

## History 209—Europe, 1945 to the Present

Prof. Greg Shaya

### STUDY GUIDE EXAM #2 – 3/1/2023

#### Directions:

The exam will take place at the beginning of class on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Bring your laptops. I will provide a link to the exam and you will complete your answers online.

*For the exam:* Read all the directions! Watch the time carefully. You have thirty minutes for the exam.

*To study for the exam:* This second short exam will cover the material from Wednesday, February 8 through Monday, March 6 (from my introduction to the post-war economic boom and the 1950s through our discussion of *The Joke* and Communist Eastern Europe).

I'll ask you a mix of questions. The exam will be one-part names and dates and details (do you know your facts) and one-part big ideas (how should we think about the large questions of postwar European history and these films we've studied?). To review, you'll want to read through your notes, review the textbook and the outside readings, consolidate your notes, and make outlines. You'll want to be sure that you can identify—and say a few words about—the key terms, names, dates, and sources. You will also want to think about how to answer the questions laid out below.

#### Part 1. **Very Short Answer.** (5 mins., 10 points)

Answer **all of the following** questions in a word or name or a phrase for each. (I'll only count correct answers). *Choice of 12 questions.*

*For example:*

1. Who was the chairman of the French Provisional Government in 1944-1946?
2. Why can't Dr. Hans Merten (in *Murderers Among Us*) love again?

#### Part 2. **Short Answer.** (10 mins., 10 points)

Answer **two** of the following questions in a few sentences each. *Choice of four.*

*For example:*

1. What was the political message of *Open City*?
2. According to William Beveridge, what should be the outcome of the war?

#### Part 3. **Longer Answer.** (15 mins., 20 points)

Answer **one** of the following questions in three short paragraphs. Give concrete details from lecture, discussion, textbook, or films. *Choice of two.*

*For example*

1. What was the impact of the Cold War on western Europe in the late 1940s?
2. How did Communists take control in Eastern Europe?

### **Possible Questions for Part 3**

How did European states manage their economies in the 1950s? (Give examples)

How and why did European leaders forge new European institutions?

What were the forces that produced decolonization?

What were the forces that resisted decolonization? Why was it so difficult, in Algeria, for example?

What was the impact of the death of Stalin on eastern Europe (in the short term, in the long term)?

What produced the remarkable youth culture of the 1960s?

What were the causes of the protests of 1968 in the west?

What produced the Prague Spring and why did it fail?

What was the outcome of protest movements of the 1960s, in France and Czechoslovakia, for example?

### **Key Terms, Ideas, Names, Dates, Sources**

What are the elements of film?

Film representations as interpretations

How can we use film as a primary source to understand the past?

How can we use history to understand film?

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Ukraine

Russian invasion in February of 2022

Part of Russian Empire, Republic in USSR

Holodomor of the 1930s

Independence 1991

Budapest Memorandum 1994

Pulled between west and east

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The Economic Miracle, 1948-1973

*Trentes glorieuses* (thirty glorious years)

*Wirtschaftswunder* (economic miracle)

Ludwig Erhard, The Social Market Economy (a German idea)

Contrast between East European and West European industrial expansion in the 1950s – consumer goods versus industrial production

Contrast between French economic planning (with national industries and top-down planning) and German economic planning (where the government role was limited to social welfare) – both saw enormous economic growth, but achieved it in different ways

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*Mon Oncle* (1958)

Dir. Jacques Tati

Monsieur Hulot, The Arpel Family, Betty New France and Old

A distinctive sound landscape – diegetic sounds, music, minimal conversation...

Signs of modernity – Plastac, American jazz, the automobile

Consumerism, modernity, and the enduring value of play

What else is happening in 1958? In Algeria, for example?

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Victoria De Grazia

A new standard of living – a new consumer society – based on an American model

The “Laundry Revolution”

Obsession with cleanliness (at the same time that wars of decolonization and student protests were unfolding)

The Kitchen Debate, Nixon & Khrushchev

Sarcelles, Modern French housing developments of the 1960s

And the French suburbs – *les banlieues* – a social exclusion

Coca-Colonization

An open question – was American trade with Europe a manifestation of cultural imperialism?

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Decolonization

Cf world of 1900 with world of 2000 – empires to nations

Some examples :

- India and Pakistan (former British India, 1947)
- French Indochina (1954)
- Ghana (former Gold Coast, 1957)
- Kenya (1963)
- Algeria (1962)
- 1960 – the Year of Africa

Forces for decolonization...

- Ideas of self-determination
- Anti-colonial movements among colonial subjects
- European publics

Forces of resistance...

- Politicians – and some publics
- Settlers
- The Army – as in French Algeria

Cf. British vs. French decolonization

Dien Bien Phu – French military defeat

Suez Crisis, 1956

Gamel Nasser

At same time :

- Treaty of Rome 1957
- European Economic Community

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Jawaharlal Nehru

Ho Chi Minh

Ferhat Abbas

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French Algeria

- Settler Society – 1950 c. 1 m. Europeans, 9 m. Algerians
- FLN (National Liberation Front)
- Algerian War, 1954-1962
- Battle of Algiers, September 1956-late 1957
- The Crisis of the 4<sup>th</sup> Republic and the Return of de Gaulle (1958)
- Charles de Gaulle, founder of the Fifth Republic
- Algerian Independence, 1962

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*Battle of Algiers (1965)*

Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo

Saadi Yacef helped write the story, starred Ali la Pointe / Col. Mathieu

Gen. Jacques Massu (a model)

Torture

Terrorism

Visual style – documentary-like, closeups on faces, non-professional actors

Narrative style – complicated timeline

A Portrait of Revolutionary Change – terrorism helps produce... a people. And the people will demand independence

What is missing here? (conflicts bw FLN and other Algerians, role of Degaulle, the French public, international pressure)

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Destalinization and the Soviet Bloc

- Death of Stalin, 1953
- Lavrentiy Beria, “New Course”
- East German Protests, 1953
- Nikolai Kruschchev

Khrushchev’s “Secret Speech” (February 1956)

Poland

- Polish strikes 1956 - Poznan
- Polish Workers Party
- Wladyslaw Gomulka (and the Polish Thaw)

Hungary

- Imre Nagy
- Hungarian Revolution of 1956
- Janos Kadar
- Goulash Socialism

East Germany

- East Germany - 1949 - GDR (German Democratic Republic, DDR)
- SED – Socialist Unity Party
- Walter Ubricht (Head of SED, then President of DDR)
- Berlin Wall 1961 – Operation Rose

French German cooperation

- EEC from 1957
- Friendship Treaty 1963

- DeGaulle & Adenauer
- Different ideas of European institutions
- No to Britain

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*Cleo from 5 to 7* (1962)

Dir. Agnes Varda

French New Wave – a cinema of *auteurs* telling stories of real people

2 hours from a woman's life

Visual style – every shot carefully composed (Varda a photographer), the presence of mirrors, in the background a world of consumerism in midst of *trentes glorieuses*

Cleo's life is in question - that leads her to see herself in a new light

An existential drama – a story of self-discovery and self-understanding – what is an authentic life?

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The Sixties

European Integration & Economic Expansion

Youth Culture

- Subcultures - Mods & Rockers
- The Beatles, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" (Lennon/McCartney, 1964)
- Rolling Stones, "Let's Spend the Night Together" (Jagger/Richards, 1967)
- Mick Jagger on generations
- Existentialism

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1968 in Paris

- Baby boom after WWII
- Crisis in the universities
- Inspired by revolutionaries
- Daniel Cohn-Bendit ("Dany the Red")
- Student protest – police violence
- Massive strikes
- Response of De Gaulle, June elections

In the east, the Prague Spring

- Alexandre Dubcek, Slovak Communist leader
- "Socialism with a human face"

- Response? Brezhnev Doctrine

- Warsaw Pact invasion

Wider outcomes?

- Extreme left – turn to terrorism, RAF, Red Brigades

- Green movement

- Feminist movement

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*The Joke* (1969)

Dir. Jaromil Jires

Based on novel by Milan Kundera

Ludvic Jahn / Helena / Paul / Margareta

The film is a portrait of the revolutionary fervor (of 1948) & the disappointment (for some like Kundera and Jires) of the 1960s

Czech New Wave, or "Czech Film Miracle"

In the background - show trials (1950-1954)

The film is a document of the Prague spring – a critical perspective on Communist Czechoslovakia – but ultimately as pessimistic one. The film – and the story from Kundera – sees no hope in politics

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Postwar Czechoslovakia and the Prague Spring

- "People's Democracy"
- Communist Coup (February 1948)
- Alexander Dubcek
- Rudolf Slánsky (d. 1952)
- Dubcek Government Commission of Inquiry on Political Trials (1968)
- Communist Action Program
- Warsaw Pact Invasion (1968)