

May 2002

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
Department of History

Senior Comprehensive Exams

## ASIA

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."

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Answer **TWO** questions, but from **TWO DIFFERENT** parts.

**Part I: Comparative: Japan and China (Korea or South Asia may be substituted for China or Japan)**

1. Compare the reactions of China and Japan to the challenges posed by Western nations between 1780 and 1910. How do you account for the differences in response?
2. Compare and assess the role of nationalism in the politics of Japan and China in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Part II: China**

3. Select two major historical events in the history of China since 1600, and explain why each is significant.
4. Both the Kuomintang (Guomindang) under Chiang Kai-shek and the Chinese communist Party under Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung) attempted to modernize China in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Compare their efforts and accomplishments.

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### Part III: Japan

5. Should the Meiji Restoration be considered a revolution? Answer by analyzing its origins, goals, and accomplishments.
  
6. How do you explain Japan's decision to wage war against China and then the Western powers in the 1930s and 1940s? Consider both long-term and short-term factors.