

# HIST 103 THE WORLD SINCE 1945

## Essay List 2012

1. 'During the Cold War each side was imprisoned by its own perceptions and misconceptions'. Discuss.
2. In what respects has US presidential power changed in the post-war period?
3. 'After Stalin's death the Soviet political system largely remained rigid, stagnant and inefficient despite attempts to rejuvenate the economy and society.' Discuss in relation to a Soviet leader of your choice.
4. In the aftermath of the Second World War, what factors and forces brought about integration in Western Europe?
5. 'There was nothing inevitable about the reunification of Germany in 1990'. Discuss.
6. To what extent was Charles de Gaulle responsible for the post-war modernisation of France?
7. 'Until the late 1980s, communist control in Eastern Europe ultimately relied on repression and the support of the Soviet Union.' Discuss.
8. Why, in the aftermath of decolonisation, have so many African states been unable to achieve political stability and sustained economic development?
9. 'Since independence, India has witnessed significant but not always successful political, cultural and economic change.' Discuss.
10. 'Between 1949 and 1976, Mao Zedong's rule was far more destructive than it was visionary or constructive.' Discuss.
11. 'Through a mix of good fortune, good tactics and traditional strengths, Japan became a post-war economic superpower.' Discuss.
12. Why has the Arab-Israeli conflict proved so persistent and difficult to resolve?
13. Account for the emergence of political Islam.