

Pearson Edexcel
International Advanced Level

History

International Advanced

Paper 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation

Option 1C: Germany: United, Divided and Reunited, 1870–1990

Wednesday 6 June 2018 – Afternoon

Sources Booklet

Paper Reference

WHI03/1C

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Sources for use with Section A.

Source 1: From *The Present Status of de-Nazification*, an official report for the United States government by John McCloy, 31 December 1950. McCloy was the United States High Commissioner for Germany and had been responsible for the administration of the US zone.

From the outset the four Allied Powers responsible for the occupation and peaceful development of defeated Germany were determined that Germany should be purged of Nazism. To achieve this, it was agreed that former Nazi party members and collaborators should be excluded from public and other influential posts and punished under the law.	5
The objective of de-Nazification was not the attainment of a final goal within a specified time but to safeguard the new German democracy from Nazi influence. It aimed to make it possible for democratic individuals to enter public life and to replace the Nazi elements which had dominated all life in Germany from 1933 to 1945.	10
It cannot be denied that some guilty people have escaped detection and punishment. It was impossible, in dealing with a regime so long lasting and so widespread in its effects as National Socialism, to bring to justice all who were guilty of working with the Nazis. But a serious effort was made to find and punish the guilty.	15
Critics of the de-Nazification program also point to the presence of former Nazis in important positions and in the public service generally. Millions have been re-employed, most of them in their former jobs. But these are, mainly, persons who were found by the de-Nazification tribunals to have been merely party members and not personally involved in the criminal activities of the party.	20
It was one of the primary intentions of the FRG government to make possible the re-assimilation of the great mass of minor Nazis into German society at the earliest possible moment. It would have been unthinkable and indefensible to try to keep almost 8 million former members of the Nazi party as outcasts from the community.	25

Source 2: From *Why Adenauer is opposed to more de-Nazification*, an article for an American newspaper by Norman Lindhurst, 25 February 1960. Lindhurst was a freelance American journalist based in West Germany since 1945.

Gerhard Schroeder, West Germany's interior minister, was asked recently if the Adenauer government intended to attack anti-Semitism with a de-Nazification programme on a large scale. 'No', he replied, 'that would be like using a sledgehammer to kill a fly'. He added that he was against the whole idea. 30
The interior minister is himself a symbol of the FRG's dilemma as he himself is a former Nazi party member. Chancellor Adenauer knew of Schroeder's background before he picked him for this important post.

As Adenauer realised early on, Allied desire for de-Nazification threatened to split German society into two perpetually warring groups: former Nazis and good Germans. This would then provide the new Germany with inbuilt political conflict. Proof of this threat was the growth of extremist political movements which attracted ex-Hitlerites. However, these have now all gone and this is no accident. Adenauer, with the unanimous agreement of the German political parties, deliberately ended de-Nazification. Ex-Nazis were told that their past, 35
provided it wasn't too objectionable, would not be held against them. To prove he meant it, he took many ex-Nazis into his government. By doing so he achieved two things: he ended class strife and gained political support for the Christian Democratic Union. He thereby gained access to the old German civil service to staff his new government. 40
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