**Spring 2024**

**Modern Europe**

**Assignment 1 – The Twin Revolutions**

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***This assignment is due on Blackboard by end of day on Monday, March 4. Questions 1 through 15 should be in short-answer format of four or five complete sentences (not bullet-points or sentence fragments). They are worth five points each.***

**Questions 1-6 are based on Klemen's von Metternich's *Letter to Czar Alexander* of 1820 posted on Blackboard 5 points each *(the text of this letter is in the Content section of Blackboard)***

1. Why does Metternich believe that human beings' “presumptuousness” contributed to the outbreak of Revolution in France in 1789?

Metternich believes that humans being’ presumptuousness contributed to the outbreak of the Revolution in France because of conflicting ideas. Those revolting believed in their own faith and trusted their own knowledge. This idea brought together a revolution against the “controlling” government over them. Metternich mentions how knowledge with a lack of experience was a factor in presumptuous humans in that it gives them false guidance, leading to a conflict between what they believe is self-governance and the existing authority controlling their lives. This presumptuousness then spread rapidly and eventually led to the revolution in 1789.

1. What were some of the reasons given by Metternich for the rise in “presumptuousness” in his own era?

Metternich describes how the extremely fast progression of the human mind and the growth of wisdom fed into the rise of presumptuousness. He explains how “the natural effect of the rapid progression of the human mind towards the perfecting of so many things” led many humans “lost” or led to “presumptuousness”. New discoveries and new inventions would be the greatest factor in this rapid progression of the human mind because of the new ways to obtain knowledge alongside a much larger array of knowledge to choose from. Additionally, Metternich mentions how outside factors such as the American revolution would inspire the outbreak of the French Revolution.

1. Why according to Metternich did some members of the aristocracy support the Revolution?

According to Metternich, some aristocrats supported the Revolution because they are “falsely ambitious men”, or “lost spirits”. The disease of presumptuousness has overtaken them, and they do not hesitate to take advantage of it. The aristocrats, or the middle class, have learned from the past and declared themselves the masters of the future. Being in between the nobles and the commoners, they are essentially a bridge between the oppressed and the oppressors. This middle position, having more “power” than the lower classes but not being noble enough for the higher classes, is a door to bring the “presumptuous” ideas directly into the ruling class, controlling the future because it will benefit them.

1. What impact does Metternich think ideas such as “the Social Contract” had in the outbreak of Revolution in 1789?
2. What according to Metternich are the true bases of government?
3. Identify three recommendations offered by Metternich on how kings should respond to demands for constitutional government.

**Questions 7-9 are on Andrew Ure’s *Philosophy of the Factory System* of 1835 5 points each**

[**https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1835ure.asp**](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1835ure.asp)

1. Identify the arguments given by Andrew Ure for rejecting claims that the new factory system had negative efforts on the physical and mental health of workers employed in that system.
2. Identify some of the reasons given by Andrew Ure for his support replacing human labor with machines in the factory system of early 19th century Great Britain.
3. Identify the reason given by Ure for favoring using women and adolescents as workers over adult men, and for using untrained workers over skilled artisan workers in the new factory system.

**Questions 10-11 below are based on the *Women Miners in the Coal Pits* report from the British parliament from 1842 5 points each**

[**https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1842womenminers.asp**](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1842womenminers.asp)

1. Identify some of the issues with labor conditions in the British coal mining industry uncovered by the British parliament’s investigations of that industry in 1842
2. Identify some of the negative social effects on female coal miners described in the British parliamentary investigation of 1842.

**Questions 12-15 are based on “The Defense of Laissez-faire” 5 points each** [**https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1840laissezfaire.asp**](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/1840laissezfaire.asp)

1. What according to the 1840 “Defense of Laissez-faire”, does experience show about the effects of economic regulation?
2. What according to this “Defense” should be the goal of economic legislation?
3. Why does the author of the “Defense” see the first British laws regulating child labor in 1802 as a bad?
4. How according to this author should child labor be controlled?

*Question #16 requires an extended response of approximately one two to three full paragraphs giving your analysis of the claims made by Robespierre defending extreme measures to advance his concept of a just society.*

1. **Examine the speech of French leader Maximillian Robespierre defending the Law of 22 Prairial Year II (10 June 1794) for the question below – 10 points. The text of that speech is here:** [**https://revolution.chnm.org/d/439/**](https://revolution.chnm.org/d/439/)

Critics of Robespierre and the French Revolution claim that this law and policy laid the foundation for repressive modern governments’ justification of repression and even mass atrocities in defense of “equality” and “justice.” Others claim that genuine progress toward greater equality and justice sometimes requires extreme measures against existing injustice and unjustifiable inequality such as those used by Robespierre. Explain your view on this debate and WHY you have your particular opinion.