

**AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY**  
**2007 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)**

**Question 7**

Analyze how the Balkan crises from 1903 to 1914 and the crises in central and eastern Europe from 1935 to 1939 threatened Europe's balance of power.

**8–9 Points**

- Explicit thesis responds fully to all prompts: Balkan crises, central/eastern European crises, balance of power.
- Consistently clear organization supports the argument.
- Discusses specific and relevant information about the Balkan crises *and* the crises of central/eastern Europe.
- Demonstrates clear understanding of balance-of-power relationships during *both* periods.
- Provides specific evidence that links crises to threats in Europe's balance of power.
- Well-balanced discussion among all prompts.
- Errors do not distract from the argument.

**6–7 Points**

- Explicit thesis is responsive to the question, perhaps less fully than in the 8–9 category.
- Organization is clear but may not be consistently followed.
- Discussion is balanced among Balkan crises and central/eastern crises, with perhaps more information on one era.
- All assertions are supported by specific information.
- Shows an understanding of balance of power of the two eras, but with less specificity than in the 8–9 category.
- Attempts linkage between the two crises and the effect on balance of power.
- Errors may detract from the overall essay.

**4–5 Points**

- Thesis is explicit but may not respond fully to the entire question.
- Organization is less effective than in essays scored higher.
- Essay shows some imbalance. May fail to develop one or both periods with adequate specificity.
- Suggests an understanding of balance of power, but may depend on generalities.
- Superficial linkage of crises with threats in balance of power.

**2–3 Points**

- Thesis is not explicit or merely rephrases/repeats the question.
- Unclear, ineffective organization.
- Offers little specific information about crises in either time period.
- Does not demonstrate a clear understanding of balance of power.
- Makes little attempt to link crises to balance of power.
- Several distracting errors.

**0–1 Point**

- No discernable attempt at a thesis.
- No discernable organization.
- Minimal supporting evidence. May ignore one aspect of the question entirely.
- No understanding of balance of power.
- Makes no attempt to link crises to balance of power.
- Numerous errors that distract from the thesis.

7

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

The idea of the balance of power has long been instituted in Europe since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This theory was enforced by Metternich in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century after the Napoleonic wars. However, the Europe's balance of power was threatened from 1905 to 1919 by the several Balkan wars. In addition, the aggressive actions by Germany and Russia from 1915 to 1919 further disrupted the concept in Europe.

After the decline of the Ottoman Empire in early modern age, the Balkans have repeatedly observed conflicts. Russia's expansionist policies had led to its conquering of many Balkan territories. However, by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, nationalism has led to the development of many nation states including Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece. Austria's conservative government has long been conflicting with Russia's government in the Balkan issues. Both countries wished to establish territories in southeastern Europe. The people of the Balkans had engaged in several wars leading to the First and Second Balkan Wars. These wars presented Russia's humiliation and exhibited Austria's subordination. These developments shifted the balance of power in Europe. Finally, the conflicts erupted after the assassination of Austria's archduke Ferdinand at Sarajevo in 1914. Austria immediately responded aggressively with an ultimatum on Serbia. Protecting the interest of Serbia, Russia soon became engaged in the conflict. The balance of power

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7

in Europe has been distorted as a result of the Balkan crises leading to the First World War.

From 1935 to 1939, Hitler's aggressive actions again distorted the balance of power in Europe. His expansionist policy and his racial policies led to his rearmament of the German army. The Treaty of Versailles had been imposed to preserve the balance of power within Europe, but now the limitations are totally being ignored by Hitler. He had increased his army over 100,000 men and reinstated aircrafts and navy into his forces. In addition, he had remilitarized the Rhineland, a buffer state between France and Germany. The appeasement policy followed by Britain and France at the Munich conference further instigated Hitler's ambitions. After annexing Czechoslovakia, Germany had demanded the Polish lands also. Although Britain and France finally declared war on the Germans to protect Poland, it was too late as the balance of power had totally collapse and the Second World War had begun.

The aggressive measures taken by Russia's Stalin and its communist government in the 1930s also disrupted Europe's balance of power. The communist Russia had surprisingly signed a non-aggression pact with fascist Germany. As a result, Russia received Eastern Poland in the beginning of World War II. In addition, Stalin had also invaded the northern European states including Finland. The growing of Russia's

7

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territory and power threatened the balance of power in Europe. Also, its pact with Germany also posed a great danger to the continental European countries. From the eve up to the beginning of World War II, the balance of power had been ruined. The aggressive measures taken by Russia contributed to the distaste of power and the ~~beginning~~ start of the war.

The idea of the balance of power in Europe had been resorted to in order to keep peace within the continents. However, this concept had been disrupted by the nationalistic crisis in the Balkans in the early 1900s involving Austria and Russia. In addition, Germany's Hitler and Russia's Stalin also destroyed the concept in 1950s with their aggressive measures. All these distortions of the balance of power led to increasing conflicts and became roots of the Great Wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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Twice in half a century Europe was the center of a massive World War. The similarities between the ~~the~~ pre-war circumstances ~~the~~ show that the first war was not dealt with properly. If World War I had been properly handled, crises in the 1930s, ~~possibly~~ similar in effect to those of the early 1900s, would not have arisen. However, both series of events occurred, and twice between 1903 and 1939, European power was nearly unseated. The powers were thrown into turmoil prior to both wars.

Prior to the First World War, the Balkan Peninsula was the location of crises that threatened the stability of Russian and Austrian power. Serbia and the Slavic people of the Balkans resented the Austrian occupation, a result of the Berlin agreement. Insurgents rose against Austria. Germany found this development disturbing, since an already weakened Austria was rather vulnerable. The fact that Russian Pan-Slavic ~~policy~~ policy lead them to aid the ~~insurgents~~ insurgents furthered threatened the power of Austria. However, German promises to aid Austria, in turn, threatened the Russian position. In this way, two great European

7

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powers, ~~and~~ Austria and Russia, were in a potentially compromising situation. The ensuing war left both weakened, and Russia fell to the Bolshevik leadership of Lenin. This left ~~Russia~~ <sup>Russia</sup> temporarily a lesser power. However, the defeated Germany and Austria were also temporarily weakened.

~~and~~ In the mid- to late-1930's, these nations ~~had~~ had regained their powers and nearly upset European power again. Nazism in Germany threatened the political situation of all the surrounding nations. Russia ~~now~~, now under the leadership of Stalin, ~~had~~ ~~also~~ began to focus on Eastern Europe. The Allied powers, in the ~~form~~ form of the League of Nations, could not prevent this resurgence in the East. The invasion by Germany of Czechoslovakia and Poland changed the balance of power, making way for the soon-to-come invasion <sup>of</sup> and victory over France, previously a power.

Both of the great World Wars were preceded by the growth of a small group of ~~nations~~ <sup>nations</sup> that desired to become more powerful. The ~~motivation~~ motivation behind this in the Second World War was to regain power lost in the First. In this way, the

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Crises preceding both wars were directly related.  
In essence, World War II was a continuation of  
World War I.

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part C question 1

Europe's balance of power has been affected many ways throughout the course of history. Many things have been done to try and help it, but one single country could set it all off. The Balkan crisis and the crisis in central and eastern Europe from 1935 to 1939 are two ways in which Europe's balance of power was set off.

The crisis in the Balkans from 1903 to 1914 disrupted the European balance of power immensely. Many countries were fighting over territories in the Balkans, and no one could settle. There were many battles which were fought over who the Balkan territory officially belonged to, and no one could decide. When one or two countries would hold most of the Balkans the balance of power was disrupted because other lesser nations had a harder time at getting control. The Balkan dispute lasted for 11 years until finally



part C question 1

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Some nations joined together and agreed on how the Balkans were to be distributed. Europe's balance of power was threatened by the Balkan crisis, but luckily, it was restored.

Another event which threatened Europe's balance of power ~~was~~ were the crises in central and eastern Europe between 1935 to 1939. There were many problems with Communist and fascist governments, such as Nazi Germany. Germany and Hitler were taking over and taking Europe by storm. Other nations

were not even being recognized as a few nations kept growing in power. This threatened Europe's balance of power because if one or two sole nations were to come to power and lead ~~all~~ all other nations, it would be as if

they are leading the world. The Communist governments fell, and the rise of Nazi Germany and other nations were ~~also~~ brought to

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part C question 1

A stand-still.

Europe's balance of power has been threatened in many ways throughout history, and will continue to be for many more. It is important that we keep the balance of power in check, so that Europe will stay at peace.

**AP<sup>®</sup> EUROPEAN HISTORY**  
**2007 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)**

**Question 7**

**Sample: 7A**  
**Score: 9**

This essay takes a comprehensive approach to its well-executed thesis and addresses the Balkan crises across a span of time, discussing both Germany and Russia and the threats they posed to peace in central and eastern Europe. The student has a clear understanding of balance of power and makes good use of specific information to elaborate on the thesis.

**Sample: 7B**  
**Score: 5**

This essay has a minimal thesis. It shows little understanding of balance of power relationships in the Balkans and merely alludes to long-term problems in the region. The essay does provide some specificity for the 1935-39 period, but again, does not relate this to balance of power.

**Sample: 7C**  
**Score: 2**

The thesis provided here is halting and unclear. The essay discusses the Balkan crises with no reference to any specific events involved. The only information provided that addresses the second part of the question is a vague reference to Germany. No understanding of balance of power is demonstrated.