

6. German development in the “long” 19th century can be viewed as unfolding in a force field defined by Austria, and Prussia. Discuss.

7. Characterize the two Germanies in the post World War II period. To what degree was each a new entity and/or to what degree was each rooted in distinct regional histories and differences?