

## STUDY GUIDE FOR THE FINAL EXAM

Please remember to bring one or (better) two blank green books, available at the UO bookstore. You should review your lecture notes, the presentation slides, and all readings assigned, including Tipton's *History of Modern Germany*.

A word about coverage: the exam covers the entire class, but as you can see from the items below, it will emphasize what we've done since the midterm. You will NOT be asked a question on the exam about anything we haven't dealt with in class by Friday, December 2.

The exam will have three sections. You must do all three sections; within sections I and II, you will have a choice of questions. All questions on the exam will be drawn from those below. However, you will not be given all the options that appear under I and II here.

**I. Identifications.** You will be asked to identify three items chosen from the list in Section I below. Each identification should do **two things**: give me **specific information** about the item (who, what, where, when) **and** explain the item's **historical significance**. You do not need to write an essay for each item or tell me everything you possibly could about it. Be sure to give adequate attention to explaining the historical significance.

**II. Analytical essay.** Write an analytical essay on *one* of the topics below under section II. By "analytical," I mean an essay that includes information but also displays a grasp of historical reasoning. A strong answer will show an awareness of the multiple causes that historians tend to see as factors in explaining any major historical development.

**III. Synthetic essay.** Write a synthetic essay on the topic. See the description below.

### Section I: Identifications

Otto von Bismarck  
National Liberals  
anti-Semitism (in Germany during the modern period)  
Reichstag Peace Resolution  
November Revolution  
Paul von Hindenburg  
Dawes Plan OR Treaty of Locarno  
"night of the long knives"  
Nuremberg Laws  
November Pogrom ("Night of the Broken Glass")  
*Wehrmacht*  
Auschwitz

German Democratic Republic  
Federal Republic of Germany  
CDU/CSU = Christian Democrats  
Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*)  
Berlin wall  
Konrad Adenauer  
“economic miracle” (*Wirtschaftswunder*)  
“guest workers”  
Stasi

## II. Analytical essay:

1. Write an essay in which you analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the Weimar Republic. Do you think that the demise of the republic was inevitable? Why or why not?
2. Write an essay that describes and explains the dynamism of the Nazi regime--that is, its powerful tendencies toward radicalization and expansion of its aims. Discuss several areas of the regime’s structure and its policies. Be sure to comment on the differences in how historians have explained the regime’s dynamism-- “intentionalists” and “structuralists.”
3. In *Germans into Nazis*, how does Peter Fritzsche account for the sudden rise of the Nazi party after 1929? Give a comprehensive answer that takes the book’s entire sweep into account. You should also specifically explain his rejection of the widespread view that the Treaty of Versailles and the Great Depression were responsible. Do you agree with his alternative to that view, and why or why not?

## III. Synthetic essay

The third section of the exam asks you to describe and explain important continuities and discontinuities of German history from 1871 through the early 1960s--though of course not all aspects of the entire period. Here is the question:

“Write a synthetic essay on the continuities and discontinuities of modern German history, using the following instructions:

Pick ANY TWO periods of modern German history from among the following: the *Kaiserreich*, i.e. the German Empire; the Weimar Republic; the Nazi regime; and postwar West and/or East Germany. Write an essay in which you do two things: portray any basic continuities between the two eras; and portray any basic discontinuities between the two eras. Your goal should be to synthesize what you have learned, not just to list bullet points.

Two notes:

first, the eras need not be consecutive (for instance, you could relate the Weimar Republic to the postwar Federal Republic);

second, for the postwar era, you may either treat both the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany or choose just one of them.”