Comparative Nationalisms

**Directions:** Answer one question from Part I and two questions from Part II. You must complete a total of three (3) questions. Please be sure each essay has a clear line of argument, addresses as many dimensions of the question as possible, and offers relevant, persuasive evidence from specific secondary sources wherever appropriate. *Good luck!*

**PART I: Conceptual/Theoretical**

**Answer One**

1. Discuss the road to and reasons for the dominant historiographical consensus after the Second World War around the modern origins of nations and nationalism. What brought about the dethroning of the previous primordialist/organicist paradigm? Please give appropriate historiographical examples. In your view, is the modernist consensus warranted? How does it fare in view of the recent challenges coming from perennialism and ethno-symbolism?

2. In the last chapter of his *Nationalism and Modernism*, Anthony Smith raises an important question about the possibilities and ways of transcending modernist conceptions of nations and nationalism. He argues whether or not considerations such as “fragmentation and hybrid identities,” “gender and nation,” “nationalism and globalization,” and “national identity and supra-nationalism,” each in their own ways alter earlier views and usher in a “post-modern” historical epoch. Analyze each of these considerations briefly and identify at least two of its main proponents.

**PART II: Typologies of Nationalism, Colonialism and Post-colonialism**

**Answer Two**

1. Discuss the similarities and differences between postcolonial states and the emergence of nation-states in Europe. What kinds of conceptual conclusions one can draw from these differences and similarities in terms of understanding both ethnic and civic nationalisms. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of this paradigm and how have various scholars alternately utilized or critiqued it? Is it still analytically useful or not?

2. Using several historical cases, discuss the relationships between ethnicity/culture, class/status, and the state with respect to the emergence of nationalist politics. How have each of these elements influenced or conditioned the developing nationalisms? In your discussion, consider in particular the differences between those nationalisms that developed in the old monarchical states of Western Europe and the European continental empires in Central and Eastern Europe.
3. Imagine you are teaching an upper-level undergraduate course titled “Culture and Nationalism.” It centers on Europe during the past 300 years but in a global context. How will you conceptualize and organize this course? Will certain key theories of the nation underpin what you teach? For the purposes of the course, how will you define national identity? What will be the principal goals and unifying themes? What countries and cultures will you study, and what books and articles—including primary texts and secondary sources—might you assign, and why? How will you establish the contemporary significance of the subject? As you write, remember your specific targeted audience—upper-level college students in America.

4. Outline the emergence of Balkan nationalism in a general European context. How do existing typologies of nationalism (about big and small nations, about the variable social base of nationalist elites, about organic versus civic, etc.) mark historiographical assessments.