

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

B.A. Examinations 2000-2001, Semester I

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 "The Balkans have been ill served by discovery and invention. Balkanism and its subject are imprisoned in a field of discourse in which "Balkans" is paired in opposition to "West" and "Europe", while "Balkanism" is the dark side of "western civilisation".
(Maria Todorova. 'The Balkans: From Discovery to Invention', *Slavic Review*, 53/2, Summer, 1994, p. 482.)
Discuss the usefulness, or otherwise, of the term 'Balkans' to historians.
- 2 "The revolutions [in the 19th century Ottoman Balkans were given] a new ideological goal: the reorganisation of society upon a class and national rather than a corporate and imperial basis and the espousal of the principle of individual as against collective responsibility."
(Traian Stoianovich, 'Factors in the Decline of Ottoman Society in the Balkans', *Slavic Review*, 21/4, December 1962, p. 632).
To what extent did Balkan nationalist revolutions challenge the principles of Ottoman rule?
- 3 "It was impossible to speak a hundred different languages... There must be one language, and in Hungary this must be Hungarian."
(Lajos Kossuth, speech to the Hungarian Diet, 8 April 1848).
Discuss language and other components of Magyarisation in 19th century Hungary.
- 4 "More important for the origins of the first Yugoslavia [was the *Nacertanije* with] its ambiguous call for both a Great Serbia and a still larger South Slav state. The document invoked both the romantic nationalism of Serbs standing alone and the *Realpolitik* needed to navigate among the Great Powers."
(John R. Lampe, *Yugoslavia as History*, C.U.P., 2nd ed., 2000, p. 52).
Discuss the importance of the *Nacertanije*, or 'Programme', for Serb nationalist developments.

Please turn over...

- 5 **What influence did the outcome of the Crimean War (1853-1856) have over internal Balkan affairs?**
- 6 “One issue overshadowed all else in Greek politics; this was the ‘Great Idea’ [Megale Idea], a dream of territorial expansion to incorporate the Greek diaspora into the new kingdom, thereby creating a Greater Greece to rival the glories of the Byzantine Empire.” (Mark Mazower, ‘The Messiah and the Bourgeoisie: Venizelos and Politics in Greece, 1909-1912’, *Historical Journal*, 35/4, December, 1992, p. 890.)
Consider the role of Eleftheriou Venizelos and the importance of the ‘Great Idea’ in Greece until 1923.
- 7 “Malek (*Counsel for Defence*) to Princip: Listen, Princip, clear up some things a little for us. You said you carried out the murder for revenge. Now you say you did it because of the idea of unity? Which motive was the stronger with you – the personal or the political? Princip: The personal, but the other was strong. They were equal.
 Feldbauer (*to Princip*): Do you believe in God?
 Princip: I am an atheist.”
 (Transcript of the Sarajevo Murder Trial, 1914).
Compare and contrast the testimonies of the seven assassins of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and of Archduchess Sophia Chotek at Sarajevo, June 1914.

SECTION B

- 8 **Was the Paris Peace Conference more interested in whether Europe would become “democratic or Bolshevik” than in addressing the immediate results of World War I, and if so, why?**
- 9 **Consider the characteristics and extent of anti-Semitism in the Balkans, 1919-1945.**
- 10 **Why did right-wing politics become popular in many Balkan states, 1919-1945?**
- 11 **Critically analyse and compare internal developments and external responses in Romania and Yugoslavia during the Cold War, 1945-1990.**
- 12 “The constitutional changes of 1974, however beneficial and welcome, failed to satisfy the widespread desire for an Albanian republic [within Yugoslavia].”
 (Branka Magas, *The Destruction of Yugoslavia: tracking the break-up, 1980-92*, London, 1993, p. 38).
Discuss.
- 13 **Consider the role of Alija Izetbegović or Franjo Tudjman or Slobodan Milošević in Yugoslav politics, 1969-1995.**
- 14 “Nationalism, like love, is one of those strong emotions which everybody acknowledges to be important, but whose qualities few can define precisely.”
 (George F. Jewsbury, ‘Nationalism in the Danubian Principalities: 1800-1825 – A Reconsideration’, *East European Quarterly*, vol. XIII, 3, Autumn, 1979, p. 287).
Discuss, with reference to your study of nineteenth- and twentieth-century nationalisms in the Balkans.