History 107 Final Exam Study Questions

First Section (You will be given two of these questions and will write on one.)

1. It has been suggested that Adolf Hitler was the twentieth century's answer to Napoleon. How would you compare these two figures in terms of their domestic agendas, ideological aims, foreign policy, military accomplishments, and impact on history?

2. Compare and contrast the Congress of Vienna following the Napoleonic wars and the Treaty of Versailles after World War I. Consider the major participants, their policies, and the results of those policies.

3. Discuss the manifold ways in which war has been a catalyst for change in Europe from the Napoleonic wars through World War II.

4. Nationalism has played a very significant role in the history of Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Discuss nationalism's impact on European politics and society from the French Revolution to World War II.

Second Section (You will be given three of these questions and will write on two.)

1. Soviet Communism, German National Socialism, and Italian Fascism are often called "totalitarian regimes." What is meant by this concept? To what extent do you think it applies to each of the above-mentioned regimes? Which is them was most "total," and why?

2. Some historians have argued that the ingredients for World War II were inherent in the settlement following World War I, and that the interwar period abounded in preparations for the next war and failures by the Western democracies to address the threats posed by Italian Fascism and German Nazism. Do you think this is a useful way of summing up the era? If so, why, and if not, why not?

3. In the years following World War I, what factors contributed to the rise of dictatorships in Italy, Germany, and Russia? Why and how did France and Britain avoid falling victim to the same phenomenon?

4. In the early phases of World War II the opponents of the Axis Powers seemed to be facing certain defeat, but of course the Western Powers and their Soviet ally eventually prevailed. What were the central factors in the Allied victory, especially in the Atlantic theater?

5. One of the most horrific consequences of the rise of the European dictatorships (left and right) and then of World War II was the near-destruction of European Jewry. Analyze the role of anti-Semitism and the war on the Jews in European politics and society from World War I through the end of World War II.