

Midterm Review Topics

SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD
CORE 2.2 WILSON SUMMER 2010

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAM

The exam will consist of different kinds of questions:

- ▶ **Identifications** (6 or so) — you'll be provided with a term and you'll need to give (a) a description of what it refers to and (b) its significance or importance. All the identification terms will come from this sheet.
- ▶ **Multiple choice** (6 or so)
- ▶ **Short answer** (2 or 3) — like a quiz questions, a paragraph or two on a specific topic we've discussed
- ▶ **Essay** (1) — a longer discussion giving your interpretation and analysis of a major theme we've covered

Approach to Preparing

- ▶ Make a list of the five or six most important milestone events the West has experienced between 1500 and the point we've reached in class.
 - CAUSES — Make sure you can identify the most important factors that helped cause these events — including long-term factors ("the environment") and short-term factors ("the spark")
 - LEGACIES — Make sure you can identify the legacies of the milestone event. How did it change the culture, society, etc.? What impact did it have on future milestones and events?
- ▶ For each of the questions below, see whether you have a strong idea how to answer it, an okay idea how to answer, or a weak sense of how to answer it. Review from the books and notes at least the "weak" ones.
- ▶ Take note of the terms and review ones you're unfamiliar with.
- ▶ Look through the primary sources you've read and be prepared to discuss the meaning of at least one of them.

TOPICS

Protestant Reformation and Wars of Religion

- ▶ What was Christian humanism, and how did it pave the way for the Protestant Reformation
- ▶ What were Luther's concerns with Catholicism?
- ▶ What role did politics play in establishing Lutheranism?
- ▶ How were Calvin's ideas different from Luther's? What is meant by referring to Calvin as a "radical" compared to the "moderate" Luther?
- ▶ How did the English Reformation differ from the Reformation in other countries?
- ▶ What were the key elements of the "counter-Reformation" or Catholic Reformation?
- ▶ How did the Reformation religious debate become decades of bloody war across Europe?
- ▶ Why does Spain attack England? What are the effects of the defeat of the Spanish Armada for England? For Spain?
- ▶ TERMS: salvation by faith, Anabaptist, predestination, Council of Trent, Huguenots, Spanish Armada

Age of Exploration and the Atlantic System

- ▶ What factors drove Europe into the "age of discovery"?
- ▶ Why did Portugal and Spain lead the way? How did their results differ?
- ▶ Why was the small Dutch Republic so successful in the first wave of overseas imperialism?
- ▶ What factors made Europeans successful in Indonesia and Malaysia but not at first in Vietnam, China or Japan?
- ▶ What role did religion play in the age of discovery?
- ▶ What factors helped a few Conquistadors conquer the great meso-American civilizations? What was Cortés's attitude toward the Aztecs?
- ▶ What is slavery? Why was it needed in the New World? Who were the "winners" and "losers" in the Atlantic System slave trade?
- ▶ How does the Atlantic system transform Europe economically? Culturally? Socially?
- ▶ TERMS: mercantilism, Vasco da Gama, Treaty of Tordesillas, British East India Company, plantation, triangular trade, middle passage

Absolutism and Constitutional Monarchy

- ▶ What were the results of the Thirty Years' War in terms of religion and dominance of Europe?
- ▶ What does the witchcraft craze say about society and the place of women in the 1600s?
- ▶ What is absolutism? How is this developed in France? What do absolutist monarchs do to consolidate power?
- ▶ What were the causes of the English Civil War? What role did religious divide play (Puritans, Anglicans, Catholics)?
- ▶ In England, what led to the elimination of monarchy, its restoration, and then the revolt against the restoration? Under what circumstances did William and Mary come to power?
- ▶ TERMS: constitutional monarchy, absolutism, divine right of kings, Oliver Cromwell, Restoration, Glorious Revolution

Scientific Revolution

- ▶ What were the roots of the Scientific Revolution? What explains its emergence in the 1500s?
- ▶ How did medieval science differ from the science developed in the 1600s?
- ▶ What was the ancient conception of the universe? Why did Copernicus and Galileo find it unsatisfactory?
- ▶ What is meant by Newton's "world machine"? How does this alter humanity's attitude toward God and himself?
- ▶ What is rationalism and how was it a fundamental change from past ways of thinking?
- ▶ How does the Scientific Revolution affect the role of women among the elite?
- ▶ TERMS: geocentric universe, heliocentric universe, Inquisition, "I think therefore I am", scientific method

Enlightenment

- ▶ What factors led to the Enlightenment? What major prior events help make it possible?
- ▶ What are the main ideas of Enlightenment thinkers? Be specific about the contributions of Voltaire, Montesquieu, Diderot, etc.
- ▶ Why is John Locke a key Enlightenment figure?
- ▶ How do Locke's ideas relate to Thomas Hobbes's?
- ▶ Why is the scientist Isaac Newton important to the development of the Enlightenment?
- ▶ What are the main ideas of Adam Smith?

- ▶ What were the main ideas of Rousseau? How were they different from other Enlightenment thinkers?
- ▶ What is the significance of Immanuel Kant's dictum *sapere aude!* ("Dare to know!")
- ▶ TERMS: *tabula rasa*, *laissez-faire*, *salon*, *coffeehouse*, *deism*, *Leviathan*

The Great Powers

- ▶ Is there any validity to the idea of "enlightened despotism," based on the actions of eighteenth-century rulers who profess to act for reform?
- ▶ How does absolutism develop similarly in the great monarchies of Europe in the 1700s?
- ▶ What geographic considerations motivate the rulers of Prussia? Austria? Russia?
- ▶ How does the change in dynasty in Great Britain affect the relationship between king and Parliament?
- ▶ What was the significance of the War of Austrian Succession?
- ▶ What were the effects of the Seven Years' War on France? Great Britain? Austria? Prussia?
- ▶ What social changes are taking place in 18th century Europe? How is society reordering itself? What factors are helping to cause this?
- ▶ TERMS: Hanoverians, William Pitt the Elder, *serfs*, *Silesia*

Atlantic Revolutions

- ▶ What are the origins of the American Revolution? What are the colonists fighting for? What is the impact of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*?
- ▶ What arguments about government are made in the American Declaration of Independence?
- ▶ Why do the Americans create a confederation? How does it go wrong? Why do people oppose the Constitution?
- ▶ What impact does the American Revolution have on Europe? In what two ways does it help bring about the French Revolution?
- ▶ What are the causes of the French Revolution? Is one especially important in your opinion?
- ▶ Why does Louis XVI call the Estates-General? Why is this a dangerous move for him?
- ▶ Why do both the king and the National Assembly agree to war with Austria?
- ▶ Why does the French Revolution become more radical? What are the results of this radicalism?
- ▶ Why does the French Republic degenerate into a Reign of Terror?
- ▶ How is Napoleon the "son" of the French Revolution? How does he carry the Revolution's ideas forward? In what way does he undo what the Revolution had accomplished?
- ▶ What military tactics and innovations help Napoleon become the conqueror of Europe?
- ▶ TERMS: Stamp Act of 1765, Intolerable Acts, confederation, Shays's Rebellion, checks and balances, Bastille, natural rights, First Estate, Second Estate, Third Estate, Jacobins, *sans-coulottes*, Committee of Public Safety, Robespierre, republic of virtue, Thermidorean Reaction, battle of Trafalgar, battle of Waterloo