

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 37.1: The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991: perception and reality

Option 37.2: Germany 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited

Sample assessment materials for first teaching

September 2015

Sources Booklet

Paper Reference

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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 37.1: The changing nature of warfare, 1859–1991: perception and reality

Source for use with Question 1.

Source 1: From *Panzer Leader* by Heinz Guderian, published in English in 1952. Here he is recalling events that took place in 1939–40.

The Army High Command, spurred on by Hitler to mount an offensive, was intending to use, once again, the so-called 'Schlieffen Plan' of 1914. It is true that this had the advantage of simplicity, though hardly the charm of novelty. Thoughts turned to alternative solutions. In November 1939, Manstein, the Chief of Staff of army group A, outlined his ideas to me; these involved a strong tank attack through southern Belgium and Luxembourg towards Sedan, a breakthrough splitting in two the whole French front. He asked me to examine this plan from the point of view of a tank man. After a lengthy study and remembering the terrain from the First World War, I assured Manstein that the operation he had planned could be carried out. The only condition was that a sufficient number of armoured and motorised divisions must be employed, if possible all of them. 5 10

Manstein thereupon wrote a memorandum which was sent to the Army High Command on the 4th December 1939. There it was by no means joyfully received. To start with, the High Command only wanted to use one or two panzer divisions for the attack. I held such a force to be too weak and therefore pointless. Manstein was insistent on stronger tank forces and by so doing aroused such hostility in the High Command that he was removed from his position and appointed commanding general of an Infantry Corps. 15

When Manstein reported to Hitler on assuming command of his corps, he took the opportunity to express his views on the forthcoming operations. This resulted in the Manstein Plan now becoming the object of serious study: a war game that took place seemed to me decisive in its favour. The Chief of the Army General Staff, Halder, who was present, envisaged tank forces reaching the Meuse and even securing bridgeheads across it and then waiting for the infantry armies to catch up. I contradicted him strongly and repeated that the essential idea was that we use all the available offensive power of our armour in one surprise blow at one decisive point; to drive a wedge so deep and wide that we need not worry about our flanks; and then immediately to exploit any successes without bothering to wait for the infantry corps. 20 25

I was given command of three panzer divisions. No one believed we would be successful, except for Hitler, Manstein and myself. 30

Option 37.2: Germany 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited

Source for use with Question 2.

Source 2: From Sebastian Haffner, *Defying Hitler*, published 2002. Haffner was a 28-year-old trainee judge in Berlin in 1933. He left Germany with his Jewish fiancée in 1938. This extract relates to events in 1933, but the memoir was written in exile in England in 1939 and not discovered until after Haffner's death in 1999.

The world I lived in dissolved and disappeared. Every day one looked around and something else had gone and left no trace. What was happening openly and clearly in public was almost the least of it. Yes, political parties disappeared or were dissolved; first those of the Left, then those of the Right; I had not been a member of any of them. The men who had been the focus of attention, whose books one had read, whose speeches we had discussed, disappeared into exile or the concentration camps: occasionally one heard that one or other had 'committed suicide while being arrested' or been 'shot while attempting to escape'. At some point in the summer the newspapers carried a list of thirty or forty names of famous scientists or writers; they had been proscribed, declared to be traitors to the people and deprived of their citizenship. 5

More unnerving was the disappearance of quite harmless people, who had in one way or another been part of daily life. The radio announcer whose voice one had heard every day, who had become an old acquaintance, had been sent to a concentration camp, and woe betide you if you mentioned his name. The familiar actors and actresses who had been a feature of our lives disappeared from one day to the next. The brilliant young star Hans Otto lay crumpled in the yard of an SS barracks. He had 'thrown himself out of a fourth floor window' they said. A famous cartoonist, whose harmless drawings had brought laughter to the whole of Berlin every week, committed suicide, as did the master of ceremonies of a well-known cabaret. Others just vanished. One did not know whether they were dead, incarcerated or had gone abroad. They were just missing. 15

The symbolic burning of books in April had been widely publicised, but the disappearance of books from bookshops and libraries was uncanny. Contemporary German literature, whatever its merits, had simply been erased. Books of last season that one had not bought by April became unobtainable. Readers were deprived of their world overnight. Further they felt intimidated; and if they dared to talk about the newest books by Jewish authors, they put their heads together and whispered like conspirators. 25

Many journals and newspapers disappeared from the kiosks, but what happened to those that continued in circulation was much more disturbing. You could not quite recognise them anymore. 30

Acknowledgements

Source 1 is from Heinz Guderian, *Panzer Leader*, Penguin Classics 2009. © Penguin Books Ltd; Source 2 is from Sebastian Haffner, *Defying Hitler: A Memoir*, Picador 2003

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