Modern Europe Reading List Comprehensive Examinations
for M.A. and Ph.D. Students

Note to Students:
Students should use this general reading list as a guide to create their own examination reading
lists. Students are NOT expected to read all the works on this list. Nor are they expected to
design readings lists that incorporate every category listed below. Please work with your
examiners to come up with a coherent list of categories (there is no set number) that reflect your
own program of study. Exams should cover a chronology of roughly 100 years (for example,
1750-1914 or 1890s to the present) for M.A. major exams or Ph.D. minor field exams. Exams
should cover a chronology of roughly 200 years for Ph.D. exams (for example, 1750-post WW II
era). Exams should focus on more than one nation state.

Pre-Revolutionary Transformations

Classic Works:

More Recent Works:

**French Revolution**

**Classic Works:**

**More Recent Works:**

**Historiography**

David Andress, “The Shifting Landscape of Revolutionary Interpretations: A Death of the Past and the a Rebirth of History?” part of Forum in *French Historical Studies*, vol. 32, no. 4 (Fall 2009), with comments from Laurent Dubois, Carla Hesse, and Lynn Hunt.


**Industrial Revolution**

Classic Works:


David Landes, *The Unbound Prometheus: Technological Change and Industrial Development in Western Europe from 1750 to the present* (1969).


More Recent Works:


**Working-Class Formations in Industrializing Europe/ Working-Class Cultures**

**Classic Works:**

**More Recent Works:**

**Middle-Class Formations in Industrializing Europe/ Bourgeois Class and Culture**

**Classic Works:**


More Recent Works:


**Fin De Siecle Cultures and Turmoil / Mass Politics and Popular Cultures**

Classic Works:


**More Recent Works:**

**Nationalism and Nation Building**

**Classic Works:**
Miroslav, *Social Preconditions of National Revival in Europe: A Comparative Analysis of the*

George Mosse, *The Nationalization of the Masses: Political Symbolism and Mass Movements in Germany from the Napoleonic Wars through the Third Reich* (1975).


More Recent Works:


**Empire and Colonialism**

Classic Works:

Theory:


**Classic Monographs:**


**More Recent Works:**


Julia Clancy-Smith and Frances Gouda, *Domesticating the Empire: Race, Gender and Family Life in French and Dutch Colonialism* (1998).


**World War I**

**Classic Works**


Margaret Higgonnet et al., *Behind the Lines: Gender and the Two World Wars* (1989).


**More Recent Works:**


**Russian Revolution**

**Historiography**


**Classic Works**


**More Recent Works**


**Inter-War Europe: Politics, Culture and Society**

**Classic Works:**


Siegfried Kracauer, *From Caligari to Hitler: A Psychological History of the German Film*
(1947).
Charles S. Maier, *Recasting Bourgeois Europe* (1975)

More Recent Works

**Fascism, Nazism and World War II/Genocide of the Jews**

Classic Works:
Gisela Bock, “Racism and Sexism in Nazi Germany: Motherhood, Compulsory Sterilization, and the State,” *Signs,* vol. 8, no. 3 (Spring, 1983), 400-421.

More Recent Works:

**Communism After 1917**

**A. Stalinism and Soviet Society**

*Classic Works*

*More Recent Works*

**B. Socialism and Communism after World War II: Soviet Union/East and Central Europe**

*Classic Works:*
Recent Works:
Katherine Verdery, *What was Socialism, and What Comes Next?* (1996).

**Post-World War II Western Europe: Cold War, Reconstruction, Economic Miracles and Decolonization**

Classic Works:

More Recent Works:
Victoria, De Grazia, *Irresistible Empire: America’s Advance through 20th Century Europe*
(2005).

**1968 and Post-68 Culture and Politics in Western Europe**

*Classic Works:*

*More Recent Works*