Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

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

Wednesday 6 June 2018 – Afternoon
Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference
9HI0/1G

Do not return this booklet with the question paper.

Turn over ▶

P51884A

©2018 Pearson Education Ltd.

1/1

P 5 1 8 8 4 A

Pearson

Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Karl Dietrich Bracher, *The German Dictatorship,* published 1971.

Poland was the last country where Hitler could claim to have legitimate grounds to revise the terms set out in the Treaty of Versailles. After the destruction of Czechoslovakia Hitler announced that the Danzig question had to be solved. Hitler did not believe that the guarantee Chamberlain had given to Poland in March 1939 had changed the European situation.

Hitler thought the guarantee to Poland was pure bluff. On April 28 he ended the German-Polish Non-Aggression Pact and the Anglo-German naval agreement; he now demanded a passageway through the Polish Corridor. His moves followed the same pattern as 1938, and he ordered the plans for the attack on Poland on September 1, 1939. Hitler had told his top military leaders in May that Danzig was only an excuse for further expansion. He claimed that *Lebensraum* and achieving a guaranteed food supply for Germany were his real motives.

Hitler had good reason to be optimistic. Even though the Western powers had begun to produce armaments on a greater scale, they still wanted appeasement.

Extract 2: From Gordon Craig, *Germany 1866–1945*, published 1978.

With the conclusion of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, which struck the Western capitals with the force of a thunderbolt, Hitler's preparations for the next phase of his eastern plan were complete. Had Hitler wanted to achieve his objectives by negotiation he could have done so. The Poles were now clear on the reality of their position and were eager for an arrangement. But Hitler did not want another Munich. He declined the advice of other European leaders, including that of Mussolini.

Ciano, the Italian Foreign Minister, asked Ribbentrop, Hitler's Foreign Minister, what Germany wanted from Poland. He was informed: 'We want war'. Ribbentrop was of course merely reflecting the thoughts of Hitler. At this point in his career no triumph seemed satisfactory to Hitler unless it involved devastating military force.

Hitler calculated that, if Western states intervened, it would give him the opportunity to destroy them and clear the way for the greater war against Russia that would fulfil Germany's destiny. Hitler was not surprised when the British and French governments responded to the invasion of Poland by declaring war on Germany.

Every effort has been made to contact copyright holders to obtain their permission for the use of copyright material. Pearson Education Ltd. will, if notified, be happy to rectify any errors or omissions and include any such rectifications in future editions.