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HIS 270: Europe's Long Twentieth Century **Midterm Paper Assignment: Primary Source Analysis**

Assignment Overview

The goal of this assignment is to refine your skills in working with primary sources. Remember that *analysis* is not the same thing as *summarizing*. Don't just tell your reader what the source says. Make an **argument** about it! There are many different arguments you can make using a primary source. Be creative and have fun!

Instructions

Choose one of the **primary sources** assigned during the first half of this semester as the basis for your analysis. Read the source closely and critically. Analyze your chosen source, place it in its historical context, and develop a unique **historical argument** based on your interpretation of it. Your argument should address how your source helps us understand something specific about Europe in the 20th century.

Your paper should focus directly on the primary source you have chosen. You may also juxtapose two sources, but not more. You may use Mazower's *Dark Continent* for context, but do not concentrate on it. For the purpose of this assignment, you can also treat information you learned in class as common knowledge.

*Make sure the piece you have chosen is a **primary source**! You may not analyze Mark Mazower's *Dark Continent* for this assignment.*

Mechanics

- Your analysis must be **1500 words long**—and I will count! If you write less than 1300 words, you will be penalized.
- Put your **name** and a **title** on the first page and **number your pages**.
- Use **12-point font, double spacing, and 1-inch margins**.
- You must use **internal citations** for all quotations.
- You must attach a **Works Cited** page. This should be a separate page. It must be properly formatted, using *The Chicago Manual of Style*. You can access the *CMS* through the Library. (Trust me, this is good practice for the future!)

DON'T PLAGIARIZE! I am all-seeing and all-knowing, and I **will** figure it out if you plagiarize. If you have a question about how to avoid plagiarism, please feel free to ask me. I am happy to meet with you during office hours any time before the paper is due.

Due Date

This assignment must be submitted on **Sakai** and is due **Friday, March 6 at 10pm**. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day.

Good luck!!!

List of Primary Sources from Weeks 1-7

All sources are available on the course website:

Heinrich Treitschke, *The Place of Warfare in the State* and Henri Massis and Alfred de Tarde, *the Young People of Today* (analyze these sources together)

Ernst Toller, *I Was a German*, chapters 3-4

Anna Litveiko, "In 1917"

Vladimir Lenin, "Communism is Soviet Power + Electrification of the Whole Country"

P.I. Lebedev-Polianskii, "Revolution and the Cultural Tasks of the Proletariat"

Joseph Roth, "The Bust of the Emperor"

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* (you may work with any part of this book)

Adolf Hitler, "The State," from *Mein Kampf*

Joseph Roth, *What I Saw*, chapters 3, 6, 14, 18, 23, 31, 32

Serge Schmemmann, New York Times Articles (you may work with any of the articles linked on the course website)

Holocaust and Human Behavior, pp. 175, 189-191, 198-200, 385-386, 430-431

Joseph Stalin, "On the Inadequacies of Party Work"

Pasha Angelina, "The Most Important Thing"

Ekaterina Olitskaia, "My Reminiscences"

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (you may work with any part of this book)

William Beveridge, "New Britain"

Jean Monnet, "A Red-Letter Day for European Unity"