

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 7

Analyze major factors that affected the changing balance of power among European states in the period 1848–1914.

9–8 Points

- Thesis explains how various events and processes contributed to the changing balance of power between European states.
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in discussing at least two differing factors that changed the balance of power among European states in detail — either discussed together or separately.
- Essay is well balanced, discussing multiple factors individually and at length.
- Essay provides relevant and developed evidence of two or more factors affecting the balance of power.
- May contain errors in fact or chronology that do not detract from the argument.

7–6 Points

- Thesis states various events and processes that contributed to the changing balance of power between European states.
- Organization is clear and effective but possibly less consistent by providing [one fully developed and one or two less developed arguments] of factors that changed the balance of power among European states.
- Essay is balanced, discussing multiple factors individually; though discussion of one or the other may be less in depth.
- Essay provides relevant evidence of at least two factors affecting the balance of power.
- May contain an error in fact or chronology that detracts from the argument.

5–4 Points

- Thesis states one or more events and processes that affected the changing balance of power between European states.
- Organization is clear and effective but less consistent by providing one developed and one or two less-developed arguments of factors affecting the changing the balance of power in Europe.
- Essay may show some imbalance, being too narrative or succeeding in only one argument convincingly.
- Essay provides evidence of one or two factors affecting balance of power, one possibly more developed than the other.
- May contain a few errors in fact or chronology that detract from the argument.

3–2 Points

- Thesis may restate prompt, possibly with limited reference to possible factors.
- Organization offers minimal argumentation of factors that changed the balance of power.
- Essay may show serious imbalance, omitting or misconstruing parts of the prompt.
- Essay may offer some evidence of factors affecting balance of power — be it vague or conflated.
- May contain several errors in fact or chronology that detract from the argument.

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2014 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 7 (continued)

1–0 Points

- No discernible or negligible attempt at a thesis.
- Organization is coincidental or offers no valid argumentation of factors affecting the balance of power.
- Essay may show gross imbalance; parts of the prompt are ignored.
- Essay may offer trivial or ineffectual evidence of factors affecting the balance of power.
- May contain numerous errors in fact or chronology that detract from the argument.

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2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 7 (continued)

Historical Background

The period between the failed revolutions of 1848 and the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 brought to an end the carefully crafted balance of power after the fall of Napoleon (1815 Congress of Vienna; Concert of European Powers) and the liberalist and romantic notions of statecraft. Nationalism and *Realpolitik* (pragmatic politics), as well as industrial might and imperialist zeal, conspired to forcefully shift power among the European States:

- **The rise of new states**
 - Italy (1858–1870), Germany (1864–1871)
- **The (re)assertion of power**
 - France (1853–56 Crimean War; 1859 Austrian War, Unification Italy; expansion Indo-China)
 - Germany (1864 Danish War; 1866 Austro-Prussian War; 1870–71 Franco-Prussian War)
 - Great Britain (1899–1902 Boer War; expansion West Africa)
- **The retreat of power**
 - Russia (1853–56 Crimean War; 1904–05 Russo-Japanese War)
 - Austria (1866 Austro-Prussian War; 1867 *Ausgleich* [compromise]–Dual Monarchy)
 - France (1870–71 Franco-Prussian War)
 - Ottoman Empire (Eastern Question; 1877–78 Russo Turkish war; 1878 Congress of Berlin)
- **Industrialization and economic assertion**
 - Second Industrial Revolution; 1856 Bessemer converter[steel]; 1869 Suez Canal)
- **Imperialist tensions**
 - Moroccan Crises (1905–06; 1911)
 - Balkan Crises (1908 Austrian Annexation Bosnia Herzegovina; 1912 First Balkan War)
- **Diplomatic Alliances**
 - Dual Alliance (1879 Germany – Austria)
 - *Dreikaiserbund*/Three Emperor’s League (1881–1887 Germany – Austria – Russia)
 - Reassurance Treaty (1887–1890 Germany – Russia)
 - Triple Alliance (1882 German – Austria – Italy)
 - Entente Cordiale 1904 (France – Great Britain)
 - Triple Entente 1907 (France – Great Britain – Russia)

In particular, responses are likely to address:

- **The Crimean War** (1853–56). Provoked by Napoleon III (France; reign: 1852–1871) in reassertion of French power after 1815 Congress of Vienna and in challenge to Russia’s central role in maintaining the balance of power in Europe. Russia’s humiliation over France’s 1852 success in obtaining the right to protect Christian shrines in Palestine (Russia was its Christian Orthodox protector), caused the latter to attempt to assert control over Constantinople and the Straits, resulting in its 1853 occupation of the Danubian Principalities and war with the Turks. British fears of Russian expansion and French aspirations of power sent an 1854 combined fleet to clear the Russians from the Black Sea. Austria, weary of a Slav uprising in its territory, managed to steer clear of the conflict and thus abandoned its former Russian ally. Russia’s 1856 defeat ended its prominent role in Europe (until reassertion in 1877), left Austria without an ally, and confirmed Britain’s naval hegemony, but it did not grant France the prominent position it had sought.

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2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 7 (continued)

- **The unification of Italy** (1858–1870) After Giuseppe Mazzini’s (1805–1872) revolutionary efforts to oust the Austrians from the Italian peninsula had failed, consensus emerged that only war under the leadership of Piedmont Sardinia could achieve Italian unification. Piedmont Prime minister Count Camillo di Cavour (1810–1861) conspired with France (which was eager to protect its own interests) and provoked the 1859 Austrian War, a military triumph for the French. Although Napoleon III prematurely vied for peace for fear of provoking a full-scale Franco-Austrian war, he eventually did support unification, enabling Cavour through an 1860 series of public plebiscites (referendums) to annex the Northern States. After revolutionary Giuseppe Garibaldi’s (1807–1882) thousand Red Shirts staged a successful 1860 invasion of Sicily and marched on Naples, Cavour was forced to annex the remainder of Italy (minus Rome), ratifying by 1861 plebiscite, the Kingdom of Italy with (Piedmont) King Victor Emanuel II (1849–1878) as sovereign. The 1866 Austro-Prussian War ended Austrian influence and handed Venetia to the Italians; the 1870–71 Franco-Prussian War ended French protection of Rome and completed unification.
- **The unification Germany** (1864–1871). After the failed 1848–49 German unification “from the top,” it was clear that only after Austrian influence was curtailed in favor of Prussian primacy, could one set out to unify the German confederacy. Prussian Chancellor Otto von Bismarck (1815–1889) sought to weaken Austrian influence by both renewing the Austria-excluded Prussian *Zollverein* (tax union) and drawing Austria into an administrative conflict over Schleswig and Hollstein (1864 Prusso-Austrian rebuke of Danish incorporation of Schleswig). The attempt to exclude Austria from the German Confederation provoked the 1866 Prusso-Austrian War, which ended Austrian influence over German affairs without further indemnity. Bypassing parliamentary resistance to military reform (Blood and Steel reference), Bismarck professionalized and expanded Prussian forces. His quandary of how to unite the previously Catholic, pro-Austrian South, was resolved through the succession crisis in Spain (ouster of Isabella II (r. 1843–1868)), when French fears of Prussian European dominance caused Napoleon III to overreach. Bismarck manipulated media accounts of the Prussian-French negotiations over the succession to the Spanish throne to create the public impression that France had been snubbed, prompting Napoleon III to declare war on Prussia. The French 1870 declaration of war unified southern German (Catholic) states behind Prussian leadership, and the 1871 Prussian victory shifted the power decisively from France to Germany, now united under Prussian hegemony.
- **The establishment of the Dual Monarchy – The Austro-Hungarian *Ausgleich*** (1867; compromise). The eroding influence of the Habsburg Monarchy and waxing assertion of Magyar nobility forced Austria to embrace dualism, granting limited or collaborative powers to Hungary.
- **The disintegration Ottoman Empire – The Eastern Question – The ‘Sick Man of Europe’** The stature of Ottoman Turkey had been in slow decline due, in part, to nationalist assertions for independence (1878 Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria) and Western Imperialism (Russia-Crimea, Caucasus; France-Algeria). The 1853–56 Crimean War exposed the Empire’s military weakness. Russian Pan-Slavism led to the 1875 Balkan insurrections and Russian territorial expansion in the ensuing 1877–78 Russo Turkish war. Bismarck, fearing further Russian assertions and possibly an Anglo-Russian war, commenced the 1878 Congress of Berlin in which Western powers effectively divided the spoils of imperialism and ensured the Ottoman Empire’s disintegration (giving way to the 1911 First Balkan War).

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 7 (continued)

- **New Imperialism – Colonialism** Industrial innovation in transport and weaponry colluded with nationalism and imperial rivalry to fuel a drive for colonies in the 1880's. Western powers invested heavily in opening new territory to exploration and exploitation, particularly in Africa and Asia. The 1885 Berlin Conference both regulated the quickly accumulated territory of King Leopold II (Belgium, r. 1865–1909) in the Congo, and set off a 15-year scramble for Africa. The Dutch vastly expanded control of the East Indies (now Indonesia) while France (Indo-China), and Great Britain (India), and Russia (central and East Asia) further consolidated interests. These expansions inevitably led to Inter-European rivalries exemplified in the 1905–06/1911 Moroccan Crises, and the 1905 Russo Japanese War.
- **The Alliance System** To ensure German security and balance of power in Europe, Bismarck set out to forge a series of alliances. The 1879 Dual Alliance with Austria strengthened control over *Mitteleuropa* (Middle Europe) and gave rise to (misplaced) Austrian hopes of control over the Balkans. Russia's renewed power after the Crimean disaster forced Austria to accept the 1881–1887 *Dreikaiserbund* (Three Emperor's League), which gave Russia renewed control over the Straits (the 1887–1890 Reassurance Treaty was its successor, minus Austria) and renewed zeal in Balkan affairs. The 1882 Triple Alliance with Italy and Austria completed Bismarck's attempts to isolate France. However, Balkan succession quarrels strained Russo-Austrian relations and Russo-French rapprochement, resulting in 1904 Entente Cordiale between France and Great Britain and the 1911 Triple Entente including Russia.

The face of Europe changed dramatically between 1848 ~~and~~ and 1914. The old powers stayed strong while new nations emerged, sometimes unbalancing the power. The unification of Germany and Italy in ~~1871~~ and ~~1861~~ 1861 added two new powers and changed the map of central Europe. The crumbling of the Ottoman Empire down to WWI led to tension in Eastern Europe between Russia, Austria-Hungary, and the nationalistic ethnicities. Finally, the secret treaties and alliances changed the balance of power and decided who would come out on top after WWI.

The German states had not ever been united for a long period of time. Charlemagne and Napoleon almost achieved it while the ~~Holy~~ Holy Roman Empire was just a loose coalition. That is until Otto von Bismarck and Kaiser Wilhelm united Germany under Prussia by defeating Denmark, Austria, and France in wars. This brought a new power to the game and arguably the most powerful on the continent and the ~~most~~ most clever diplomat in Bismarck. After defeating France, Germany possessed the largest population, biggest industry, and strongest army on the continent. The balance of power had completely shifted with central Europe being the powerhouse after centuries of western European dominance. The unification of Italy also added another world power, though that is debatable. Italy hadn't been united since Napoleon (shortly) and before that Rome.

Cavour, Victor Emmanuel, and Garibaldi helped unite the weak city states. Italy definitely didn't have the power or significance that Germany had but it was comparable to Austria-Hungary which was considered a power, along with England, France, Russia, Germany, and now Italy. These newly unified powers had brought confusion to the European power game and that had significant consequences.

The Ottoman Empire had been dragging on in Eastern Europe since its heyday in the early 1500s at the Battle of Mohacs and siege of Vienna. They still owned most of the Balkans and South west Europe. As the empire started to crumble, the Russian and Austria-Hungarian Empires faced tension on who would take this new land. Some ethnicities wanted to be Russian, some Austria-Hungarian, some independent. As we know, this conflict led to ~~the~~ the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and WWI. The tension between Russia and Austria-Hungary led to different powers joining different sides as Germany had Austria-Hungary's back while France has Russia's back. This tension in Eastern Europe gave the powers a reason to fight and the tension had to burst. England knew that if the Ottoman Empire collapsed all at once there would be chaos and war in Europe ~~due~~ to all the tension and different ethnicities so they tried to keep the Ottomans alive as long as possible but it couldn't last.

As they began to lose more and more land, the tension grew and grew.

A major problem in the pre-WWI era was the secret treaties and alliances that all these powers had with each other. At first, Bismarck and Germany had a huge advantage because they managed to get Russia, Austria-Hungary, Italy, and neutrality of England if they attacked France. This left France totally alone and vulnerable, a great accomplishment to Bismarck's diplomacy. But the new Kaiser decided to make enemies with everyone but Austria-Hungary and the Ottomans, which gave France the heavy advantage of surrounding Germany. These treaties totally changed the balance of power throughout Europe as the advantage switched between France and Germany. Bismarck said that the best place was to be on the side with 3 powers instead of the side with 2 powers. The treaties, whether secret or not, totally changed the power landscape of Europe and if all these alliances and promises hadn't been made then there probably wouldn't have been WWI.

Balance of power has been a major idea in Europe since the fall of Rome. The game only became more difficult in the late 19th century with the addition of Germany and Italy, the slow decline of the Ottoman Empire, and the series of treaties that brought everyone into a war that didn't concern them at all.

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

7 B p 1 of 4

Although the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were a key turning point in the balance of power throughout Europe, the unification of Germany was the most influential in the ushering-in of the modern era. The most influential figure focusing on the balance of power in Europe was the German prime minister Otto von Bismarck. Bismarck's deceit, military authority, and use of diplomacy were the primary causes leading from the decline of French power and influence in the 1800s to ~~Even~~ World War I. ~~¶~~ Unification and establishment of Germany during the period of 1848-1914 was the major factor that affected the changing balance of power among European states.

Beginning with Bismarck's creation of a unified German empire through international relations with Austria, he used the concept of realpolitik to get what he and his nationalism-driven people of Germany what they wanted: unification. ~~That~~ Instigating a war with ~~Austria~~ ^{Denmark}, Bismarck cunningly established the ~~war~~ ^{treaty} with Austria to defeat

7B 2014

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the northern nation with rewards of insignificant German lands/territories. After a crushing defeat, Prussia and Austria prevailed. From there, clever Bismarck tricked his once-Allied partner Austria into war over the "governing" of their new territory - to which Austria could not withstand the surging, ^{fourth-largest} military of Europe - inflamed with nationalism and led by the Junkers whom swore allegiance until death to the Fatherland. Otto von Bismarck established a German state led by Prussia for the first time in Modern European History. But yet, the hunger of new territorial acquisition, faced Germany and their new Chancellor. Having eliminated the balance of power entirely with Austria, Prussia-now-Germany would expand their Empire to the borders of one European superpower: France.

Having upset the European balance of power, Bismarck initiated the Franco-Prussian War to defeat Napoleon

III and his glorious Second Empire.

Inciting realpolitik and kulturkampf once more, Bismarck intentionally twisted his own King's words to try and instigate the French; he manipulated a telegram ~~from~~^{at} Ems from Wilhelm to an ambassador to sound insulting to Napoleon. Having been offended, the French launched a war with Prussia to which they were defeated.

Germany and Otto von Bismarck had entirely wiped out the balance of power within Europe and emerged as ~~arguably~~ the most powerful country of their time.

In the period beginning with the Revolutions of 1848 until the eve of WWI in Europe, Germany was the primary state that upset and radically changed the balance of power from the modern history beforehand. Having eliminated Austria, and France through realpolitik and kulturkampf, ~~and~~ Otto von Bismarck created the state responsible for the two future World Wars. The unification of Germany was sought after from the beginning of modern history, and

7-B p4 of 4

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having been filled with extreme nationalism and pride, that task was achieved and had significant upsets and consequences to Europe, the future, and the nineteenth century balance of power.

In 1848-1914 ~~causing~~ the ~~old~~ balance of power between European countries was greatly effected. Many factors contributed to the change of power. Much of Europe was changing. Countries were modernizing, others more than ~~most~~ most. In the end there were not set factors that caused the change. A variety of factors caused the change in the balance of power.

Some of the people of Europe distrusted their leaders. The people had been put through so many wars and battles that they didn't know who to trust as their leader. Some leaders were well equipt leaders. These leaders had no idea what they were doing and were just clueless. Overall the European countries had poor leaders between 1848-1914.

Another factor that change the balance of power was that the German states wanted to be unisored as one country. The German states trying to break away and become their ~~own~~ own unisored nation caused a lot of ~~new drama~~ drama for the European countries. Russia didn't

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want to release control of the German states. The German states were going to do anything to be independent.

Many other factors contributed to the change in the balance of power. Modernization, advances in technology and the economy all played different roles on the change in power. There was not just one single factor, but many.

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY 2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 7

Overview

The intent of this question was to have students identify and explain the main events or processes (or both) that influenced the changing balance of power among European states between the failed revolutions of 1848 and the outbreak of World War I in 1914. Students were required to discuss multiple (at least two) such “factors”. Implicit in the question (but not specifically required) is the expectation that student responses could address the pre-1848 or post-1918 balance of power in Europe or relations between individual European countries in these two periods.

Sample: 7A

Score: 9

This essay offers a well-articulated and sophisticated thesis (in the introductory paragraph) that identifies three factors that led to changes in the balance of power: (1) the unifications of Italy and Germany, (2) the decline of the Ottoman Empire, and (3) the conclusion of secret treaties and alliances. The essay proceeds to outline each of these processes in separate paragraphs, offering plentiful specific evidence for each process. Causal linkages between the processes outlined in the body paragraphs and changes in the balance of power are explicit and persuasive. The level of detail of the evidence and the nuance and sophistication of the arguments earned the essay the maximum score of 9 points.

Sample: 7B

Score: 5

This essay provides an impressive amount of evidence on Bismarck’s role in the unification of Germany, and it links German unification to changes in the balance of power. But the essay’s singular focus on one factor (albeit an important one) constrains the scope of its organization and leads to a linear thesis and a discussion that is mostly narrative, rather than analytical. Bismarck’s methods are the focus of the thesis and, even though those methods are thoroughly characterized (deceit, military authority, use of diplomacy), the result is an essay that lacks balance and variety. Despite the rich factual narrative on Bismarck’s eliminating Austrian influence in German affairs and then using the Franco-Prussian war to complete the process of German unification, the narrow focus prevented the essay from earning a score higher than 5 points.

Sample: 7C

Score: 1

This essay attempts but fails to answer the prompt. Both attempts at a thesis, in the introductory and concluding paragraphs, are unsuccessful because they either restate the prompt (first paragraph) or offer generalities not specifically connected to changes in the balance of power (last paragraph). The body paragraphs offer one erroneous and irrelevant factor (people’s distrust in leaders) and one relevant but barely developed factor (German unification). There is no creditable attempt at explaining how or why the factors discussed in the essay changed the balance of power. But the mention of German unification and the vague allusion to Prussian motivation for seeking to unite Germany earned the essay 1 point.