

Renaissance and Reformation

1977 Trace the evolution of religious toleration as a political practice and assess the factors behind its development from the Reformation through the Enlightenment.

1979 The chalice shown above on the left was used by a sixteenth century Roman Catholic priest in the celebration of the mass; the wooden cup shown on the right is what he used to celebrate the Lord's supper after he left the church and became a follower of Martin Luther. How does the new cup reflect the theology and the ideals of the Reformation?

1979 European monarchs of the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries are often referred to as the "new monarchs." What was "new" about them? Do their actions warrant this label?

1980 Explain how economic, technological, political, and religious factors promoted European explorations from about 1450 to about 1525.

1980 How did the disintegration of the medieval church and the coming of the Reformation contribute to the development of nation-states in Western Europe between 1450 and 1648?

1982 Compare and contrast the motives for European overseas expansion during the Age of Discovery (fifteenth and sixteenth centuries) and during the Age of New Imperialism (nineteenth and twentieth centuries.)

1983 "Luther was both a Revolutionary and a Conservative." Evaluate this statement with respect to Luther's responses to the political and social questions of his day.

1984 Compare and contrast the views of Machiavelli and Rousseau on human nature and the relationship between government and the governed.

1985 To what extent is the term "Renaissance" a valid concept for a distinct period in early modern European history?

1985 What were the responses of the Catholic authorities in the sixteenth century to the challenges posed by the Lutheran Reformation?

1986 "The Reformation was a rejection of the secular spirit of the Italian Renaissance." Defend or refute this statement using specific examples from sixteenth century Europe.

1987 "The Protestant Reformation was primarily an economic event." By describing and determining the relative importance of the economic, political, and religious causes of the Protestant Reformation, defend or refute this statement.

1988 Describe and analyze the ways in which the development of printing altered both the culture and the religion of Europe during the period 1450-1600.

1989 "In the fifteenth century, European society was still centered on the Mediterranean region, but by the end of the seventeenth century, the focus of Europe had shifted north." Identify and analyze the economic developments between 1450 and 1700 that helped bring about this shift.

1991 Describe and analyze the ways in which sixteenth century Roman Catholics defended their faith against the Protestant Reformation.

1994 Explain the ways in which Italian Renaissance humanism transformed ideas about the individual's role in society.

1995 Compare and contrast the attitudes of Martin Luther and John Calvin toward political authority and social order.

1996 Compare and contrast the patronage of the arts by Italian Renaissance rulers with that of the dictators of the 1930's.

1996 Assess the extent to which the Protestant Reformation promoted new expectations about social roles in the sixteenth century. Refer to at least two social groups in your assessment.

1998 Compare and contrast the Lutheran Reformation and the Catholic Reformation of the sixteenth century regarding the reform of both religious doctrines and religious practices.

1998 Discuss how Renaissance ideas are expressed in the Italian art of the period referring to specific works and artists.

1999 Discuss the relationship between politics and religion by examining the wars of religion. Choose two specific examples from the following:

Dutch Revolt

French Wars of Religion

English Civil War

Thirty Years' War

2001 Discuss the political and social consequences of the Protestant Reformation in the first half of the sixteenth century.

Commercial Revolution and the Emergence of Territorial States

1990 In 1519 Charles of Hapsburg became Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor. Discuss and analyze the political, social, and religious problems he faced over the course of his imperial reign (1519-1556).

1992 Analyze the changes in the European economy from about 1450-1700 brought about by the voyages of exploration and by colonization. Give specific examples.

1993 In 1490 there was no such country as Spain, yet within a century it had become the most powerful nation in Europe and within another had sunk to the status of a third rate power. Describe and analyze the major social, economic, and political reasons for Spain's rise and fall.

1995 Analyze the influence of the theory of mercantilism on the domestic and foreign policies of France 1600-1715.

1997 Focusing on the period before 1600, describe and analyze the cultural and economic interactions between Europe, and the Western Hemisphere as a result of the Spanish and Portuguese exploration and settlement.

2000 "Leadership determines the fate of a country." Evaluate this quotation in terms of Spain's experience under Philip II.

2000 Discuss three developments that enabled Great Britain to achieve a dominant economic position between 1700 and 1830.

2001 Describe and analyze how overseas expansion by European states affected global trade and international relations from 1600 to 1715.

17th Century Absolutism

1978 "Every successful revolution puts on in time the robes of the tyrant it has deposed."
Evaluate this statement with regard to the English Revolution (1640-1660), the French Revolution (1789-1815), and the Russian Revolution (1917-1930).

1981 Compare the economic roles of the state under seventeenth century mercantilism and twentieth century communism. Illustrate your answer with references to the economic system of France during Louis XIV's reign under Colbert and of the Soviet Union under Stalin.

1982 In the seventeenth century, what political conditions accounted for the increased power of both the Parliament in England and the monarchy in France?

1985 "In seventeenth century England the aristocracy lost its privileges but retained its power; in seventeenth century France the aristocracy retained its privileges but lost its power." Assess the accuracy of this statement with respect to political events and social developments in the two countries in the seventeenth century.

1986 In the seventeenth century, how did England and the Dutch Republic compete successfully with France and Spain for control of overseas territory and trade?

1987 Analyze the way in which both the theory and practice of monarchy evolved in England from 1603 (the death of Elizabeth I) to 1688-89 (the Glorious Revolution).

1991 Analyze the military, political, and social factors that account for the rise of Prussia between 1640-1786.

1993 Describe and analyze the changes in the role of Parliament in English politics between the succession of James I and the Glorious Revolution.

1999 Machiavelli suggested that a ruler should have behave both "like a lion," and "like a fox."
Analyze the policies of TWO of the following European rulers, indicating the degree to which they successfully followed Machiavelli's suggestion.

Elizabeth I of England
Henry IV of France
Catherine the Great of Russia
Frederick II of Prussia

Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment

1974 The dynastic state of the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries was succeeded by the nation-state in the nineteenth century. Describe this evolution and consider the forces responsible for this shift in function and structure.

1975 Write an essay that relates the development of the large conscripted citizen army from its origins in the "levee en masse" to the emergence of the modern nation-state.

1976 In a well organized essay, discuss how the Enlightenment was an attempt to apply the principles of the Scientific Revolution to the problems of human society.

1976 Compare the rise of absolute monarchy and enlightened despotism in Prussia with the rise of absolute monarchy and enlightened despotism in Austria from the late seventeenth century to the eve of the French Revolution.

1980 How did social and political conditions in eighteenth century Western Europe prior to 1788 influence the ideas of the Enlightenment?

1982 In what ways did Enlightenment thinkers build on or make use of the ideas of Newton and Locke?

1984 Compare and contrast the views of Machiavelli and Rousseau on human nature and the relationship between government and the governed.

1984 How did the developments in scientific thought from Copernicus to Newton create a new conception of the universe and of humanity's place within it?

1987 How and in what ways did the writings of Karl Marx draw on the Enlightenment concepts of progress, natural law, and reason?

1988 "In the eighteenth century, people turned to the new science for a better understanding of social and economic problems of the day." Assess the validity of this statement by using specific examples from the Enlightenment era.

1990 Analyze the ways in which specific intellectual and scientific developments of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries contributed to the emergence of the religious outlook known as "Deism."

1991 Describe the new astronomy of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and analyze the ways in which it changed scientific thought and methods.

1993 Compare and contrast the attitudes toward science and technology held by the Enlightenment thinkers with the various attitudes held by European artists and intellectuals in the twentieth century.

1994 Analyze the ways in which Enlightenment thought addressed religious beliefs and social issues in the eighteenth century.

1998 To what extent did the Enlightenment express optimistic ideas in eighteenth century Europe? Illustrate your answer with references to specific individuals and their work.

2000 Explain the development of the scientific method in the seventeenth century and the impact of scientific thinking on traditional sources of authority.

2000 Evaluate how the ideas of Charles Darwin and Sigmund Freud challenged Enlightenment assumptions about human behavior and the role of reason.

French Revolution and the Congress of Vienna

1984 "The essential cause of the French Revolution was the collision between a powerful, rising bourgeoisie and an entrenched aristocracy defending its privileges." Assess the validity of this statement as an explanation of the events leading up to the French Revolution of 1789.

1985 Compare and contrast the roles of the peasantry and urban workers in the French Revolution of 1789 to those of the peasantry and of urban workers in the Russian Revolutions of 1917.

1986 To what extent and in what ways was the French Revolution during the period 1789 through the Reign of Terror (1794) an attempt to create a government based on Enlightenment ideals?

1989 "Political leaders committed to radical or extremist goals often exert authoritarian control in the name of higher values." Support or refute this statement with reference to the political and cultural policies of Robespierre during the French Revolution.

1992 "Napoleon was a child of the Enlightenment." Assess the validity of this statement above. Use examples both to specific aspects of the Enlightenment and to Napoleon's policies and attitudes.

1993 Describe the ways in which conservative political and social views shaped the peace settlement of the Congress of Vienna. Explain the consequences of the peace settlement for the period of 1815-1848.

1996 Identify the major social groups in France on the eve of the 1789 Revolution. Assess the extent to which their aspirations were achieved in the period from the meeting of the Estates General (May 1789) to the declaration of the republic (September 1792).

1999 Compare and contrast the degree of success of treaties negotiated in Vienna (1814-1815) and Versailles (1919) in achieving European stability.

Industrialism

1974 How did the extension of the franchise after 1850 affect the programs and attitudes of the radical, liberal, and conservative parties in the major Western European nations?

1974 Discuss the role of economic and technological change as a factor in the consolidation of the nation-state in the nineteenth century and as a factor in the emergence of regional blocks of industrial states in the twentieth century.

1975 "The centralized governments of continental Europe dominated the rate and direction of industrial development in their respective countries in the period 1850-1940." Explain the facts and events that form the basis of this statement and describe the specific ways in which the statement is a valid generalization about the period 1850-1940.

1975 Compare the economic, political, and social conditions in Great Britain and in France during the eighteenth century, showing why they favored the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain more so than in France.

1976 "The Treaty of Vienna (1815) was a more realistic accommodation to the post-Napoleonic period than was the Versailles settlement (1919) to the post-First World War Period." Decide the merits of the statement above and in a well developed argument support your decision with a carefully reasoned analysis of the events mentioned.

1977 There were a number of factors that delayed the industrialization of Eastern Europe. Discuss them and then compare them with the factors that encouraged the earlier industrialization of Western Europe.

1977 Discuss the origins and evolution of European liberalism as a political movement during the nineteenth century.

1978 Discuss the combination of social, cultural, political, and economic factors that allowed Great Britain to be the first nation to industrialize.

1979 Discuss the extent to which nineteenth century romanticism was or was NOT a conservative cultural and intellectual movement.

1979 What political and social changes in Western and Central Europe account for the virtual disappearance of revolutionary outbreaks in the half century following 1848?

1982 Identify and explain the similarities and differences between socialism and liberalism in nineteenth century Europe.

1983 Identify the social and economic factors in pre-industrial England that explain why England was the first country to industrialize.

1985 To what extent did Marx and Freud each challenge the nineteenth century liberal belief in rationality and progress?

1985 Compare and contrast the efforts to ensure European collective security that were made by the victorious powers between 1815 and 1830 (after the Napoleonic Wars) with those made by the victorious powers between 1918 and 1933 (after the First World War).

1986 Evaluate the effectiveness of collective response by workers to industrialization in Western Europe during the course of the nineteenth century.

1988 Describe and compare the differences among Utopian socialists, Karl Marx, and Revisionist socialists in their critiques of nineteenth century European economy and society.

1988 Assess the extent to which the unification of Germany under Bismarck led to authoritarian government there between 1871 and 1914.

1989 Between 1750 and 1850 more and more Western Europeans were employed in cottage industry and in factory production. Analyze how these two types of employment affected employer-employee relations, working conditions, family relations and the standard of living during this period.

1989 Analyze and compare the effects of nationalism on Italian and Austro-Hungarian politics between 1815 and 1914.

1991 Between 1815 and 1848 the condition of the laboring classes and the problems of political stability were critical issues in England. Describe and analyze the reforms that social critics and politicians of this period proposed to resolve these problems.

1992 Describe and analyze the issues and ideas in the debate in Europe between 1750 and 1846 over the proper role of government in the economy. Give specific examples.

1993 Discuss the effects of the industrial economy on Western peasant women and working class women from 1830 to 1914.

1995 Identify four specific changes in science and technology, and explain their effects on Western European family and private life between 1918 and 1970.

1995 Analyze the key developments that characterized the European economy in the second half of the nineteenth century.

1996 Describe the physical transformation of European cities in the second half of the nineteenth century and analyze the social consequences of this transformation.

1997 Describe and analyze the economic, cultural, and social changes that led to and sustained Europe's rapid population growth in the period from approximately 1650 to 1800.

1998 Compare and contrast the roles of the British working women in the pre-industrial economy (before 1750) with their roles in the era 1850 to 1920.

Pre-World War I

1975 In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the cultures of China and India were viewed by Europeans as equal to and perhaps superior to their own. In the nineteenth century, this attitude had changed to one of contempt and disdain. Write an essay that offers reasons why this shift in attitude occurred and that discusses the events in European history that may have accounted for it.

1975 Enumerate and explain some of the major causes that contributed to the oscillation from strong to weak governments in France during the period from 1789 to the founding of the Fifth Republic in 1958.

1976 Assess the nature and importance of economic factors that helped determine the race for empire among the major European powers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

1983 To what extent and in what ways did intellectual developments in Europe in the period 1880-1920 undermine confidence in human rationality and in a well-ordered, dependable universe?

1986 To what extent and in what ways has twentieth century physics challenged the Newtonian view of the universe and society?

1990 How and in what ways were economic and political factors responsible for intensifying European imperialistic activity in Africa from mid-nineteenth century to the beginning of the First World War?

1990 In February 1848, the middle classes and workers in France joined to overthrow the government of Louis Philippe. By June the two groups were at odds in their political, economic, and social thinking. Analyze what transpired to divide the groups and describe the consequences for French politics.

1991 Describe and analyze the ways in which Marxism, Freudianism and the women's movement challenged traditional European beliefs before the First World War.

1992 Contrast European diplomacy in the periods 1890-1914 and 1918 to 1939 respectively. Include in your analysis goals, practices, and results.

1994 Describe and analyze the longterm social and economic trends in the period 1860 to 1917 that prepared the ground for the revolution in Russia.

1995 Discuss the ways in which European Jews were affected by and responded to liberalism, nationalism and anti-Semitism in the nineteenth century.

1997 Analyze the policies of three European colonial powers regarding Africa between 1871 and 1914.

1998 To what extent and in what ways did nationalist tensions in the Balkans between 1870 and 1914 contribute to the outbreak of the First World War.

World War I and Between the Wars

1975 Discuss the ways in which the First World War contributed to the death of the aristocratic tradition in politics, social structure, and culture.

1976 "In the last century and a half, Russia's principal economic problem has been the peasantry." Evaluate this statement, indicating your degree of agreement or disagreement, and the reasons for your position.

1979 "Every war creates illusions and is conducted in the name of realizable ideals." Evaluate this statement by comparing the goals for which the First World War was fought to those for which the Second World War was fought.

1980 What aspects of Russian society and institutions were most changed and what aspects least changed by the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917? Limit your discussions to the first ten years (1917-1927) of the new regime and account for the changes you note.

1981 Analyze the major social, political, and technological changes that took place in European warfare between 1789 and 1918.

1982 Why did Germany's experiment with parliamentary democracy between 1919 and 1933 fail?

1982 What policies of the Stalinist government perpetuated the essential features of the Tsarist regime under Nicholas II (1894-1917)?

1983 Compare the rise to power of fascism in Italy and in Germany.

1986 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the economic revival of Western Europe between 1945 and 1970.

1987 "The Czarist regime fell in 1917 because it had permitted tremendous change and progress in some areas while trying to maintain a political order that had outlived its time." Assess the validity of this statement as an explanation of the abdication of Nicholas II in 1917.

1987 Analyze the ways in which the Cold War affected the political development of European nations from the end of the Second World War in 1945 to the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961.

1988 Analyze and assess the extent to which the First World War accelerated European social change in such areas as work, sex roles, and government involvement in everyday life.

• The Aftermath

1989 How and in what ways did European painting or literature reflect the disillusionment in society between 1919 and 1939? Support your answer with specific artistic or literary examples.

1992 Contrast European diplomacy in the periods 1890 to 1914 and 1918 to 1939 respectively. Include in your analysis goals, practices, and results.

1993 "Dictators in twentieth-century Europe have had much greater control over culture and society than had divine right monarchs of earlier centuries." Assess the validity of this statement, using specific examples from each era to support your position.

1994 Discuss and analyze the political and economic reasons for the failure of parliamentary democracy in Germany after the First World War.

1995 Compare and contrast the extent to which Catherine the Great and Joseph Stalin were "Westernizers."

1996 Compare and contrast the relationships between the great powers and Poland in the periods 1772-1815 and 1918-1939.

1997 Account for the response of the European democracies to the military aggression by Italy and Germany during the 1930's.

1999 Compare and contrast the degree of success of treaties negotiated in Vienna (1814-1815) and Versailles (1919) in achieving European stability.

2001 How did new theories in physics and psychology in the period from 1900 to 1939 challenge existing ideas about the individual and society?

2001 Compare and contrast the French Jacobins' use of state power to achieve revolutionary goals during the Terror (1793-1794) with Stalin's use of state power to achieve revolutionary goals in the Soviet Union during the period 1928 to 1939.

Women/Child Raising in History

1991 Describe and analyze the ways in which Marxism, Freudianism and the women's movement challenged the traditional European beliefs before the First World War.

1993 Discuss the effects of the industrial economy on Western European peasant women and working class women from 1830 to 1914.

1994 Between 1450 and 1800, many women gained power as rulers, some as reigning queens, others as regents. Identify two such powerful women and discuss how issues of gender, such as marriage and reproduction, influenced their ability to obtain and exercise power.

1995 Compare and contrast the extent to which Catherine the Great and Joseph Stalin were "Westernizers."

1996 Compare and contrast the women's suffrage movements of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the European feminist movements of the 1960's and 1970's.

1998 Compare and contrast the roles of British working women in the pre-industrial economy (before 1750) with their roles in the era 1850 to 1920.

2000 Man for the field and woman for the hearth:
 Man for the sword and for the needle she:
 Man with the head and women from the heart:
 Man to command and woman to obey:

How accurately do the lines of poetry above reflect the gender roles of European men and women in the late nineteenth century?

2001 Analyze how and why western European attitudes toward children and child-rearing changed in the period from 1750 to 1900.