

## ***Essay #3 -- 1933-1945 (24 marks; due: By the end of the first week in January)***

Each of the following topics states a contentious issue. Choose one of these and use it as a thesis or modify it to form a contentious argument.

Write a research essay of at least 800 words. Remember, a good essay requires:

- ◆ A clear thesis.
- ◆ A proper analytical essay structure.
- ◆ Mechanically sound writing.
- ◆ Points well supported with examples and illustrative detail.
- ◆ Citations of source material (I expect to see at least 5 footnotes or endnotes that cite reliable sources).
- ◆ A bibliography that shows evidence of solid research. I will expect to see at least 3 book sources in addition to text material. This material must be properly formatted using a standard system, like MLA – a handout for which is available through Sutherland’s library. I also expect to see Internet sources accessed and properly noted.

### **Nazi Germany:**

1. Opposition to Hitler’s Nazis was impossible from 1933 on.
2. The failure of Germans to oppose Nazi policies was shameful.
3. Hitler’s foreign policy successes in the 1930’s were more a matter of luck than calculation.

### **Appeasement:**

1. Chamberlain’s policy of appeasement was logical and understandable in the context of the late 1930’s.
2. Chamberlain’s policy of appeasement was a foolish exercise that endangered, rather than promoted, peace.

### **The Spanish Civil War:**

1. The failure of the Western Democracies to assist the Spanish Republic was a terrible mistake.
2. Franco’s success in the Spanish Civil War was a result of German and Italian help.
3. Franco’s success in the Spanish Civil War was the result of a desire for stability and conservatism on the part of Spain’s population.
4. In choosing to fight in the International Brigades, these foreign volunteers exemplified the highest moral duty as citizens of the world.
5. The men who fought in the International Brigades were little more than communist dupes.

### **World War II:**

1. Germany had no chance of winning World War II.
2. Germany was unlucky not to have won World War II.
3. The Allied victory in World War II was assured once the United States entered the conflict.
4. The Allied victory in World War II was assured when Germany foolishly attacked the USSR.
5. The Battle of (**Britain** or **The Atlantic** or **Midway** or **Stalingrad** or **Kursk**) was the turning point that ensured the ultimate defeat of the Axis powers.
6. World War II was assured by the successes of the Allied intelligence services.
7. Hitler’s biggest mistake in World War II was to \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The weapon having the greatest impact on World War II was the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **The Post War World:**

1. The Cold War was an inevitable outcome of the struggle of ideologies between the free West and the Communist East.
2. The Cold War need not have happened.
3. The Cold War was a product of Soviet (or American) Imperialism.
4. Nuclear Weapons made war between the great powers impossible.
5. Had a nuclear erupted in the Cold War years, life on this planet may well have ended.
6. With the end of formal imperialism, the world experienced a new form of domination by the super-powers.
7. Was America's leadership of the non-Communist world a positive or negative force in the world?
8. Compare the American experience in Vietnam with the Soviet experience in Afghanistan.
9. Who is to blame for the Arab-Israeli Conflict? Explain.
10. Account for the rise of Islamic fundamentalism at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.
11. How did technological change affected social change in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
12. Account for the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.