

## Front Page Template

Department(s) Political Science & Sociology

## SP216 European Politics (Semester 1, 2003)

**Time Allowed: Two Hours**

**Answer TWO Questions**

1. Is there any contradiction between the key centrality of NATO and the development of a more autonomous European foreign and security policy? Discuss in the light of events since the end of the Cold War.
2. 'Statesmen and diplomats have generally chosen to interpret the war as a peculiarly Balkan phenomenon, the result of ancient and irrational animosities, which cannot be understood, much less resolved, by intervention from the outside and clearly more civilized world. Though superficially compelling, the "ancient hatreds" thesis does not stand up to serious examination.' (C. Bennett, *Yugoslavia's Bloody Collapse*, London 1998, pp240-41.) Critically analyse the reasons for the demise of Yugoslavia.
3. Has re-unification fundamentally altered the status of Germany within the European continent?
4. Can Belgium, Holland, Austria and Switzerland still be described as 'consociational democracies'?
5. Why did the Scandinavian countries develop such a unique type of egalitarian politics?
6. Did Greece, Portugal and Spain have to transcend the limitations of 'Mediterranean political culture' to achieve 'European' political modernity?
7. Do 'ethnic' and/or 'national' factors predominantly condition the voting behaviour of the various European electorates? Discuss with examples from three European countries.
8. Why does the question of 'Europe' often appear to be the 'poisoned chalice' of British politics?