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HIS 270 S21: Europe's Long Twentieth Century **Midterm Paper Assignment**

Assignment Overview

The goal of this assignment is to further explore an issue in 20th century European history while refining your skills in primary source analysis and evidence-based written argumentation. Your task is to write a **1500-word analysis** of a primary source we have encountered in the first half of the semester. You must place the source in its historical context and make an **argument** about what it reveals about a particular moment in Europe in the 20th century. Remember that *analysis* is not the same thing as *summary*. Make sure to develop an argumentative **thesis statement** and substantiate with quotes from the source as evidence. There are many different arguments you can make using a primary source. Be creative and have fun!

Instructions

Choose one of the **primary sources** assigned during the first half of this semester as the basis for your analysis. Read the source closely and critically. Analyze your chosen source, place it in its historical context, and develop a unique **historical argument** based on your interpretation of it. Your argument should address how your source helps us understand something specific about Europe in the 20th century.

Your paper should focus directly on the primary source you have chosen. You may also juxtapose two sources, but not more. You may use Mazower's *Dark Continent* for context, but do not concentrate on it. For the purpose of this assignment, you can also treat information you learned in class as common knowledge.

Mechanics

- Your analysis must be **1500 words long**—and I will count! If you write less than 1300 words, you will be penalized.
- Put your **name** and a **title** on the first page and **number your pages**.
- Use **12-point font, double spacing, and 1-inch margins**.
- You must use **internal citations** for all quotations.
- You must attach a **Works Cited** page. This should be a separate page. It must be properly formatted, using *The Chicago Manual of Style*. You can access the *CMS* through the Library. (Trust me, this is good practice for the future!)

DON'T PLAGIARIZE! I am all-seeing and all-knowing (and I have purpose-built software), so I **will** figure out if you plagiarize. If you have a question about how to avoid plagiarism, please feel free to ask me. I am happy to meet with you in office hours any time before the paper is due.

Due Date

This assignment must be submitted on **Sakai** and is due **Sunday, March 14 at 10pm**. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day.

Good luck!!!

List of Primary Sources from Weeks 1-7

All sources are available on the course website:

- Heinrich Treitschke, “The Place of Warfare in the State” and Henri Massis and Alfred de Tarde, “The Young People of Today” (analyze these sources together)
- Ernst Toller, *I Was a German*, chapters 3-4
- Anna Litveiko, “In 1917”
- Vladimir Lenin, “Communism is Soviet Power + Electrification of the Whole Country”
- P.I. Lebedev-Polianskii, “Revolution and the Cultural Tasks of the Proletariat”
- Joseph Roth, “The Bust of the Emperor”
- Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own* (you may work with any part of this book)
- “The Nuremburg Laws”
- *Holocaust and Human Behavior*, pp. 175, 189-191, 198-200, 385-386, 430-431
- Joseph Roth, *What I Saw*, chapters 3, 6, 14, 18, 23, 31, 32, 34
- Pasha Angelina, “The Most Important Thing”
- Ekaterina Olitskaia, “My Reminiscences”
- Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (you may work with any part of this book)
- William Beveridge, “New Britain”
- Jean Monnet, “A Red-Letter Day for European Unity”
- “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”
- Winston Churchill, “The Sinews of Peace”