

The National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

B.A. Examinations 1999-2000

Semester II

History

**HI 344 THE BALKANS IN THE AGE OF
NATIONALISM**

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Time Allowed: **Two Hours**

Answer: **Three** Questions, at least **ONE** from each Section

SECTION A

- 1 How did contrasting Ottoman and Habsburg definitions of ethnic identity, affiliation and empire shape future ideas of Balkan nationalism, 1700-1815 ?
- 2 How were western European ideas about nationalism transmitted to, and transformed in, the Balkans in the nineteenth century ?
- 3 If eighteenth-century Enlightenment and revolutionary thought were transformed in the context of the Balkans, can the same be said of the ideas of the Revolutions of 1848 ?
- 4 How did 'Great Power' interest in the Balkans change after 1856 ?

Please turn over

- 5 Why did Ottoman and Habsburg reform movements in Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina fail in the second half of the nineteenth century ?
- 6 Discuss Serbian nationalism from the *Nacertanije* to the end of the Second Balkan War (1913).
- 7 To what extent should the outbreak of World War I be blamed on Balkan events, as opposed to general European tensions ?

SECTION B

- 8 Why were the contradictory ideas of Woodrow Wilson and Vladimir Lenin both attractive to Balkan societies, post-1917 ?
- 9 “The essence of the problem, as we see it, consists in the fact that, in the midst of the nations among whom the Jews reside, they form a heterogeneous element which cannot be assimilated, which cannot be readily digested by any nation. Hence the problem is to find means of so adjusting the relations of this exclusive element to the whole body of the nations that there shall never be any further basis for the Jewish Question.”

(Leon Pinsker, “Auto-Emancipation: An Admonition to His Brethren by A Russian Jew” [1882], New York: Federation of American Zionists, 1916)

Should we consider the Jews to be a ‘Balkan’ nation, 1800-1939 ?

- 10 To what extent was the murder of the Balkan Jews an expression of local anti-Semitism, or an aberration imported by the occupying German forces ?

Please turn over...

11 Consider the responses of the Balkan regimes to the challenges of Nazism and Communism, 1933-1945.

12 How did Romanian politics during the Cold War deviate from a stereotypical bi-polar world composed of two Superpowers and their satellites ?

13 "From the beginning of the Tito regime, the Serbs had many grievances, but these could not be expressed until after Tito's death."

(Alex N. Dragnich, "The Rise and Fall of Yugoslavia: The Omen of the Upsurge of Serbian Nationalism", *East European Quarterly*, 23/2, June 1989, pp.183-198).

Why did Serbs feel under-privileged in Yugoslavia, 1945-1989 ?

14 Have the revelations of atrocities against women, especially in Bosnia-Herzegovina, changed the position of women in secular and religious societies in the Balkans ?

15 "Equally, the concept of 'autonomous province', a state form chosen for areas of mixed population, is not really applicable to Kosovo with its overwhelmingly Albanian majority: in this respect, Kosovo is more like the other republics than it is like Vojvodina." [July 1983]

(Branka Magas, *The Destruction of Yugoslavia: Tracking the Break-Up, 1980-92*, Verso, London, 1993, pp.17-18)

How inevitable was the crisis over Kosovo ?