

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

HISTORY

9697/01

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

October/November 2005

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **four** questions.

You must answer **Question 1** (Section A), and any **three** questions from Section B.

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

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

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

You **must** answer Question 1.

THE ROLE OF GERMAN POLITICIANS IN THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR I

1 Read the sources, and then answer the question.

Source A

I have received from an absolutely reliable source an account of a conversation between Kaiser William II and King Albert of Belgium, in the presence of the German Chief of the General Staff, von Moltke. This conversation alarmed King Albert. He had thought that William II supported peace. He found him completely changed this time. In his eyes, the Kaiser is no longer the champion of peace against the warlike tendencies of certain parties in Germany. William II has come to think that war with France is inevitable, and that it must come sooner or later. Naturally he believes in the crushing superiority of the German army and its certain success. General von Moltke spoke exactly in the same tone as the Kaiser. He, too, declared war to be necessary and inevitable, but he showed himself even more certain of success.

During the course of this conversation the Kaiser, moreover, seemed overstrained and irritable. As William II gets older, family traditions, the reactionary tendencies of the court, and especially the impatience of the soldiers, influence him more. He has less self-control than is usually believed.

The conversation shows an extremely dangerous situation. I believe that we should take account of the fact that the Kaiser is accepting the idea of war and that we should make suitable preparations.

Report from Jules Cambon, French Ambassador to Germany, to Stephen Pichon, French Foreign Minister, November 1913.

Source B

Dear Nikki,

I began to mediate between Russia and Austria-Hungary after your appeal to my friendship and your call for assistance. While I was doing this, your army was mobilised against Austria-Hungary, my ally. Therefore, my mediation has been made almost impossible. I have nevertheless continued my action. I have now received authentic news of serious preparations for war on my eastern frontier. Responsibility for the safety of my country forces me to take preventative measures for defence. I have gone to the utmost limit possible in my attempts to maintain the peace of the world. The responsibility for the disaster which is now threatening the whole civilized world will not be laid at my door. In this moment it still lies in your power to avert it.

Nobody is threatening the honour or power of Russia. You may still maintain the peace of Europe, if Russia will agree to stop the military measures which threaten Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Willy

Telegram from Kaiser William II to Tsar Nicholas II, 31 July 1914.

Source C

After examining a number of official documents, the Commission has decided that the responsibility for causing the war is completely on Germany and her allies. They declared war in a policy of aggression that concealed a dark conspiracy against the peace of Europe.

The responsibility lies first on Germany and Austria-Hungary, secondly on Turkey and Bulgaria. The responsibility of Germany and Austria-Hungary is greater because they violated the neutrality of Belgium that they had guaranteed. It is increased because they overran the frontiers of France and Serbia before declaring war.

Many months before the crisis of 1914 the German Kaiser had stopped posing as the champion of peace. Believing fully in the overwhelming superiority of his army, he openly showed his hostility to France.

The Report to the Versailles Peace Conference by the Commission established after the War to determine War Guilt, 1919.

Source D

William II did not want war. He feared it. His warlike statements prove nothing. His exaggerations were mainly intended to impress the diplomats of the German Foreign Ministry, just as his speeches were intended to give the impression that he was a great German ruler. William II did not want war, if only because he did not trust his nerves not to give way under the strain of a really critical situation. At moments of actual danger, His Majesty became uncomfortably conscious that he could never lead an army personally into battle.

I met Bethmann-Hollweg, the Chancellor, in August 1914 and shall never forget his face. There was a look of complete anguish in his eyes. Neither of us spoke for a while. At last I said to him, 'Well, tell me how it all happened.' He answered in a dull, exhausted voice, 'Oh - if I only knew!' In all of the arguments about 'war guilt', I have often wished that it were possible to produce a photograph of Bethmann-Hollweg when he spoke these words. Such a photograph would have been the best proof that this wretched man never wanted war.

*Prince Karl von Bülow, Memoirs 1909-19, published soon after the end of the war.
Von Bülow was German Chancellor until 1909, when he was succeeded by Bethmann-Hollweg.*

Now answer the following question.

'The Kaiser and other German politicians were determined to go to war in 1914.' Use Sources A-D to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

SECTION B

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

- 2 Why, during the period 1789 to 1793, did Louis XVI fail to satisfy the demands of the French revolutionaries?
- 3 Explain the conditions that were necessary in the nineteenth century for the development of an industrial economy. (You should refer to developments in **at least two** of the following countries: Britain, France and Germany, in your answer.)
- 4 Explain why Prussia became the leading state within Germany by 1871.
- 5 Were the motives for European imperialism in the later nineteenth century more aggressive than defensive? Explain your answer.
- 6 Assess the claim that from 1900 to 1914, the tsarist regime in Russia was more successful in dealing with its economic than its political problems.
- 7 How far, by 1939, had Hitler solved the problems that had faced the Weimar Republic?
- 8 Examine the similarities and differences between Marxism and Fascism/Nazism. (You should refer to developments in Russia and **either** Italy **or** Germany in your answer.)

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Source C D E Lee; *The Outbreak of the First World War* p1; D C Heath 1963 © D C Heath & Company.
Source D © L C F Turner; *Origins of the First World War*; pp. 26 & 112; Edward Arnold 1970.

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