

Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh
Winter Examinations 2002

History HI205 Europe since 1914

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Answer *three* questions

Two *hours* available

1. Did the Versailles Treaty provide a secure basis for future peace in Europe ?
2. Explain the success of the Bolsheviks in seizing and holding power in Russia in the period 1917-24.
3. In the light of its ideological incoherence and contradictions, can we clearly identify any common causes and characteristics of 'European fascism' ?

or

Account for Mussolini's seizure of power in Italy.

4. "The fall of Weimar may not have been inevitable; but the Republic had serious structural weaknesses which were highly vulnerable to the economic and social crises that precipitated its final collapse". Discuss.

or

What were the principal causes of political instability in the successor states of central and eastern Europe in the inter-war years ?

5. Discuss the view that, in foreign policy, Hitler is best considered as a daring opportunist rather than a calculating strategist, with reference to the period 1933-1941.

or

"Hitler's anti-Semitism was central to his own perverse vision and to the nature of the Nazi state". Discuss.

6. Was the Nazi economic 'achievement' of 1933-39 essentially a short-term fix ?

or

Assess the impact of the Wall St. crash and its aftermath on the economic and political landscape of Europe in the 1930s.

7. "Stalin's transformation of the Soviet economy and society in the period 1928-1939 can truly be described as 'the second revolution'". Discuss.

or

"Under Stalin, 'socialism in one country' became a vast, oppressive state system of control, based on fear". Discuss.

8. "Could the war have been prevented? It is sometimes argued that it was feeble statesmanship that brought about the war. Had Britain and France been prepared to confront the dictator sooner ... 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

What was the European significance of the Spanish Civil War?

9. "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

What are the grounds for describing 1941 as the 'turning-point' in World War 2?

10. "World War 2 accelerated the withdrawal from empire of the main European colonial powers, Britain and France". Discuss.
11. Did the Cold War originate in the closing stages of World War 2, or did its origins go back further?

or

"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'". (B. Bond). Discuss.

12. What did Alan Milward mean when he claimed that the establishment of the European Economic Community (now the EU) represented the 'European rescue of the nation-state'.

or

"During the three decades after the Treaty of Rome (1957) economic integration was the main priority and achievement of the European 'project' ". Discuss.

13. Assess the judgment that the period 1968-75 is crucial to any explanation of the shifting of the two Cold War blocs in Europe and of the origins of the later collapse of the Soviet system.

or

"1989 was as momentous a year in European history as 1789. Like the would-be reformers of the *ancien régime*, Gorbachov had sown the wind and reaped the whirlwind" (David Reynolds). Discuss.

14. "Despite its economic recovery, western Europe since 1945 has experienced 'globalization' in the sphere of popular culture as its relentless saturation by the forms and products of American popular culture". Discuss.
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Table XIV
Index of Production for Selected German Industries 1932-8
 (1928 = 100)

	1932	1933	1935	1938
Coal	69.4	72.7	94.8	123.0
Pig iron	33.3	44.5	108.8	154.3
Steel	39.3	52.2	112.6	162.2
Motor-cars	28.6	59.7	136.1	200.7
Commercial vehicles	22.9	40.7	121.7	200.7
Electrical energy	76.5	83.7	116.3	175.9
Machinery (on order)	32.8	39.1	111.8	166.7
Chemicals	50.9	58.5	79.5	127.0
Shoes	85.3	101.5	101.7	118.5
Textiles	79.2	90.5	91.0	107.5
Household goods, Furniture	69.6	70.5	80.4	113.6

Source: [46: 46], *Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Deutsche Reich 1938* (Berlin, 1939).

document 5

The number of unemployed in millions

Year	January	July
1932	6.042	5.392
1933	6.014	4.464
1934	3.773	2.426
1935	2.974	1.754
1936	2.520	1.170
1937	1.853	0.563
1938	1.052	0.218
1939	0.302	0.038

Source: Gebhardt, *Handbuch der Deutschen Geschichte*, 4, Union Verlag, 1959, p 352.