Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Friday 23 May 2025

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 Stephen J Lee, *Hitler and Nazi Germany*, published 1998.

One of the factors that influenced Hitler was the past traditions of German foreign policy. There is a considerable degree of continuity between the objectives of Hitler on the one hand and the foreign policy of the Second Reich* and the Weimar Republic on the other. Germany was on an expansionist path well before the Nazi era, but Hitler took this further with his concept of *Lebensraum*. Germany's aims during the First World War were extensive. They included economic control of Belgium, Holland and France, as well as unification with Austria, and the establishment of a Greater Germany.

The Weimar Republic also helped to shape Hitler's approach to foreign policy. Stresemann, Foreign Minister between 1923 and 1929, had focused on revision of the Treaty of Versailles. The army, under von Seeckt, had already begun to evade the military restrictions imposed on Germany in 1919. Hitler added a racist element to these existing threads of foreign policy. Hitler accelerated the process of revision between 1933 and 1936. By 1937, he was sufficiently confident to revive the expansionist aims of the Second Reich.

*Second Reich – the German Empire 1871–1918

Extract 2: From Ian Kershaw, *Hitler*, published 1991.

How did Hitler's idea of a crusade against 'Jewish-Bolshevism' come to dominate German foreign policy? And what was Hitler's contribution to this process?

As European diplomacy collapsed spectacularly in the years 1938–39, it was Hitler who gave the decisive push. German foreign policy was driven by the need to gain economic and military advantages, and these were justified by Nazi ideology. German dynamism, along with the weakness of the western democracies, accelerated tensions which took Europe over the brink and into the abyss of war.

German expansionism was not entirely down to Hitler, but the course, character and speed of expansion in the run-up to war were all driven by him. Only Hitler would have been prepared to risk war over Austria and Czechoslovakia when German armaments were still not ready for a major conflict. Even Goering was visibly backing away from Hitler's dangerous risk taking as war loomed.

War in Europe came about because one man could wield such enormous, unconstrained power. Hitler and a small band of military and political fanatics took Europe to war.

Acknowledgements:

Extract 1 from: *Hitler and Nazi Germany*, Stephen J Lee © Routledge, 1998

Extract 2 from: *Hitler*, Ian Kershaw © Longman, 1991