Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations
Option 1G: Germany and West Germany, 1918–89

Friday 9th June 2017 – Morning

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

9HI0/1G

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From A. J. P. Taylor, *The Origins of the Second World War*, published 1963.

The economic advance of Soviet Russia obsessed Hitler. It was indeed startling. During the ten years between 1929 and 1939, while the manufacturing production of Germany increased by 27 per cent and that of Great Britain by 17 per cent Soviet Russia's increased by 400 per cent; and the process was only beginning. By 1938 Soviet Russia was the second industrial power in the world, ranking only after the United States. She had still far to go: her population was still impoverished, her resources were hardly developed. Hitler had not much time if he was to escape being overshadowed, and still less if he hoped to seize the Soviet Ukraine*. It would have made sense for Hitler to plan a great war against Soviet Russia. But, though he often talked of such a war, he did not plan for it. German armaments were not designed for such a war. Hitler's rearmament was only intended to reinforce a diplomatic war of nerves. It is hard to tell whether Hitler took the project of war against Soviet Russia seriously, or whether it was an attractive illusion with which to fool Western statesmen. The war of 1939, far from being premeditated, was a mistake, the result of blunders by Hitler and his opponents.

*Soviet Ukraine – land seized by Germany in 1918 and retaken by the Soviet Union by 1922

Extract 2: From Tim Mason, *Nazism, Fascism and the Working Class*, published 1995.

The attempt to explain the causes of the Second World War by the shortcomings of European statesmen is profoundly mistaken. The foreign policy of the Third Reich was dynamic in character, limitless in its aims to achieve domination and entirely lacking the idea of a 'diplomatic solution'. Expansionism is sometimes treated by historians merely as the restoration of German power in Europe, but the desire to expand was in itself a cause of war. The outbreak of a European war over Danzig was not just a matter of miscalculation on Hitler's part. Hitler took the straightforward risk that Britain and France would declare war in the event of a German invasion of Poland. The decision to take the risk launched the Second World War. Hitler would have preferred Britain and France to remain inactive, but the risk was so obvious that we must presume that he was ready to accept war with them if they were prepared to support Poland.

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