Instructions: Please answer one question from each of the following sections (for a total of 3 essay answers). 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!

Section One

1. The decline of the Ottoman Empire has sparked a significant historiographical debate over its course and origins. Examine the main lines of research devoted to this issue, making sure to discuss both the early modern and modern interpretations of stagnation, Westernization, the influence of capitalism, and the role of the “Eastern Question”. What was the empirical foundation for these theories and which lacunae can you pinpoint in their respective narratives?

2. Discuss the body of work analyzing the formation of nation states in Eastern Europe during the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Chose two or three concrete examples and use them as case studies to discuss common trends and disparate narratives in the rise of the nation-state as a dominant form of modern social organization.

Section Two

1. Discuss the historiographical development of East European cities, especially in their relationship to scholarly discourses on backwardness, modernization, and the role of socialism. To what extent has East European urbanity been addressed as a modern phenomenon? How has the aftermath of the two World Wars influenced the categorization of urban spaces in the region?

2. Outline the major characteristics of the political, social and economic modernization in Southeastern Europe. How have different authors and historiographical schools conceptualized the successes and difficulties of modernization in the region?

Section Three

1. Discuss the positioning of Eastern Europe as a whole and the Balkans in particular on the mental map of the European continent. What was the historical and conceptual basis for this process, and how has this notion affected existing historiography both within and outside the region?

2. Analyze the socio-political scene of Eastern Europe in the interwar period, particularly in relationship to the “failure of liberal democracy” and the rise of autocratic regimes in the 1920s and 1930s. To what extent were regional developments linked to wider European patterns? What explanatory paradigms are used to analyze the emergence of far-right and left politics before and during the Second World War?