

Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh  
Winter Examinations 2000

B.A. Examination.

**History. HI323 Europe since 1914.**

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Answer *three* questions.

Time allowed: *two* hours

1. "The defining feature of the European balance of power in 1919 [was] the simultaneous exhaustion of Russia and Germany" (M.Mazower).

Discuss

or

If the mark of a successful treaty is that its terms leave none of the major parties involved utterly dissatisfied, then the Versailles Treaty must be judged a spectacular failure. Would you agree with this verdict ?

2. "The Bolsheviks secured the popular support necessary for their victory not through their ideological message but through shrewd concessions and ruthless determination". Discuss.

3. "The major difference between the fascist and non-fascist Right was that fascism existed by mobilizing masses from below". (E.Hobsbawm). Discuss.

or

Was it merely by chance that the first fascist dictatorship emerged in Italy in the early 1920s ?

4. "Hitler had only one programme, power without limit, and the rest was window-dressing". (A.Bullock, writing in 1952). Discuss.

5. Was Hitler's solution for Germany's economic problems in the period 1933-1939 essentially short-term in nature ?

6. "In effect, the second revolution transformed the whole of the Soviet Union into a single enormous firm. The management of the economy merged with the government of the country: managing director Stalin, the Politburo his board, and everyone else managers, technicians, public-relations men and workmen". (J.P.Nettl). Discuss.

or

"Stalin's 'Socialism in one country' meant, in effect, a massive State apparatus of oppression, a society based on terror, fear and obedience". Discuss.

7. "Could the war have been prevented? It is sometimes argued that it was feeble statesmanship that brought about war. Had Britain and France been prepared to confront the dictator sooner, even to the extent of fighting for the Rhineland in 1936 or the Sudetenland in 1938, then major war would never have been necessary. This is to ignore the reality confronting British and French leaders in the 1930s" (R. Overy.) Discuss.

or

Why was the seemingly localized civil conflict in Spain during 1936-1939 of such major significance for the whole of Europe?

8. "What is true ... is that the fragile barriers separating war from peace and soldiers from civilians - already eroded in the First World war - virtually disappeared between 1939 and 1945" (B. Bond). Is this what is meant by the term 'Total War'?

or

Assess the view that 1941 was the crucial year in determining the outcome of World War 2.

9. "The war sounded the final death-knell for the old European empires; within a generation of the war's ending, the process of European de-colonization was well-advanced". Discuss.

10. "The extension of Russian power into central Europe and as far west as the river Elbe has been called, without hyperbole, 'the main theme of the post war era and probably of the second half of the twentieth century' ". (Brian Bond). Discuss.

11. "The Cold War was not inevitable: yet it became a reality because of the innate needs of the Soviet Union and the United States". (Martin McCauley). Discuss.

or

"The Cold War was simply a variant of old-style imperial rivalry, but with fewer major players". Discuss.

12. What exactly does Alan Milward mean when he claims that the establishment of the European Community (now the EU) after 1945 represented 'the European rescue of the nation-state'?

or

Was the creation and development of the European Union primarily