Global History Preliminary Exam
Spring 2016

Instructions: Answer one question from each of the three sections below (A, B, & C), choosing one of the two questions (1 or 2; 3 or 4; 5 or 6) offered in each section. Be sure that each of your answers includes historiographical discussion, addressing the state of the scholarly literature in the relevant field. You should pick questions that will enable you to discuss a broad range of scholarship over the course of the exam as a whole. (In other words, try to avoid too many overlaps).

Section A
1. How have histories of militaries as social institutions affected understandings of imperial power? Have they significantly reshaped the way we understand imperial power or just put more of a human face to it?

Or

2. How important were African diaspora politics to anticolonial nationalism in the Caribbean and Africa and vice versa? Did liberation politics play out evenly across space, or did trans-border connections matter much more in some places and struggles than others?

Section B
3. To what extent have histories sensitive to imperial overlaps and rivalries challenged exceptionalist accounts of U.S. Empire?

Or

4. To what extent can the process of decolonization of Africa be understood as a project of European imperial politics, or as a project of African nationalist movements? What role did the United States play in these processes?

Section C
5. What are the strengths and limitations of histories of the United States and its relationships with dictatorships in Latin America, Africa and Asia? Discuss both in general terms as well as in specific reference to international networks of both conservative business interests and human rights activism.

Or

6. To what extent did the Cold War generate divisions within Africa and Asia, and to what extent did it create new solidarities? Illustrate this with reference to at least three specific cases.