

May 2002

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
Department of History

Senior Comprehensive Exams

AFRICA

Please answer each question separately. Your answer to each question must not exceed five double-spaced typewritten pages. On the cover of each answer be certain to indicate your name, the appropriate comprehensive field (i.e., The United States, The United Kingdom), as well as the number of the question you have answered. Your answer should be written in your own words and include the correct citations for any sources you use, as in any paper or final exercise. Be sure to include at the end of your essay the statement "This represents my own work in accordance with University regulations" and sign your name.

All answers must be turned in at the History Department office by 3:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MAY 15th. There will be no extensions. For further explanation of the Grading of Departmental Comprehensive Examinations, see bottom of page 5 of "Information for Majors."

Answer ONE question from Part 1 and ONE question from Part II

Part I

1. In the 17th and 18th centuries, cotton and other plantation products were mainly produced in the wider Caribbean region; by the 20th century, by contrast, the production of cotton and other tropical plantation crops had been moved to Africa. Compare the two plantation production systems and explain what were the causes and effects of this regional shift.
2. Did slavery and the African slave trade affect men and women in the same way?

Part II

3. Great Zimbabwe has long been thought to be a construction of a "lost white tribe." Mapungubwe and other important archaeological sites in South Africa were hidden to the public view until the 1994 elections. What motivated the persistence of downplaying aspects of Africa's pre-colonial past?

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4. Whereas most of Africa regained its independence during the late 1950s and early 1960s, a “White Bastion” spanning much of the southern African region held firm until the mid 1970s, and the colonial era in Namibia and South Africa really ended only in the early 1990s. Discuss the transformations that have taken place on the continent since World War II and explain why and how many colonies gained independence rapidly while others did not until much later. Include both international and local factors in your analysis.

5. Who, in your opinion, made the greatest individual historical contribution to the African continent in the 19th and/or 20th centuries? Explain how, when, and where.

6. Discuss the impact of colonial rule on society, culture, politics, and the economy, comparing at least two different African countries.