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To: Mr. Melnyk

Exam: Part D

1. Explain the term Historiography and how it is important to the study of history

Historiography is the study of history. It basically means the history of history. This can be the actual study of historical events or just the writing of history. Historiography can also be a body of historical work. Either way historiography is important to the study of history because it is important for the world to know its history. If people do not know their past they can never move forward. To become an effective historian one must know their past, if you do not know your past mistakes you are destined to repeat them. As historians learn more and more about our past they look at people's mistakes and events that changed the world. Sometimes these two come hand in hand; someone's mistake could have led to a life-changing event. As historians evaluate the person's mistake one conclusion that has occurred in previous years is that the person did not know their history and he/she repeated it.

An example of this is Hitler's attack on Russia. Near the end of World War II Hitler believed that the British were basically wiped out and that the world was going to be his. All that stood in his way was Russia. Hitler decided to break his alliance with Russia and invade them. This costly mistake hurt his campaign greatly. Hitler did not anticipate the harsh Russian winter or the outrageous number of Russian militia. Hitler lost the war in Russia and lost thousands of men. This tail of defeat in Russia also happened to the great leader Napoleon of France years previous to Hitler. Napoleon was in an alliance with Russia and had a personal relationship with the leader Alexander. Napoleon had heard that Alexander was being pressured to break their pact and revolt against France. Napoleon heard this and was having none of it. He broke his pact with Russia and attacked. Napoleon did not anticipate the harsh Russian winter or the number of Russian troops. Napoleon's army fell to Russia and proved to be too much for the French. If Hitler had learned from Napoleon's actions and learned that he was going to need a full army and the right time of the year to attack Russia, he may have had a shot. Hitler did not learn his lesson from history and as we can see history repeated itself.

The study of history is important to the future; people may think that because it has happened, people will not do it again. But some people are blinded by the past and only look to the future. The study of history is so important because it helps us move forward and not make the same costly mistakes in our past. Sometimes in life in order to move forward you must first move back.

9. Why could the U.S. not sustain support for an anti-communist war in Vietnam?

The Vietnam war was one of the most controversial and brutal wars in the modern era. With thousands of casualties on both sides and internal problems within the US this war ended up being very devastating to the US. The US did not sustain support because this war was not there war to begin with. The US moved into South Vietnam to help them fight the Communist North Vietnamese. The US moved into to Vietnam to fight communism but it was not there battle to fight. They are not the world police and even if they do have a superior army they have and had not right to try and fight governments they did not agree with. They did not agree with the communist ways and they took matters into there own hands and tried to fight a war with no support. Countries did not want to support America also because of the aftermaths of World War II.

“Everything seemed to point to the relative decline of Europe as a force in the world, as the United States and the Soviet Union assumed the status of the world’s sole superpowers in a new bipolar international order. The world was still trying to recover from the war to end all wars.”¹

The US did not sustain support because the world was not ready to support another war and other countries were trying to recover from the war that changed the face of Europe. The US also did not sustain support because this war was not fully supported by its own people. The Vietnam War was one of the first televised wars. For the first time ever the people at home got to see the true realities of war and its destructive nature. Americans saw there own blood being shed and the country, citizens, soldiers were not in full support of this war, like they had been in previous wars.

“The most dramatic opposition to the war came from the soldiers themselves. Between 1960 and 1973, 503,926 members of the US armed forces deserted. Many soldiers began to question the morality of the war once they began fighting in Vietnam. One soldier, Keith Franklin, wrote a letter that was only to be opened on his death. He was killed on May 12, 1970: "If you are reading this letter, you will never see me again, the reason being that if you are reading this I have died. The question is whether or not my death has been in vain. The answer is yes. The war that has taken my life and many thousands before me is immoral, unlawful and an atrocity... I had no choice as to my fate. It was predetermined by the war-mongering hypocrites in Washington. As I lie dead, please grant my last request. Help me inform the American people, the silent majority who have not yet voiced their opinions.”²

Colleges, Universities, even soldiers protested against this war, it put the US government in a very controversial position. The draft also encouraged some Americans to protest against the war. Many draft dodgers were prosecuted for what they did, but they still stood for what they believed in. The US did not sustain support for the Vietnam war because it was not there war to fight, the world was recovering from world war II and they did not have full support even from their own people.

¹ Keylor, William R. [The Legacy of World War Two: Decline, Rise and Recovery.](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/legacy_01.shtml)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/legacy_01.shtml>

² Spartacus Educational. [Vietnam Protest Movement.](http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/VNprotest.htm)
<<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/VNprotest.htm>>

10. Please create a short answer question and answer it based on what you believe is the most significant event in modern western history. You will be evaluated on your question, choice of topic and your answer.

What significance did the dropping of the Atomic Bomb have on (1945) present and (Post 1945) future warfare? In your answer consider the others options to end the war in Japan and the affect a weapon of this caliber had on its enemy.

With the victory in Europe the Allies new that the end of WWII was close, all that stood in there way was a stubborn Japanese nation. The Allies new that the Japanese would not go down easy and that a full scaled invasion of the island would take time, money, and people. But the Allies had a weapon; a new weapon that no one else had and that if used could end the war. After VE day the Allies offered the Japanese a peace agreement. But constant rejection from the agreement the American's decided they had enough. President Truman gave the order to drop the atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima. After the bombing the Japanese still did not surrender, the next atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. After this the Japanese surrendered and the war was officially over. The dropping of the atomic bomb was the most significant event in modern western history.

The atomic bomb was a weapon so strong that there was no counter attack to it. During the time it was being manufactured until it was finally dropped no one had the slightest idea of the amount of destruction it caused. World War II was a costly war and that Allies saw that the dropping of the bomb was the only option to end the war. A full scale invasion of Japan would have taken much time and many lives, the allies new that if they used this new weapon they could end the war and none of there soldiers would even have to see the battlefield. There had never been a weapon of this caliber ever seen before in warfare. The allies had no idea what the aftermath would be once the bomb was dropped. The weapon was first of its class and the Japanese new they could not fight against it.

“Moreover, the enemy has begun to employ a new and most cruel bomb, the power of which to do damage is, indeed, incalculable, taking the toll of many innocent lives. Should we continue to fight, not only would it result in an ultimate collapse and obliteration of the Japanese nation, but also it would lead to the total extinction of human civilization.”³

The Japanese new that they could not fight against a weapon of that caliber and the Allies new that dropping it would end the war.

The atomic bomb was also significant because of its aftermath. After the bombing in Japan the world new of a weapon that would end thousands of lives. Years later the world learned of the affects it had on people that were infected. The atomic bomb changed warfare because it introduced a weapon that would eliminate hand to hand combat all together. Countries could now threaten each other with nuclear war and if

³ Emperor Hirohito, . Emperor Hirohito, Accepting the Potsdam Declaration, Radio Broadcast. . .
<<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/hirohito.htm>>

they decided to drop the bomb they could send one plane to the country and the conflict would be resolved with the deaths of thousands of lives. Also with this new weapon it created much conflict between nations because everyone wanted to have more than their enemy. This race for nuclear armies has lead us to a world were if one side decides to push the button humanity as we know it could be over. The atomic bomb ended the war and it changed warfare as we know it. It has put us in a world where with the right amount of dollars you can have a weapon that can end the world. Its aftermath and radiation from the bomb alone killed countless of lives. This bomb changed warfare as we know it and if the bomb had not been dropped the next time could have been much more catastrophic. The dropping of the atomic bomb was the most significant event in modern history.

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