**Preliminary Examination in Eastern Europe**

**Instructions:** Please answer three questions from the following list. 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!

1. What is the significance of the backwardness paradigm in assessing the character of Eastern European modernity? Who are its chief exponents? What is the empirical foundation on which it is based? What is the critical response to this thesis?

2. How and by whom has Eastern European nationalism been theorized? Describe briefly and critically the intellectual genealogy of this typology. What is the assessment of Eastern European nationalism within the larger European framework? Please mention briefly the major theoretical exponents and give appropriate historiographical examples.

3. 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?

4. Describe/compare the communist takeover in Eastern Europe after the Second World War: which factors account for different character of the regimes and the different trajectory of development?

5. In the aftermath of the civil wars in Yugoslavia of the 1990s, a tremendous body of scholarly and journalistic literature was devoted to the rise and fall of the country, often couched in terms of a doomed experiment. Attempt a critical synthesis of this body of work, comparing it to the historiography on Yugoslavia before the disintegration. What are the achievements, failures, lacunae? You don’t have to be exhaustive, but point to trends, and focus on the academic output.

6. Analyze the different historiographical approaches applied to the understanding of the communist and the post-communist period with a special focus on the category of lived experience.
Describe/compare the consolidation of communist power in Eastern Europe

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