Instructions: Please answer one question from each of the following three sections. 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 I. Modernity

1. Modernity is often used as a marker of radical transformations in European societies which began in the 18th century. Discuss those political, economic, and social transformations and describe the differences between Marxian and liberal conceptions of these transformations.

2. Discuss why and in what ways we should regard modernity not as internal and independent development in Europe but as a world historical moment or process. What are the arguments for and against this point of view?

Section II. Nationalism and Communism

3. Describe the road to and reasons for the general historiographical consensus around the modern origins of nations and nationalism. Give appropriate historiographical examples. In your view, is this consensus warranted? What are the recent theoretical paradigms, main proponents, debates, and new directions in nationalism studies (if any)?

4. The incompatibility between communism and nationalism and especially Marxism’s myopia toward nationalism’s force has become a widely shared cliché. Discuss how the nexus nationalism-communism has been addressed in the literature: more concretely how have scholars synchronized Marxist theory with theories of nationalism from Marx onwards?

Section III. Capitalism and Marxism

5. Discuss Marx’s theory of capitalism in the context of his teleological view of history. In what ways do the critical theorists of the Frankfurt School distance themselves from Marx? Identify Weberian and Freudian elements in their theories.

6. What are the main points of difference between modernist and postmodernist arguments about history? Choose one theorist from each side and discuss their theories.