

May 2002

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
Department of History

Senior Comprehensive Exams

NEAR EAST

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 Exams, see page 5 of "Information for Majors."

Answer TWO of the following questions.

1. In the nineteenth century, Muslim intellectuals and Ottoman statesmen had to confront the problem of European strength and Ottoman weakness. Describe and compare the reformist vision of the tanzimat with the program of Islamic reformers.
2. Jews were the target of repeated persecutions in medieval and early modern Europe, while in the Muslim world they enjoyed relative safety and prosperity. How can we account for this difference and what were the consequences for subsequent Jewish history?
3. Some historians have argued for an essential continuity between the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires in the Balkans. The real break, they say, came later with the advent of nationalist movements. Is this a persuasive argument?
4. Commenting on the peace treaties that brought the First World War to an end, a British observer wrote: "After 'the war to end war' they seem to have been pretty successful in Paris at making a 'Peace to end Peace.'" Was this true for the Middle East?
5. Multinational empires survived in the eastern Mediterranean long after they had become extinct in Mediterranean lands further west. Account for the durability of this type of arrangement in the eastern Mediterranean. When did it come to an end and why?

