

Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh.
Autumn Examinations 1999.

History. HI 323. Europe since 1914.

Owen Dudley Edwards
M.A.G. Ó Tuathaigh.

Answer three questions.

Time allowed: two hours.

1. "Given the circumstances and cost of the war, the terms imposed on Germany at Versailles were understandable, if politically ill-judged". Discuss.

2. "The Bolsheviks were simply much more in tune with popular feeling than either the constitutionally-minded liberal politicians or the moderate socialists". Is this a satisfactory explanation of the Bolshevik triumph of 1917?

3. "It is a mistake to speak of 'European fascism'; the lack of ideological or political coherence requires us to speak of 'European fascist movements'". Discuss.

or

Account for the triumph of Mussolini in Italy in the 1920s.

4. "Virtually all of the 'successor states' of central and eastern Europe in the inter-war years were riven by destabilising ethnic and economic forces". Discuss.

5. "The fall of Weimar was precipitated by economic crisis; its underlying structural weaknesses, however, were political and cultural". Discuss.

or

Assess the impact on European political developments of the 1929 Wall Street crash and the depression that it caused.

6. In what sense can we talk of 'the success' of the Nazi economic policy in the period 1933-39?

7. Discuss the main issues in contention in the debate on the 'objectives' of Hitler's foreign policy.

8. "The European significance of the Spanish civil war was symbolic and psychological; it was of limited strategic or military consequence". Discuss.

9. "An economic and social revolution unprecedented in scale and speed, it could only have been accomplished by ruthless means". Discuss this verdict on Stalin's transformation of the USSR in the period 1928-38.

10. "Up to 1938 the policy of 'appeasement' pursued by Britain and France was neither shameful nor politically inept". Discuss.

11. In what sense can we describe the war of 1939-45 as 'the first total war'?

or

"Unquestionably, 1941 was the decisive year in determining the outcome of the war". Discuss.

12. "In discussing the origins of the Cold War we should not make too much of 'irreconcilable ideological differences' ". Discuss.

13. "Among the most profound developments in European history in the twentieth century is the relentless, if protracted, 'withdrawal from empire' of the major European states". Discuss.

or

"The impact of technology on political culture has been most dramatic in the field of mass communications". Discuss, with reference to European politics since 1914.

14. What was the basis for the economic recovery within the E.E.C. (now E.U.) in the decades after 1955 ?

or

What factors explain the collapse of the Communist system in eastern Europe and the USSR in the late 1980s ?
