Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Tuesday 19 May 2020

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes) | Paper Reference **9HI0/1G**

History

Advanced

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1G: Germany and West Germany, c1918–89

Extracts Booklet

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Tim Mason, *Nazism, Fascism and the Working Class*, published 1995.

Hitler never had a 'foreign policy' in a conventional sense because his personality was a decisive factor. A persuasive argument as to why Hitler took Germany into war in 1939, and also why it turned into a world war, is that Hitler never understood Britain nor the British Empire. He seems to have thought that there could be some kind of division of world power between a German dominated Europe and a sea-based British Empire.

Hitler completely misunderstood British interests, and that the British government was bound to become involved in war with Nazi Germany as soon as Hitler's threats turned into wars of aggression. Hitler never understood that above all Britain desired some sort of balance of power in Europe. This is why Britain gave in, or at least declined to act forcefully, when Hitler took Austria and Czechoslovakia. However, Britain could never allow Germany to pursue expansionist wars of aggression. Britain had no choice but to guarantee Poland's sovereignty. British appeasement was all but finished when the Nazi-Soviet Pact was signed, but Hitler did not see it.

Extract 2: From Christian Leitz [Ed.], *The Third Reich*, published 1999.

What drove Germany to war in 1939 was not the charismatic leadership of Adolf Hitler alone. The German armed forces also thought that major war was likely, and would be a long-drawn out affair, that would become a war between economies. This way of thinking had been around since before 1914 and continued to influence foreign policy. In this sense Hitler was the spokesman for historic German imperialist interests.

There were strong economic motives for expansion from 1936 onwards. Brown coal from the Sudetenland for synthetic fuel, as well as the coal and machinery industry from Czechoslovakia and Silesia, were simply slotted into preparations for war. These were not the acts of a mad and egotistical leader whose policies were out of control. These acts were a coordinated diplomatic and economic offensive into eastern and south-eastern Europe. All this was driven by the German government and its officials to strengthen Germany's war potential. Hitler's unique personality and leadership style has tended to disguise this reality.

Acknowledgement
Extract 1 from: Tim Mason, 'Fascism and the Working Class', Tim Mason, Cambridge University Press 1995
Extract 2 from: Christian Leitz, 'The Third Reich', Blackwell Publishing 1999

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