

**GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
SILVASSA CAMPUS**

**Course: Comparative World History
Semester- II (Batch: 2024-29)**

End Semester Examination: April-May 2025

Date: 3rd May, 2025

Duration: 3 hours

Max. Marks: 50

Instructions:

- Read the questions properly and write the answers in the given answer book.
- Do not write anything on the question paper.
- The respective marks for each question are indicated in-line.
- Indicate correct question numbers in front of the answer.
- No questions or clarification can be sought during the exam period, answer as it is, giving reason, if any.
- Word Limit: 10 Marks: 800 words, 5 Marks: 400 words.

	Marks
Part A	
Answer any four of the following:	
Q.1 The Indus Valley Civilization remains one of the most enigmatic ancient civilizations despite extensive archaeological research at sites like Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Rakhigarhi and Dholavira. Unlike contemporary Mesopotamian or Egyptian civilizations, our understanding of its governance structures remains limited. Yet, the remarkable urban planning, standardized weights and measures, and apparent social organization suggest sophisticated systems of authority. Discuss the archaeological evidence that provides insights into possible legal and governance structures in the Indus Valley Civilization. What can we infer about their concept of civic authority and social regulation based on material evidence?	(10)
Q.2 The foundations of modern copyright law, despite appearing as a relatively recent legal concept, can be traced back to the sophisticated property classifications in Ancient Roman jurisprudence. Roman legal scholars distinguished between physical property and intangible property, creating frameworks for determining ownership when works were transformed, combined, or made publicly accessible. How did Roman distinctions between tangible and intangible property shape our understanding of creative ownership? Explain the significance of Roman legal concepts like <i>accessio</i> (attachment rule) and <i>adiunctio</i> (joining separate objects) in relation to contemporary copyright principles regarding derivative works and compilations.	(10)
Q.3 Indigenous people worldwide continue to assert claims to sovereignty, self-determination and accountability for colonial violence that challenge conventional state-centric legal frameworks. These claims often draw on historical treaties, traditional governance structures, and evolving international law. There have been significant legal developments regarding indigenous rights in both national and international forums. In what way the United States of America's legal system has dealt with claims involving indigenous land rights. What conceptual and practical challenges emerge when indigenous legal traditions interacted with the U.S legal system?	(10)
Q.4 The French Revolution proclaimed the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity, yet the implementation of these principles regarding women's rights remained deeply contested. While women actively participated in revolutionary movements, their legal and political status underwent complex transformations during this period. Analyse the evolution of	(10)

women's social and legal position in revolutionary France. How did revolutionary discourse both advance and constrain women's claims to citizenship and legal equality?

- Q.5 The atrocities committed during World War II revealed profound gaps in existing international legal frameworks regarding the protection of civilians, treatment of prisoners, and accountability for mass crimes. The post-war period saw unprecedented developments in international humanitarian and human rights law. Examine how World War II experiences directly shaped the development of international humanitarian law. What specific wartime events catalysed the creation of new legal protections? (10)

Part B

Answer **any two** of the following:

- Q.6 Roman women occupied a complex legal position that differed markedly from their Greek counterparts, with their status evolving significantly across the Republican and Imperial periods. While legally subordinate through institutions like *patria potestas* and *manus marriage*, Roman women gradually gained important property rights and social freedoms unknown in other ancient societies. Analyse the legal position of women in different periods of Roman history, focusing on marriage laws, property ownership, and guardianship provisions. (5)
- Q.7 Colonial powers often implemented legal frameworks that criminalized entire communities based on prejudiced understandings of indigenous social structures. The Criminal Tribes Act in British India exemplified this approach by designating certain communities as inherently criminal. Examine how this legislation reflected colonial attitudes toward indigenous populations and served administrative objectives. What were the long-term consequences of such legal classifications for affected communities? (5)
- Q.8 While sharing core ideological elements—extreme nationalism, anti-liberalism, and authoritarianism—Italian Fascism under Mussolini and German Nazism under Hitler developed distinctive characteristics shaped by their respective national contexts and leadership. Both regimes systematically dismantled democratic institutions, suppressed opposition, and mobilized their societies for aggressive expansion, ultimately contributing to the outbreak of World War II. Compare and contrast the rise of fascism in Italy and Germany, examining the specific historical conditions that facilitated their emergence. (5)
