Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Tuesday 13 June 2023

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

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History

Advanced

PAPER 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 38.1: The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991

Option 38.2: The making of modern China, 1860–1997

Sources Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Sources for use with Section A.

Answer the question in Section A on the option for which you have been prepared.

Option 38.1: The making of modern Russia, 1855–1991

Source for use with Question 1.

Source 1: From the minutes of meetings of the Council of Ministers, April 1906. The meetings discussed changes proposed to the Fundamental Laws to take into account the promises made in the October Manifesto. Here Nicholas II and his ministers are discussing whether the Fundamental Laws, which had governed Russia since 1833, should continue to describe the Tsar's powers as 'unlimited'.

9 April Meeting

Tsar Nicholas: Since I first read the new draft of the Fundamental Laws, I have been troubled. This conflict within me continues. I have doubted whether I can agree to a limitation of the powers I received from my ancestors. This is the most important point in the whole matter.

I issued the October Manifesto and remain firmly resolved to bring it into effect. Yet daily, I am receiving hundreds of letters and petitions from all over Russia and from all social classes. They thank me for the rights granted in October, but plead that I should remain the autocrat of all the Russias. Sincerely, I tell you that if I were convinced Russia wanted me to give up my autocratic powers, I would gladly do it. I know that continuing to describe my powers as 'unlimited' will provoke some agitation, but these attacks will come only from the educated élite, the industrial workers and the newspapers. I am confident that eighty per cent of the Russian people will still support me.

Goremykin: I agree – eighty per cent of the people will be displeased by a limitation of the Tsar's powers.

Pahlen: I have no liking for the October Manifesto, but it exists. Until it was issued, the Tsar had the unlimited right to issue laws. But since October, Your Majesty can no longer issue laws without the *duma*. Therefore, the word 'unlimited' cannot remain in the Fundamental Laws.

Akimov: In October, Your Majesty voluntarily limited his powers. To use the word 'unlimited' at this time would mean creating enemies in the *duma*. 'Unlimited' must be excluded.

Sol'skii: This word must be changed. If you cannot bring yourself to do this, it would be best not to publish the revised Fundamental Laws at all.

Durnovo: After the October Manifesto, the monarchy ceased to have 'unlimited' powers. The word must be left out or it will cause opposition in the minds of educated persons, and this will lead to nationwide unrest.

Tsar Nicholas: This is a matter for my conscience and I will decide it. I shall announce my decision later. Let us discuss other things.

12 April Meeting

Sol'skii: Your Majesty postponed the decision on the word 'unlimited' at our last meeting. What is your command?

Tsar Nicholas: I have decided to accept the advice of the Council of Ministers. The word 'unlimited' is to be excluded.

Option 38.2: The making of modern China, 1860–1997

Source for use with Question 2.

Source 2: From the final judgement of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, December 1948. The Tribunal was established in April 1946 by 11 countries, including China, the USA, the USSR and Great Britain. It tried 28 Japanese leaders for their actions during the war in East Asia. Here the judgement of the Tribunal is describing the Japanese attack on Nanjing in 1937.

When General Matsui was appointed Commander of the Japanese forces in China, he was already considering an attack on Nanjing. On 8 October 1937, he issued a statement in which he said:

'Our all-conquering bayonets will soon be unleashed! Our divinely-inspired mission is to protect Japanese residents and interests, and to punish the Chinese people and their government in Nanjing.'

After the fall of Shanghai in November 1937, Matsui issued a new order. It stated that, as Nanjing was the Chinese capital, its capture was an event of international importance and that it should demonstrate Japan's military power to all of China.

The Japanese demand for the surrender of Nanjing was ignored by the Chinese government, but the city fell on 13 December. After this, eyewitnesses reported Japanese soldiers swarming through Nanjing using unlimited violence, including rape and murder. The Japanese killed men, women and children without provocation or excuse, until the streets were littered with bodies. They committed various other atrocities. Captured Chinese soldiers were killed in groups by machine gun fire along the banks of the Yangtze river. The Japanese also stole everything they wanted from the people. Residential and commercial buildings were looted then burned, and their contents taken away in trucks. This continued until approximately one-third of Nanjing was completely destroyed.

Estimates indicate that, in the first six weeks of the occupation, over two hundred thousand Chinese civilians and captured soldiers were murdered in Nanjing. At the time, Japanese diplomats in the city admitted that, 'the army was determined to make it bad for Nanjing.' They suggested that foreign missionaries in Nanjing should attempt to publicise the atrocities to the people of Japan. Then, the diplomats said, the Japanese public would force their government to curb the army.

General Matsui made a triumphal entry into Nanjing on 18 December. He declared, 'now that the Japanese flag is flying over Nanjing, the rebirth of the East is just beginning.' Matsui remained in the city for over a week but took no effective action to stop the killings. When the General returned to Japan in March 1938, he was rewarded for his 'good services' in China.

Therefore, the actions of Japanese soldiers in Nanjing cannot be excused as acts which temporarily got out of hand when a stubbornly-defended city surrendered. Consequently, General Matsui is found guilty of war crimes and sentenced to death.

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Acknowledgements:

Source 1 from: A Source Book for Russian History By George Vernadsky © Yale

Source 2 from: Documents on the Rape of Nanking By Timothy Brook © University of Michigan Press, December 1999