
HISTORY

9697/12

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

May/June 2014

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use an HB pencil for any rough working.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Section A

Answer **Question 1**.

Section B

Answer any **three** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

Section A: The Origins of World War I, 1870–1914

You **must** answer Question 1.

THE ALLIANCE SYSTEM BEFORE WORLD WAR I

- 1 Read the Sources, and then answer the question.

When answering **Question 1**, candidates are advised to pay particular attention to the interpretation and evaluation of the Sources, both individually and as a group.

Source A

Article 1: If, contrary to their hopes, one of the two countries is attacked by Russia, they are bound to come to the assistance of each other with their whole war strength.

Article 2: If one of the partners is attacked by another country apart from Russia, the other partner binds itself not to support the aggressor and to observe at least a friendly neutral attitude. But if the attacking country is supported by Russia, either by active co-operation or by military measures, the agreement in Article 1 for mutual assistance with the whole fighting force will apply.

Article 4: This Treaty shall, in conformity with its peaceful character, be kept secret by the two partners. The partners hope that the armaments of Russia will not in reality prove to menace them but they must consider an attack by Russia on one of them to be an attack on both.

Extract from the Dual Alliance between Germany and Austria, 1879.

Source B

When, in 1910, I became Chancellor, the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria and Italy had to reckon with a solid counter-combination of Powers. Britain had created the Triple Entente with France and Russia and knitted it firmly for the supposed purpose of maintaining the 'balance of power'. For centuries it had been a fundamental principle of British policy to turn against that Continental Power which was strongest, and this principle was to find its most efficient instrument in the Triple Entente. Thus, whilst the Triple Alliance was of a strictly defensive character, the nature of the Triple Entente was offensive from the beginning. In this lay all the elements of a terrific explosion.

Speech by Bethmann Hollweg to the German Parliament, August 1914.

Source C

How did we get into such a stupid and appalling calamity? Let us think for a moment. No one ever expected war in our days. We shall find that almost all recent writers have agreed that war on a large scale was impossible because it would be too ruinous, and that the very size of the European armaments made war impracticable. How pitiful it is, how strange also, to look back upon the solemn declaration of the Kaiser and the Tsar as recently as 1912, that the division of Europe into the two great combinations known as the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente provided a safeguard against war! We were constantly assured that diplomats were working for a Balance of Power. This balance of rival forces would mean that the total result would be stability and peace. Both alliances now seem equally useless.

A British writer describes the alliance system, published 1914.

Source D

The cause of the world war is the Triple Entente – that and nothing else. The defence of the Entente Cordiale is that it was an innocent pact of friendship, designed only to meet the threat of the Triple Alliance. But since the Triple Alliance was formed thirty years ago, it has never declared war on anyone. The Triple Entente before it is eight years old has involved Europe, America, Africa and Asia in a world conflict. We can prove who it was preferred war to peace. We must ask the question, ‘Why should such a strange combination of allies as Britain, Russia and France be at war with Germany?’ The Entente Cordiale of Britain and France is unnatural. There is nothing in common between the parties to it, except hostility to Germany. It is wrongly named. It is founded not on noble interests but on prejudice. It is a bond of hatred not of love. None of the parties to it like or admire each other except to oppose Germany. ‘German militarism’ is no more a threat to civilisation than French or Russian militarism. It was born, not of wars of aggression, but of wars of defence and unification. The German army has not been used for forty years. Can the same be said of Russian militarism or of French militarism or of British navalism?

Sir Roger Casement, ‘The Crime Against Europe’, published 1915.

Sir Roger Casement was born in Ireland, part of Britain at that time. He became a successful British diplomat but sympathised with Irish nationalists. He was arrested after trying to smuggle weapons from Germany for the Irish Republican Brotherhood, then convicted of treason and spying. He was executed in 1916.

Source E

Germany and Austria were linked with Italy in the Triple Alliance. This arrangement had become very uncertain by 1914, with Italy becoming increasingly detached from it. France and Russia were associated in an alliance and they were also attached to Britain in the Triple Entente. The wording is important. Alliances were, in theory, binding agreements, under which the partners would go to war in certain circumstances. Ententes were limited to consultations and promises of diplomatic support. This alliance system carried within it the danger that a dispute anywhere in Europe might draw in the great powers. The Entente also made British involvement a possibility. There were several European crises during the ten years before the outbreak of war in 1914, especially in Morocco and the Balkans. A way out was found in all of these crises. The alliance system was producing dangerous crises but it was also working well enough to resolve them without war between the great powers.

A British historian’s view of the alliance system, published 1994.

Now answer the following question.

‘The alliance system was defensive in nature.’ Use Sources A–E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

Section B

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 Why did the meeting of the Estates General (1789) not solve Louis XVI's problems?
- 3 How far did the Industrial Revolution depend on the Agricultural Revolution?
(You should refer to developments in **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 4 Why did Prussia become the leader of German unification during the period from 1848 to 1871?
- 5 Why did imperialism enjoy wide public support in Europe in the late nineteenth century?
- 6 'The decision to continue the war against Germany was the most important reason why the Provisional Government was overthrown in October 1917.' How far do you agree with this claim?
- 7 'A Stalinist but not a Marxist country.' How accurate is this judgement of the USSR from 1924 to 1939?
- 8 Which benefited the middle classes more in the nineteenth century: Liberalism or the Industrial Revolution?

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