

2014 AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

EUROPEAN HISTORY SECTION II

Part C

(Suggested planning and writing time—35 minutes)

Percent of Section II score—27 1/2

Directions: You are to answer ONE question from the three questions below. Make your selection carefully, choosing the question that you are best prepared to answer thoroughly in the time permitted. You should spend 5 minutes organizing or outlining your answer. Write your answer to the question on the lined pages of the Section II free-response booklet, making sure to indicate the question you are answering by writing the appropriate question number at the top of each page.

Write an essay that:

- Has a relevant thesis.
- Addresses all parts of the question.
- Supports thesis with specific evidence.
- Is well organized.

5. Analyze major factors that caused people to move from the countryside to cities in Europe during the 1800s.
6. Analyze how warfare and the rise of totalitarian regimes affected the development of the arts in Europe during the first half of the 1900s.
7. Analyze major factors that affected the changing balance of power among European states in the period 1848–1914.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 7

Analyze major factors that affected the changing balance of power among European states in the period 1848–1914.

9–8 Points

- Thesis explains how various events and processes contributed to the changing balance of power between European states.
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in discussing at least two differing factors that changed the balance of power among European states in detail — either discussed together or separately.
- Essay is well balanced, discussing multiple factors individually and at length.
- Essay provides relevant and developed evidence of two or more factors affecting the balance of power.
- May contain errors in fact or chronology that do not detract from the argument.

7–6 Points

- Thesis states various events and processes that contributed to the changing balance of power between European states.
- Organization is clear and effective but possibly less consistent by providing [one fully developed and one or two less developed arguments] of factors that changed the balance of power among European states.
- Essay is balanced, discussing multiple factors individually; though discussion of one or the other may be less in depth.
- Essay provides relevant evidence of at least two factors affecting the balance of power.
- May contain an error in fact or chronology that detracts from the argument.

5–4 Points

- Thesis states one or more events and processes that affected the changing balance of power between European states.
- Organization is clear and effective but less consistent by providing one developed and one or two less-developed arguments of factors affecting the changing the balance of power in Europe.
- Essay may show some imbalance, being too narrative or succeeding in only one argument convincingly.
- Essay provides evidence of one or two factors affecting balance of power, one possibly more developed than the other.
- May contain a few errors in fact or chronology that detract from the argument.

3–2 Points

- Thesis may restate prompt, possibly with limited reference to possible factors.
- Organization offers minimal argumentation of factors that changed the balance of power.
- Essay may show serious imbalance, omitting or misconstruing parts of the prompt.
- Essay may offer some evidence of factors affecting balance of power — be it vague or conflated.
- May contain several errors in fact or chronology that detract from the argument.

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Question 7 (continued)

1–0 Points

- No discernible or negligible attempt at a thesis.
- Organization is coincidental or offers no valid argumentation of factors affecting the balance of power.
- Essay may show gross imbalance; parts of the prompt are ignored.
- Essay may offer trivial or ineffectual evidence of factors affecting the balance of power.
- May contain numerous errors in fact or chronology that detract from the argument.

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Question 7 (continued)

Historical Background

The period between the failed revolutions of 1848 and the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 brought to an end the carefully crafted balance of power after the fall of Napoleon (1815 Congress of Vienna; Concert of European Powers) and the liberalist and romantic notions of statecraft. Nationalism and *Realpolitik* (pragmatic politics), as well as industrial might and imperialist zeal, conspired to forcefully shift power among the European States:

- **The rise of new states**
 - Italy (1858–1870), Germany (1864–1871)
- **The (re)assertion of power**
 - France (1853–56 Crimean War; 1859 Austrian War, Unification Italy; expansion Indo-China)
 - Germany (1864 Danish War; 1866 Austro-Prussian War; 1870–71 Franco-Prussian War)
 - Great Britain (1899–1902 Boer War; expansion West Africa)
- **The retreat of power**
 - Russia (1853–56 Crimean War; 1904–05 Russo-Japanese War)
 - Austria (1866 Austro-Prussian War; 1867 *Ausgleich* [compromise]–Dual Monarchy)
 - France (1870–71 Franco-Prussian War)
 - Ottoman Empire (Eastern Question; 1877–78 Russo Turkish war; 1878 Congress of Berlin)
- **Industrialization and economic assertion**
 - Second Industrial Revolution; 1856 Bessemer converter[steel]; 1869 Suez Canal)
- **Imperialist tensions**
 - Moroccan Crises (1905–06; 1911)
 - Balkan Crises (1908 Austrian Annexation Bosnia Herzegovina; 1912 First Balkan War)
- **Diplomatic Alliances**
 - Dual Alliance (1879 Germany – Austria)
 - *Dreikaiserbund*/Three Emperor's League (1881–1887 Germany – Austria – Russia)
 - Reassurance Treaty (1887–1890 Germany – Russia)
 - Triple Alliance (1882 German – Austria – Italy)
 - Entente Cordiale 1904 (France – Great Britain)
 - Triple Entente 1907 (France – Great Britain – Russia)

In particular, responses are likely to address:

- **The Crimean War** (1853–56). Provoked by Napoleon III (France; reign: 1852–1871) in reassertion of French power after 1815 Congress of Vienna and in challenge to Russia's central role in maintaining the balance of power in Europe. Russia's humiliation over France's 1852 success in obtaining the right to protect Christian shrines in Palestine (Russia was its Christian Orthodox protector), caused the latter to attempt to assert control over Constantinople and the Straits, resulting in its 1853 occupation of the Danubian Principalities and war with the Turks. British fears of Russian expansion and French aspirations of power sent an 1854 combined fleet to clear the Russians from the Black Sea. Austria, weary of a Slav uprising in its territory, managed to steer clear of the conflict and thus abandoned its former Russian ally. Russia's 1856 defeat ended its prominent role in Europe (until reassertion in 1877), left Austria without an ally, and confirmed Britain's naval hegemony, but it did not grant France the prominent position it had sought.

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Question 7 (continued)

- **The unification of Italy** (1858–1870) After Giuseppe Mazzini’s (1805–1872) revolutionary efforts to oust the Austrians from the Italian peninsula had failed, consensus emerged that only war under the leadership of Piedmont Sardinia could achieve Italian unification. Piedmont Prime minister Count Camillo di Cavour (1810–1861) conspired with France (which was eager to protect its own interests) and provoked the 1859 Austrian War, a military triumph for the French. Although Napoleon III prematurely vied for peace for fear of provoking a full-scale Franco-Austrian war, he eventually did support unification, enabling Cavour through an 1860 series of public plebiscites (referendums) to annex the Northern States. After revolutionary Giuseppe Garibaldi’s (1807–1882) thousand Red Shirts staged a successful 1860 invasion of Sicily and marched on Naples, Cavour was forced to annex the remainder of Italy (minus Rome), ratifying by 1861 plebiscite, the Kingdom of Italy with (Piedmont) King Victor Emanuel II (1849–1878) as sovereign. The 1866 Austro-Prussian War ended Austrian influence and handed Venetia to the Italians; the 1870–71 Franco-Prussian War ended French protection of Rome and completed unification.
- **The unification Germany** (1864–1871). After the failed 1848–49 German unification “from the top,” it was clear that only after Austrian influence was curtailed in favor of Prussian primacy, could one set out to unify the German confederacy. Prussian Chancellor Otto von Bismarck (1815–1889) sought to weaken Austrian influence by both renewing the Austria-excluded Prussian *Zollverein* (tax union) and drawing Austria into an administrative conflict over Schleswig and Holstein (1864 Prusso-Austrian rebuke of Danish incorporation of Schleswig). The attempt to exclude Austria from the German Confederation provoked the 1866 Prusso-Austrian War, which ended Austrian influence over German affairs without further indemnity. Bypassing parliamentary resistance to military reform (Blood and Steel reference), Bismarck professionalized and expanded Prussian forces. His quandary of how to unite the previously Catholic, pro-Austrian South, was resolved through the succession crisis in Spain (ouster of Isabella II (r. 1843–1868)), when French fears of Prussian European dominance caused Napoleon III to overreach. Bismarck manipulated media accounts of the Prussian-French negotiations over the succession to the Spanish throne to create the public impression that France had been snubbed, prompting Napoleon III to declare war on Prussia. The French 1870 declaration of war unified southern German (Catholic) states behind Prussian leadership, and the 1871 Prussian victory shifted the power decisively from France to Germany, now united under Prussian hegemony.
- **The establishment of the Dual Monarchy – The Austro-Hungarian *Ausgleich*** (1867; compromise). The eroding influence of the Habsburg Monarchy and waxing assertion of Magyar nobility forced Austria to embrace dualism, granting limited or collaborative powers to Hungary.
- **The disintegration Ottoman Empire – The Eastern Question – The ‘Sick Man of Europe’** The stature of Ottoman Turkey had been in slow decline due, in part, to nationalist assertions for independence (1878 Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria) and Western Imperialism (Russia-Crimea, Caucasus; France-Algeria). The 1853–56 Crimean War exposed the Empire’s military weakness. Russian Pan-Slavism led to the 1875 Balkan insurrections and Russian territorial expansion in the ensuing 1877–78 Russo Turkish war. Bismarck, fearing further Russian assertions and possibly an Anglo-Russian war, commenced the 1878 Congress of Berlin in which Western powers effectively divided the spoils of imperialism and ensured the Ottoman Empire’s disintegration (giving way to the 1911 First Balkan War).

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Question 7 (continued)

- **New Imperialism – Colonialism** Industrial innovation in transport and weaponry colluded with nationalism and imperial rivalry to fuel a drive for colonies in the 1880's. Western powers invested heavily in opening new territory to exploration and exploitation, particularly in Africa and Asia. The 1885 Berlin Conference both regulated the quickly accumulated territory of King Leopold II (Belgium, r. 1865–1909) in the Congo, and set off a 15-year scramble for Africa. The Dutch vastly expanded control of the East Indies (now Indonesia) while France (Indo-China), and Great Britain (India), and Russia (central and East Asia) further consolidated interests. These expansions inevitably led to Inter-European rivalries exemplified in the 1905–06/1911 Moroccan Crises, and the 1905 Russo Japanese War.
- **The Alliance System** To ensure German security and balance of power in Europe, Bismarck set out to forge a series of alliances. The 1879 Dual Alliance with Austria strengthened control over *Mitteleuropa* (Middle Europe) and gave rise to (misplaced) Austrian hopes of control over the Balkans. Russia's renewed power after the Crimean disaster forced Austria to accept the 1881–1887 *Dreikaiserbund* (Three Emperor's League), which gave Russia renewed control over the Straits (the 1887–1890 Reassurance Treaty was its successor, minus Austria) and renewed zeal in Balkan affairs. The 1882 Triple Alliance with Italy and Austria completed Bismarck's attempts to isolate France. However, Balkan succession quarrels strained Russo-Austrian relations and Russo-French rapprochement, resulting in 1904 Entente Cordiale between France and Great Britain and the 1911 Triple Entente including Russia.