
HISTORY

9389/31

Paper 3 Interpretations Question

October/November 2018

1 hour

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

This paper contains **three** sections:

Section A: Topic 1 The Causes and Impact of British Imperialism, c. 1850–1939

Section B: Topic 2 The Holocaust

Section C: Topic 3 The Origins and Development of the Cold War, 1941–1950

Answer the question on the topic you have studied.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The marks are given in brackets [] at the end of each question.

This document consists of **4** printed pages and **1** Insert.

Section A: Topic 1

The Causes and Impact of British Imperialism, c.1850–1939

- 1 Read the extract and then answer the question.

‘White women were the ruin of Empire’ is an opinion that has been confidently asserted by various commentators seeking to explain why the sun set on the greatest empire the world has ever known. All the worst faults of the British Raj were said to stem from women including the introduction of racial exclusiveness. Yet the British Empire was organised by men for men. It was a masculine world of power, authority and control in which women played little or no formal part. In the colonies white women had their primary roles as wives and mothers in the traditional, apparently restricted and conservative spheres of home, family and social life. How then could they have caused the collapse of Empire and imperialism?

White women had contradictory roles in the colonial experience. Essential for maintaining and conserving British imperial society with its myth of white superiority and its need for white separateness, in practice they undermined, by their very presence and feminine natures, many of the foundations on which imperialism rested. While consciously and unconsciously they may have transmitted what to them seemed superior Western methods of domestic organisation, infant and maternal welfare, and general lifestyle, at the same time they were modernisers and carriers of change.

For both white and Asian women in colonial Malaya the imperial experience was, in part, a positive one with certain liberating and beneficial effects. Assessing attitudes and motivations is difficult but, in their formal and informal educational work for Asian women and girls, it is clear that white women were not simply attempting to reinforce colonial dominion. Certainly they wielded power in their own educational institutions, but they did not use it primarily to train the colonised for roles that suited the coloniser. Nor did wielding power mean initiating educational policies designed to maintain imperial rule or to impose Western cultural values. Undoubtedly there were some conservative women educators in colonial Malaya who accepted and endorsed imperialism, including white superiority. They may also have genuinely believed that imperial rule brought real benefits to the Asian subject races. But whatever their philosophical attitudes and beliefs, the educational work in which white women were involved challenged imperialism and its assumptions in both direct and subtle ways. Colonised themselves by white men, white women were able to go outside the boundaries which men and imperialism assigned to them by initiating education for Asian females. Thus they indirectly challenged male power and undermined the foundations of white, male dominance. Women educators could not be relied on to conform to the accepted norms of white colonial society in Malaya. They were primarily interested not in the rhetoric of imperialism, but in providing through practical means what they believed would be beneficial education for Asian females. Many women educators proved to be role models for women’s emancipation and for humanitarianism, rather than agents of western socialisation and imperialism.

Although much research remains to be done into the roles, activities and effects which white women had throughout the Empire, undoubtedly they helped bring about the end of that Empire, particularly through their educational work by women for women. If there has been any value in imperialism at all, much of it could be said to lie in what white women educators founded, achieved and left behind. Certainly in colonial Malaya, through the medium of formal and informal education, both white and Asian women discovered positively that they were indeed ‘sisters under the skin’.

What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the British Empire to explain your answer. [40]

Section B: Topic 2**The Holocaust****2** Read the extract and then answer the question.

In the autumn of 1941 more and more leading Nazis could be heard talking openly about the coming 'annihilation' or 'extermination' of the Jews. At dinner on 25 October Hitler once again recalled his 'prophecy' of 30 January 1939, and told his guests among other things that it was 'a good thing if people are scared by talk that we are exterminating the Jews'. The weekly journal *Das Reich* published a leader article by Goebbels in its issue of 16 November 1941 in which he too recalled Hitler's 1939 prophecy, and commented: 'We are experiencing the realisation of this prophecy and the Jews are meeting a fate that, though hard, is more than merited.' 'World Jewry', according to Goebbels, was now undergoing 'a gradual process of annihilation'. Two days later Rosenberg spoke at a press conference of the impending 'biological elimination of the whole of European Jewry'. It was probably not a coincidence that this statement of Rosenberg's was preceded by a discussion with Himmler on 15 November lasting several hours, which, among other things, was concerned with Jewish policy. Evidently it was the leadership's intention to extend 'the solution of the Jewish problem' beyond the murders that hitherto had been limited to specific areas in order to pursue a still more radical 'final solution', even if they were not yet clear about the 'how', the 'where' and the 'when' of a programme of annihilation that was being demanded with increasing urgency. The mood within the top leadership circles can only be described as murderous.

This matched the situation in the occupied territories. It was not a coincidence that, more or less simultaneously, a variety of functionaries on the 'periphery' seized the initiative to embark on or advocate mass murder of Jews. The deportations were directed to ghettos that were already completely full up, to camps which did not yet exist, or to key regions that were envisaged as settlement areas for ethnic Germans. In this way impossible situations were being brought about quite systematically.

During these months Himmler behaved as he had in July-August when it came to the inclusion of women and children in the mass murder. The initiative for the intensification of Jewish policy – in this case the start of the deportations – once again came from Hitler, but Himmler, like other leading functionaries, instinctively anticipated such a decision, felt his way forward, and acted in advance of it and took an active role as soon as the time was appropriate. The first suggestion that gas might be used as a method of murder appears to have come from him; he took advice from the experts who had acquired relevant experience in the context of the Euthanasia programme; he made suggestions, adopted proposals such as that from Globocnik to establish an extermination camp in Belzec; gave the initiators enough space to develop their ideas, but intervened if his subordinates went too far. Thus, the murder process was typically set in motion by the tension between, on the one hand, orders that had been framed in general terms and were intended to be understood intuitively, and on the other, individual initiatives on the part of those who were responsible at the local level. At the same time the leadership – and that meant very largely Himmler himself – could intervene as required to speed up or slow down the process.

What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the Holocaust to explain your answer. [40]

Section C: Topic 3

The Origins and Development of the Cold War, 1941–1950

3 Read the extract and then answer the question.

Was the Truman Doctrine a declaration of war? Formally and legally it was not. The Soviet Union was not mentioned. We had a right to aid any friendly government that we wished to help. Turkey felt pressed and there was a crisis in Greece. We had as much right to proclaim an anti-Communist crusade – or holding operation – as the Russian-controlled press had to proclaim the inevitability of Western capitalism’s collapse and the wickedness of Western ‘imperialists’. All this is incontrovertible and, given our deep vexation over the Communist organisation of Eastern Europe, some action on our part in Greece was predictable. Greece would not be allowed to fall into the Soviet orbit. Some anti-Communist rhetoric was also advisable in order to secure quick Congressional approval.

These considerations still leave the question whether it was wise and statesmanlike to issue a global declaration setting limits both to Communist and Soviet expansion. It can be readily argued that this was the straightforward thing to do, to draw a line around both. Yet strategically it was a rash and unenforceable commitment. The Soviet Union already occupied the heartland of Europe and Asia, and all of our air and sea power, plus the atom bomb, could not indefinitely prevent her pushing out if she chose. Worse still, an open declaration of encirclement was almost the best means of forcing her to push out. The global containment doctrine committed the United States to standing guard all around the vast perimeter of the Soviet Union and its satellites. It pledged the prestige and resources of the United States, and especially the prestige of Mr Truman, at virtually all points on the earth which mattered either militarily or politically, leaving the initiative to the Russians and to local Communist movements. Wherever they chose to fight we would accept the battlefield, no matter how remote or unfavourable. This was clearly a self-defeating policy, one fitted to squander our resources on the way to an immeasurable war.

The defenders of the Truman Doctrine announced with satisfaction that it was the end of a period of appeasement, and the beginning of a new era of firm containment. However, a full appraisal indicated that a much more fateful turn had been made, ignoring the problems of settling the Second World War, giving the impression that no settlement could be reached, and that it was hereafter to be a matter of pressure and counter-pressure. Less than two years after the bombs had stopped falling in Europe, American diplomacy came close to giving up. Its powers of argument were exhausted. Stronger measures would have to be taken. In this sense the Truman Doctrine was an effective declaration of war, one which had formed in Mr Truman’s mind in the autumn of 1945, almost before the fumes of Hiroshima had drifted around the earth. It gave notice to both sides, and to innumerable people all over the world who wanted no fresh conflict, that a new global struggle was joined. It started trains of fear and hatred in many millions of minds, centring around Washington and Moscow, which ran for many years.

The judgment that the Truman Doctrine was an ‘ill-considered, unwise and ambiguous document, one calculated to arouse fear and aggressive hatreds, which brought the precariously balanced structure of peace to its moment of greatest danger’ is likely to stand the test of History. This is the measure of loss involved in Mr Truman’s belligerence. It is easy enough to declare cold war, draw lines and hurl thunderbolts. It requires statesmanship to make peace and draw nations nearer together.

What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the Cold War to explain your answer. [40]

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