Question 7

Analyze the effects of nationalism on the Austrian Empire in the period 1815 to 1914.

9–8 Points
• Thesis is explicit and fully responsive to the question.
• Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
  o Essay must explicitly analyze the impact of nationalism on the Austrian Empire.
  o Essay must address several ethnic/national groups within and/or outside the Austrian Empire (this may include Austrians themselves or the impact of Italian, German/Prussian, Russian, or Ottoman nationalism).
  o Response is in the proper chronological context (1815–1914) and addresses effects in several different periods.
• Essay is well balanced; all major topics suggested by the prompt are covered at some length.
  o Stronger essays in this category should analyze multiple effects of nationalism on the Austrian Empire.
• All major assertions in the essay are supported by several pieces of relevant evidence for at least two ethnic/national groups within and/or outside the Austrian Empire.
• May contain errors that do not detract from the argument.

7–6 Points
• Thesis is explicit and responsive to the question.
  o Theses in this category will address more than one effect of nationalism on the Austrian Empire.
• Organization is clear and effective in support of the argument but not consistently followed.
  o Essay must analyze the impact of nationalism on the Austrian Empire.
  o Essay must address a few ethnic/national groups within and/or outside the Austrian Empire.
  o Response is in the proper chronological context (1815–1914) and addresses effects in a few different periods.
• Essay is balanced; all major topics suggested by the prompt are covered at least briefly.
  o Stronger essays in this category should analyze some effects of nationalism on the Austrian Empire.
• All major assertions in the essay are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence for at least two ethnic/national groups within and/or outside the Austrian Empire.
• May contain one major error or several minor errors that detract from the argument.

5–4 Points
• Thesis may be underdeveloped or not fully responsive to the question.
  o In essays in this category, the thesis must move beyond a simple paraphrase of the prompt and should address a specific effect of nationalism on the Austrian Empire.
• Organization may be unclear but is still effective.
  o Essay must address the impact of nationalism on the Austrian Empire.
  o Essays in this category may focus primarily on one ethnic group within and/or outside the Austrian Empire and merely mention others.
  o Response should mostly be in the proper chronological context (1815–1914) and may only address effects in one specific period.
• Essay shows some unevenness; some major topics suggested by the prompt are covered superficially.
  o Essays in this category should analyze an effect of nationalism.
Question 7 (continued)

• Most of the major assertions in the essay are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence for at least one ethnic group within and/or outside the Austrian Empire.
• May contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

3–2 Points
• May contain a weak thesis or a thesis that merely repeats/paraphrases the prompt.
• Organization is unclear and ineffective.
  o Essays in this category should attempt to be in the proper chronological context or may address an effect from a specific period very generally.
• Essay shows serious imbalance and/or may only discuss the ethnic/national composition of the Austrian Empire without linking it to nationalism.
• Essay may contain little relevant evidence.
• May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

1–0 Points
• May contain an exceptionally banal thesis, or there is no discernable attempt at a relevant thesis.
• Little discernable organization or may be completely off topic.
• One or none of the major topics suggested by the prompt is mentioned.
  o Essays in this category may simply offer generalized statements about nationalism in the period 1815–1914 or deal primarily with the twentieth century.
• Little or no supporting evidence is used.
• May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.
The Austrian Empire may have been the country most affected by nationalism in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As a land of many diverse cultures and ethnicities, such as Magyars, Slavs, and Bosnians, the Empire would often struggle to suppress nationalist ambitions as a means of preserving itself as a world power. Nationalism would have its most significant effects on the Empire in 1815, 1848, and the late 19th century, and 1914. Nationalism would eventually prove to be the catalyst of the breakup of the Empire.

In 1815, Austria had seen the effects of nationalism in the French Revolution and the subsequent reign of Napoleon. The conservative ruling nobility of Austria recognized nationalism as a danger to their diverse empire, and sought to crush ambitions. 1815 was the year of the Congress of Vienna, in which Austrian Chancellor Metternich aimed to wage war on nationalism. He aimed to restore...
peace to Europe by suppressing nationalist risings and restoring legitimacy to the thrones of foreign countries in the form of pre-French Revolution royal families. Recognizing nationalism as a direct threat to his empire, Metternich saw it as responsible for bloodshed and wars, and sought to keep the established order; thereby forming the concept of conservatism. Successfully working to quell revolts in Europe, such as those in Spain and the two Sicilies, his measures for peace were largely successful but nationalism lived on. Nationalism reached its highpoint in the Revolutions of 1848, which almost upset Austria's order; however, these were crushed by ruling armies and were largely unsuccessful although they forced Metternich to abdicate. Following these revolutions, Austria was forced into forming the Dual Alliance with Hungary, thus forming the Austro-Hungarian Empire, because of rising Magyar ambitions. This Empire was to remain largely peaceful,
until the year of 1914, although nationalism continued to thrive. Thus, nationalism was for the most part successfully dealt with in Austria prior to 1914. 1914 was the in which nationalism would prove to be its most devastating, as it would be one of the main causes of World War I. Bosnia ceded to Austria in the Congress of Berlin, largely resented foreign domination, and the Serbs there hated being under Austrian control. Thus, when the Archduke Franz Ferdinand visited Bosnia in 1914, he was killed for Serbian nationalism. Austria was furious with this act, provoked Serbia, and declared war on them in 1914. Since Russians felt loyal to the Serbs of Serbia, since they were the same race, Russia would declare war on Austria. The system of alliances that Europe had prior to 1914 would lead into the most devastating war the world had ever seen. Thus, nationalism was to be responsible for throwing Austria into a war that it lost and subsequently
was forced to give up almost all of its territory. Nationalism, which was attempted to be suppressed by Austria for so long, proved to be the end of the Austrian Empire.

As the holder of a multiethnic empire during a time of rising nationalistic ambitions in Europe, the Austrian Empire faced a serious foe in this idealism. In 1815, Metternich took the lead in suppressing nationalism in Europe and aimed to hold on to the Austrian Empire. These aims were largely successful throughout the 19th century as armies effectively crushed nationalistic risings all around Europe. Although Austria met its toughest year in the revolutionary year of 1848, the Empire survived, making concessions with Hungarian nationalists later by establishing the Dual Alliance. However, the fires of nationalism were never to be completely extinguished in the Austrian Empire. In the wake of resentment of Austrian rule, Serbian nationalists aimed and succeeded in rebelling against Austria by killing the archduke Franz.
Ferdinand in 1914, sending Europe into all-out war. The Treaty of Versailles, with its stress on national self-determination, would end the Austrian Empire by granting its foreign, non-Austrian countries independence. Although the Austrian Empire tried to combat it, nationalism proved to be the downfall of the Austrian Empire.
Nationalism had profound effects around Europe, especially in the Austrian Empire. To the Austrian monarchy, nationalism was a two-sided sword. One side was its effect of ethnic fragmentation within its borders, which contained diverse peoples. Its other was that of external unity towards its goal of expansion, specifically in the Balkans.

The problem of overly-diverse ethnic composition had plagued the Austrian monarchy since the beginning of modern Europe. Its borders, by the 1860s and early 1900s, had come to contain the Magyars of Hungary, Czechs in Bohemia, the Poles in Poland, Slovaks, Serbs, and Austrians (Germans), just to name the major groups. When the concept of nationalism had been first spawned by Napoleon’s France, the Austrian Empire had enough power to repress uprisings and did not have as many races as early 1900s. Since that time, the Austrian-oriented empire had slowly expanded its Central European territories, and by the lead up to WWI, was at the brink of internal chaos.

As nationalistic sentiment took an upswing during the pre-WWI years, the Magyars of Hungary, in particular, expressed strong dissatisfaction at being ruled by Austrians in Vienna. They demanded sovereignty and the Austrians were forced to concede a “dual monarchy”. As a result, the Austrian Empire became the Austria-Hungarian Empire on the maps of Europe. Other minorities expressed such as the Czechs and Serbs, expressed similar wishes, but they lacked the numbers and influence the Magyars had had. This resulted in unrest among the various discontent minorities, as they made increasingly radical moves towards independence. This further fundamentally shook Austrian Empire’s strength and the results could be seen clearly by WWI, when the fighting broke out.
However, not all the effects of nationalism were negative for the Austrian Empire (as is commonly known). Although nationalism did eventually fragment the *AE, it did bring about, to a certain degree, unity as well. The AE wished to assert its influence in the Balkans as a vacuum of power resulted from the Ottoman Empire's decline. Despite having quarrels amongst themselves, the constituents of the AE were united when there was prospect of profit for them. The Austrians, Hungarians, Serbs, and other minorities worked reasonably well together when presented with a common goal. This drive towards the Balkans was welcomed by minorities wishing to incorporate their kin into the AE, in particular.

In conclusion, nationalism had both negative and positive effects on the AE. Perhaps, due to the AE's collapse, the negative aspects of nationalism are the ones usually recognized by people, but it should not be the fact that it provided Hungary, some degree of unity in the AE should not be overlooked, no matter how short-lived it was.

*Austrian Empire*
Historically, Austria has always been a hostile area due to ethnic diversity. Nationalism only helped to foster that hostility and slowly named the powder-keg of Europe. The beginning of the 19th century saw the age of reaction, aka the age of Metternich. The Austrian Empire was ruled by Metternich. Austrian nationalism did not go far under Metternich, a Conservative who wanted to maintain a centralized state, and was one of the fundamental causes of World War I.

The early 1800s saw the rise of liberal movements. Most of the liberals wanted a constitutional government, a direct opposite of what conservative leaders wanted, total unity of the state under one leader. Where constitutional governments were popping up all over Europe, the conservative Metternich retained his old form of government. He was able to suppress the reform movements implemented by other nations that were endorsed in his, such as educational reforms. The tension building up and the nationalist feeling of being inferior to other nations certainly was not beneficial to the development of the Austrian Empire, however, it was what Metternich needed to do in order to achieve national unity.

For Austria however, the problem was not so much with other nations as it was for itself. Religion played a major part in everyone’s lives. Religion was a major problem for Austria. The diversity of race meant a diversity of religion, not to mention that there was a huge diversity of people living in one area. Such problems became worse with anti-Semitism, the hatred of the Jewish race/religion. Nationalism, being one of the fundamental causes of war, was definitely one of the causes of World War I. It led to the immediate cause, the assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand.
Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

Not only was nationalism in the Austrian Empire a barrier between true unity of the country, it was one of the fundamental causes of World War I. The build up of nationalism in this diverse nation fostered old prejudices and intolerance of others that were different. Leaving us with the question, why so senseless?
Question 7

Sample: 7A
Score: 9

This essay contains an explicit and fully responsive thesis that notes the need for the rulers of the Austrian Empire to suppress nationalism in order to preserve imperial unity. The essay discusses Austria’s rise as a European power and shows how nationalism became a catalyst for the breakup of the empire. The essay focuses on multiple expressions of Austrian nationalism—under Metternich in 1815 and 1848, in the late nineteenth century in the Balkans, and finally in 1914—along with sophisticated analyses of these examples.

Sample: 7B
Score: 5

This essay contains a solid thesis addressing ethnic fragmentation in the Austrian Empire. The second part of the thesis on ethnic unity and expansion is unclear. The essay treats ethnic diversity effectively and supplies a useful discussion of the Magyars. The discussion of Austro-Hungarian expansionism in the Balkans is confused. The essay provides some specific evidence on Magyars, but it conflates other ethnic groups in places. The evidence on Austro-Hungarian unity is confused. This is a good example of an essay that addresses only one consequence of nationalism.

Sample: 7C
Score: 3

This essay contains a weak thesis that ineffectively describes the connections between nationalism and ethnic hostility and the effects of nationalism as a reason for the First World War. The discussion of reform and the desire to maintain Austrian power under Metternich works as a general discussion of the effects of nationalism in the early nineteenth century. The analysis of the First World War and nationalism is undeveloped.