Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Thursday 23 May 2024

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

Paper reference **9HI0/1G**

History

Advanced

PAPER 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1G: Germany and West Germany, 1918–89

Extracts Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Gerhard L. Weinberg, *The Nazi-Soviet Pacts: A Half-Century Later,* published 1989.

Hitler did not invade Poland as part of a well-thought-out plan, his strategy evolved.

Hitler's primary method for gaining influence over Poland was to get them to join the Anti-Comintern Pact. The leaders of Poland were strongly anti-Communist but they did not want to surrender Poland's independence. When the Poles refused to submit to Hitler's demands, he then decided that a war against Poland was necessary.

Hitler now required an opportunistic change in Germany's relationship with the Soviet Union. Working with the Soviets to partition Poland appeared to offer Germany a number of advantages. It would isolate Poland for a quick attack, and might deter Britain and France from coming to Poland's aid.

The prospect of an alliance with Stalin looked even more attractive to Hitler at a time when he could not persuade Italy to join him in fighting a war. Hitler believed that a quick and decisive war on the west would allow him to make war on Russia later. The German military leaders were very keen on war against Poland and then a one-front war on the west.

Extract 2: From Milan Hauner, *Did Hitler want a World Dominion?,* published 1978.

During the first stage of his plan Hitler wanted Germany to achieve domination of the European continent. The enlarged Third Reich, which would emerge in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles, was to be called the Greater German Reich and it was to last for a thousand years. German-speaking groups were to be brought together and lost territories, mostly in Poland, recovered.

Additionally, Poland, once subdued, would give Hitler's armed forces an important land base from which to attack Russia. This explains why Hitler's acceptance of the Anglo-German Naval Treaty of 1935 occurred. He did not envisage using the fleet during the initial stages of his aggressive moves on the Continent.

Anschluss with Austria was the first act of direct Nazi aggression. Hitler, who was convinced that Britain and France would remain passive, was then ready to risk a limited war against Czechoslovakia as early as Autumn 1938. When the Sudetenland was taken without war, the rest of Czechoslovakia swiftly followed.

In September 1939 the invasion of Poland completed the first stage of Hitler's plan.

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Acknowledgements:

Extract 1 from: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/europe/1989-09-01/nazi-soviet-pacts-half-century-later

Extract 2 from: *Did Hitler Want a World Dominion?*, By Milan Hauner, © Journal of Contemporary History, 1978.