



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 1 Section A/B: Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretations **A** and **B** for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03

Interpretation A Adapted from 'The Secret War against Hitler', by Fabian von Schlabrendorff, 1959.

Schlabrendorff was a German army officer who was part of the group that tried to assassinate Hitler in July 1944. After the war he became a Christian minister and worked as a judge.

As a university student I read Nazi books which had ridiculous race theories and attacked Christian beliefs. Our anti-Nazi opposition in Germany was based on our Christian faith. It was not started by army generals worried about military defeat. We had a clear conscience about trying to assassinate Hitler.

Interpretation B Adapted from 'Account Rendered – No attempt at justification', the memoirs of Melita Maschmann, 1963. In this extract she remembers the July 1944 bomb plot.

Maschmann joined the League of German Maidens (BDM) in 1933 aged 15. Later she worked as head of publicity for the BDM and after the war remained committed to Nazi beliefs.

We despised the motives of the Germans who tried to assassinate Hitler. We believed they must have been criminals or madmen.

The opposition activities of the White Rose student group and Hans and Sophie Scholl disturbed us. We had failed to persuade them to join our cause, or make National Socialism attractive.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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