Final Exam Study Guide

Instructions: The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th, from 8-10 a.m. It is designed to test your knowledge of the material covered in this course, as well as your ability to think historically and analytically about that material. Bring to the exam a black or blue pen and a blank exam book, as well as your Global West textbook and reader, which you will turn in along with your exam. You will not, however, be permitted to use either books or notes on the exam.

Part I (30 points): Fifteen multiple-choice questions covering the material in both the textbook and the reader since the mid-term exam (chapters 8-16). You might be asked to identify the leader of German unification; the central points of Marx’s Communist Manifesto; the meaning of “the white man’s burden;” or how Europe was transformed by decolonization after WWII.

Part II (30 points): You will be asked to write a medium-length essay in which you answer one of the following questions, all of which relate to the material since the mid-term exam (chapters 8-16). You will have two to choose from.

1. Why was Britain the first country to industrialize?
2. What were the main consequences of industrialization?
3. What was the impact of nationalism in the nineteenth century?
4. How were Europeans able to colonize so much of Africa during the nineteenth century?
5. Was the First World War an accident or the product of underlying forces?
6. Why was WWI a disillusioning experience?
7. What was the appeal of totalitarianism in the 1920s and 1930s?
8. How did WWII bring about the end of European dominance in world affairs?

Part III (40 points): You will be asked to write a thoughtful, well-supported essay in which you answer one of the following questions, covering the course as a whole. You will have two to choose from.

1. When a journalist asked Mohandas Gandhi for his opinion on western civilization, Gandhi famously replied, “Western civilization? I think it would be a good idea.” What do you think he meant?
2. The term “Western Civilization” is frequently used but rarely understood. Choose three events, movements, or people in the history of modern Western Civilization, and situate them in a global context.
3. How have the boundaries — geographic, cultural, economic, and political — of Western Civilization shifted between 1400 and 2000?
4. European history looks very different from the periphery — from the outside — than from the inside. Discuss, using at least three sources written by non-Europeans.