



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

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HISTORY

9697/13

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

May/June 2013

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 a soft pencil for any rough working.

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

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.

WAS RUSSIA THE AGGRESSOR IN 1914?

- 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

After analysing the situation objectively, one has to conclude that, considering her traditional relations with the Balkan states, it will be nearly impossible for Russia to stand by peacefully and watch Austria take action against Serbia without a tremendous loss of face. The leaders of the peace party in Russia, including Count Kokovtsov, the Prime Minister, and Sazonov, the Foreign Minister, would be simply swept away by the indignation of the public if they tried to resist it. However, the consequences of Russian intervention are obvious. They would result in war between the Triple Alliance – probably without enthusiastic support by Italy – and the Triple Entente. Germany would be faced with a combined attack from France and Britain.

Bethmann Hollweg, German Chancellor, writing to Berchtold, Austrian Chancellor, February 1913.

Source B

Mr. Sazonov, the Russian Foreign Minister, asked me to thank you for your messages about the situation, which made a very good impression on him. He emphasised that he strongly agreed with your appeal to the long-established friendly relations between Germany and Russia. He emphasised that Russia would continue her love of peace very strongly. He was ready to go to the limit to satisfy Austria and would use all means to bring the crisis to a peaceful solution. The wish to humiliate Austria was far from his mind. Sazonov still hoped that some points in the demands on Serbia might be modified and strongly requested our cooperation in this. There must be a way to give Serbia her deserved lesson whilst sparing her rights as an independent country.

Pourtalès, German Ambassador to Russia, writing to Jagow, a senior official in the German Foreign Ministry, 27 July 1914.

Source C

The German government has made every effort since the beginning of the Sarajevo crisis to bring about a peaceful settlement. Following the request of the Russian Tsar, Kaiser William II has tried, in cooperation with Britain, to act as mediator between Austria and Russia. Russia, without waiting for any result, ordered a general mobilisation. As a result of this threat, which was not justified by any military steps taken by Germany, Germany was faced by a very serious and immediate danger. If the German government had failed to act against this peril, it would have endangered the safety and even the existence of Germany. Germany was therefore forced to contact Russia and insist on an end to such military acts. Russia refused to agree and did not even answer. This showed that Russia's attitude was against Germany. His Majesty, the Kaiser, accepts the challenge and considers himself at war with Russia.

Germany's Declaration of War on Russia, 1 August 1914.

Source D

Russia aimed to gain the most important parts of Turkey: Constantinople, the capital, and the narrow straits between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. France aimed to recover Alsace and Lorraine and many leading French politicians also hoped to annex the rich Saar region on the border of Germany. Both countries knew that these aims could not be achieved without a European war. Germany's preparations for war were on a considerably smaller scale than those made by France. As compared with Russia's armaments, those of Austria were absolutely inadequate. The Franco-Russian allies were far superior to Germany and Austria as regards the amount of war material, as well as manpower, at their disposal. After the Sarajevo murder, an understanding had almost been reached by the methods that Germany proposed. These were direct discussions between the governments of Austria and Russia with limited military operations against Serbia. Russian mobilisation suddenly destroyed the chances of peace. The leading men in France and Russia, as well as in Germany, realised that this mobilisation would inevitably lead to war. Viviani, the French Prime Minister in 1914, stated that the country who first ordered general mobilisation would be the aggressor and he blamed Germany for doing so. Russia was the first country to order a general mobilisation. Germany's premature declaration of war on Russia was a political error. The reason was the immense danger to Germany on two fronts. The decisive event was not any declaration of war. It was Russia's general mobilisation. Russia was the aggressor.

A German historian, writing in 1925.

Source E

The alliance between France and Russia, agreed in 1894, was transformed into an offensive organisation in 1912. Izvolski, the Russian Foreign Minister, and Poincaré, the French Prime Minister, agreed that the chief aims of Russian and French foreign policy, the expansion of Russia into the Mediterranean and the return of Alsace-Lorraine, could only be achieved through a general European war. When the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated, France and Russia recognised that the probable clash between Austria and Serbia would create a highly suitable episode over which to bring about the conflict that they desired. The only direct and immediate responsibility for the outbreak of World War I falls upon Serbia, France and Russia, with the guilt about equally distributed.

An American historian, writing in 1926.

Now answer the following question.

'Russia was the aggressor in 1914.' 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 it prove impossible to reform the ancien régime by 1789?
- 3 How far was society industrialised by the middle of the nineteenth century?
(You should refer to **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 4 Why were foreign powers important to Bismarck's unification of Germany by 1871?
- 5 How far can 'New Imperialism' in the late-nineteenth century be explained by economic factors?
(You should refer to **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 6 Why was World War I such an important cause of the two Russian Revolutions in 1917?
- 7 'Propaganda was Stalin's most important method of keeping power to 1939.' How far do you agree with this claim?
- 8 Why did the French Revolution continue to have an influence on Europe during the period from 1789 to 1848?

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source D Lee D E; *The Outbreak of the First World War*; D C Heath and Company; 1963
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