

## STUDY GUIDE FOR THE MIDTERM EXAM

Please remember to bring at least one blank green book. You should review your lecture notes, the online class presentation slides, and your readings, including Tipton and the other readings assigned.

The exam will consist of two parts:

I. Identifications (15 minutes): write *three* short identifications, which will be chosen from the list below. There will be choice on this section of the exam. Each of your answers should do two things: give me identifying information (that is, who, what, where, when), and also put the item in a larger context--for instance, by stating its significance for one of the larger themes or developments we've been looking at so far this term. Don't write little essays--these are meant to be short answers. *Resist the temptation to tell me everything you know about the item.*

II. Short essay (15 minutes): write *one* short essay on either a supplementary (non-textbook) reading or an important development in German history of the period. Of the topics listed below, I will offer two on the exam, and ask you to pick one. A short essay means two or three solid paragraphs.

III. Historiographical/interpretive essay (20 minutes). You will be asked to do two things: explain the *Sonderweg* approach to modern German history as well as the Fischer thesis, and then take a position on whether you find them convincing by using evidence from the history of the period. There's no choice in this section of the exam. And there's no single, correct answer: you can accept or reject the "special path" approach and/or the Fischer thesis, and there's a variety of historical developments you could point to to make your case.

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**I. Identification items.** You'll be asked to identify three items taken from this list. (I'll be giving you a choice of three out of five or six on the exam.)

Prussian three-class suffrage	Pan-German League
Prussian Constitutional Crisis (1860s)	<i>Weltpolitik</i>
the "long depression" (1873-1896)	navalism
Junkers	Adolf Stoecker
<i>Kulturkampf</i>	Wilhelm II
Center Party	September Program (1914)
National Liberals	Hindenburg Program
SPD	Ludendorff
"refounding of the <i>Reich</i> " (1878/79)	Supreme Military Command ( <i>OHL</i> )
Bismarck's social insurance laws	Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
"rallying politics" ( <i>Sammlungspolitik</i> )	<i>Reichstag</i> peace resolution
Schlieffen Plan	Treaty of Versailles

**II. Short essay**

- A. Summarize the basic ideas of the German Social Democratic Party and explain the positions in the “evolutionary socialism” debate.
- B. In the first chapter of *Germans into Nazis*, Peter Fritzsche argues that the “August Days” of 1914 constituted an important shift in the character of German nationalism. What was that shift, and what then happened to it in the course of the war? Do you agree or disagree with Fritzsche’s analysis?
- C. Heinrich Class, author of *If I Were Kaiser*, was one of the most prominent right-wing critics of the German Empire. What did he see as the major ills of the Empire, and what policies did he propose to address them?
- D. German policy toward the “East” has been one of the threads we’ve traced so far this term. What do you see as the major phases in the development of Prussia’s and Imperial Germany’s Eastern Policy?

**III. Historiographical essay:** see above