HSTEU 274

Autumn 2019

Part 2. Essay. Read the following sets of passages carefully, and select ONE SET of the paired quotations. Write a coherent, well-organized analytic essay in which you identify a common theme of the passages, compare and contrast the authors’ approaches to this theme, and discuss the specific historical context for their approaches. 60 points.

1A) “England looked strange to us returned soldiers. We could not understand the war madness that ran about everywhere, looking for a pseudo-military outlet. The civilians talked a foreign language; and it was newspaper language. I found serious conversation with my parents all but impossible.”

Robert Graves, *Good-bye to All That*

1B) “Now I looked back: four years of development in the midst of a generation predestined to death, spent in caves, smoke-filled trenches, and the shell-illumined wastes … in short, a monotonous calendar full of hardships and privation, divided by the red-letter days of battles. And almost without any thought of mind, the idea of the Fatherland had been distilled from all these afflictions in a clearer and brighter essence. That was the final winnings in a game on which so often all had been staked: the nation was no longer for me an empty thought veiled in symbols.”

Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel*

-**OR-**

2A) “The things we talked about on those hikes! For example, what life would be like after the Bolsheviks took over. We thought communism would begin as soon as the soviets assumed power. Money was not even mentioned; it was clear to us that money would disappear right away. What would it be like to live under communism? Anatoly Popov imagined enormous public buildings that would include huge cafeterias, Laundromats, day care centers, and kindergartens, that would free families from all household chores. The only kind of property we would allow would be books and clothes … we agreed that under communism everything was going to be beautiful – both spiritually (there would be no more greed or envy) and externally (all clothing would be light – in weight and color).”

Anna Litveiko, “In 1917”

2B) “The workers’ state needs new relations between the sexes … In place of the individual and egoistic family, a great universal family of workers will develop, in which all the workers, men and women, will above all be comrades. This is what relations between men and women in the communist society will be like. These new relations will ensure for humanity all the joys of a love unknown in the commercial society of capitalism, a love that is free and based on the true social equality of happy young people, free in their feelings and affections.”

Alexandra Kollantai, “Communism and the Family”