

# History 209—Europe, 1945 to the Present

Prof. Greg Shaya

## STUDY GUIDE EXAM #1

### Directions:

The exam will take place at the beginning of class on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Bring your laptops (and power if you need it). 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 (with a small grace period). Be sure that you address all the questions as well as you can. Your answers should be clear, precise, detailed, but concise.

*To study for the exam:* This first short exam will cover the material from the first day of class through Monday, February 10 (from our introduction to the class through our discussion of *Bicycle Thieves* and postwar ideas). 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 minutes. Ten questions; choice of fifteen.)

In a word or a phrase, answer **ten** of the following 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 minutes. Two questions; choice of four.)

In a few sentences, answer **two** of the following questions.

*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 minutes. One question; choice of two.)

Write a fully developed paragraph to answer **one** of the following questions. Give concrete details from lecture, discussion, textbook, and/or films.

*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?

**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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The impact of the Second World War  
physical, economic, human toll  
Yalta Conference, Feb. 1945  
Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill  
Post-war democracy for Europe  
Plan for United Nations  
Potsdam Conference, July-Aug. 1945  
Stalin, Truman, Atlee  
Question of Postwar Germany - German Reparations  
SED – Socialist Unity Party – in Soviet Zone of Germany (unifying Communists & Socialists)  
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*Open City* (1945)  
Roberto Rossellini  
Don Pietro / Pina / Francesco / Manfredi / Marcello  
Communists and Catholics need to work together!  
Benito Mussolini and the legacy of fascism  
Italian Resistance  
A “usable memory” of the war  
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Charles de Gaulle  
Vichy France and the experience of collaboration  
“myth of resistance”  
Denazification  
Nuremburg Trials  
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Four Power Control Council or Allied Control Council of Germany  
George Kennan (Long Telegram, February 1946)

Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech (March 1946)

Harsh Winter of 1946/7  
Crisis over Turkey & Greece (spring 1947)  
Truman Doctrine (February 1947)  
George Marshall’s Plan (June 1947)  
Berlin Blockade & Airlift (June 1948-May 1949)  
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*Murderers Are Among Us* (1946)  
Writer and Dir. Wolfgang Staudte  
Soviet Zone of Germany  
“Süss the Jew” 1940 Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda film  
Hans Mertens / Susanne Wallner / Bruekner  
“rubble film” - Trümmerfilm  
film style – pre-war German cinema (Expressionist cinema)  
War criminals into capitalists  
A Romantic Comedy?  
Another “usable memory” of the war  
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DP’s  
Stephen Spender on scars of war, physical, economic, moral  
Gerald Frank on Jewish refugees  
Palestine  
Bruno Foa on economic situation of 1945  
The challenge of economic recovery  
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Winston Churchill  
Clement Atlee (PM 1945-51)  
The Labour Party  
Sir William Beveridge  
The Welfare State  
National Health Service  
Ernest Bevin (Labour) Foreign Minister  
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO, 1949)  
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*The Third Man* (1949)  
Graham Greene / Carol Reed

Harry Lime / Holly Martins / Anna / Calloway  
Postwar Vienna, a scarred people  
Context of Four Power Occupation of Austria  
The Black Market  
Film Noir – compromised heroes in a world of moral ambiguity  
Moral dilemmas in postwar Europe  
A British view of the Cold War – and an invitation to American action  
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The Beveridge Report (1942)  
“New Britain”  
Five Evils  
Cf. J.M. Keynes in 1919  
George Marshall  
Ernest Bevin’s role in the Marshall Plan  
European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan, May 1948)  
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~~Marshall Plan Films~~  
~~“Marshall and Me” (1948)~~  
~~*The Story of Koula* (1950)~~  
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Charles De Gaulle – Chairman of French Provisional Govt (resigned 1946)  
French Fourth Republic (1946)  
MRP (Mouvement Républicain Populaire) in France  
Jean Monnet – Technocrats  
Christian Democratic Party (of Italy)  
PCI – Italian Communist Party  
Alcide De Gasperi  
Federal Republic of Germany (FRG or BRD, 1949)  
Konrad Adenauer  
Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of Western Germany  
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Hugh Seton-Watson (stages of Communist takeover)  
Polish Workers Party  
Poland – Wladyslaw Gomulka

“Prague Coup” (Feb. 1948)  
Czechoslovakia – Edward Benes, Klement Gottwald, Rudolf Slansky  
Cominform (Communist Information Bureau)  
Yugoslavia – Marshal Tito  
“People’s Democracies”  
Socialist Unity Party of Eastern Germany (SED)  
German Democratic Republic (GDR or DDR, 1949)  
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*The Bicycle Thieves* (1948)  
Dir. Vittorio De Sica  
Antonio / Bruno / Maria / The Thief  
Italian Neo-Realism  
In backdrop - elections of April 1948 – attempted murder of Palmiro Togliatti  
Another scarred city  
A crisis of fatherhood – and political authority  
How to build a new Italy?  
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Existentialism and Jean-Paul Sartre  
Simone de Beauvoir  
*The Second Sex* (1949)

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

What was remembered, and what was forgotten, in postwar commentaries (films for examples) on the war experience?  
What was the economic situation of Europe from 1945-1948?  
When did the Cold War start? And why?  
What was the impact of the Cold War on Western Europe in the late 1940s?  
What institutions tied the United States to Europe?  
How did West European states reconstruct their political systems (in France, or in Germany, say)?

How did Communists take control in Eastern Europe?

What new ideas were made possible by the experience of war?