

Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer

(a) What was the view of the cartoonist towards the North Atlantic Treaty Organization? Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (4 marks)

Marking Scheme

View: [1 mark]

E.g. - The NATO was an aggressive anti-communist organization.

Explanation: [3 marks]

L1 Vague explanation, ineffective in using relevant clues from Source. [max. 1]

L2 Clear explanation, effective in using relevant clues from Source. [max. 3]

Clue:

E.g. - Its members had the swastika icon on their clothes and firearms in their hands.

Also, the locomotive was in the shape of a missile warhead.

- Black smoke with the word ‘anti-communism’

Suggested Answer

The cartoonist thought the NATO was a money-driven, aggressive and anti-communist organization.

Firstly, the locomotive of the NATO was depicted as a missile warhead representing arms race on dollar-sign-shaped wheels with banknotes as fuel. The cartoonist should think that the NATO was driven by money and served military purposes.

Secondly, some NATO members were equipped with firearms and one of them had the Nazi sign ‘卍’ on his clothes. These were signs showing that the NATO was an aggressive alliance instead of a peaceful and defensive organization.

Last but not least, the locomotive produced black smoke with the word ‘anti-communism’. The cartoonist should think that the NATO was an aggressive anti-communist organization.

(b) With reference to Source B, describe the relationship between America and Western European countries. (3 marks)

Marking Scheme

Relationship: [1 mark]

E.g. - Partners at odds

Explanation: [2 marks]

L1 Vague explanation, ineffective in using relevant clues from Source. [max. 1]

L2 Clear explanation, effective in using relevant clues from Source. [max. 2]

Clue:

E.g. - ‘America and Western European countries had no choice but to stay united’

- ‘Many European countries disliked America’

Suggested Answer

America and Western European countries were partners at odds.

From the Source, ‘America and Western European countries had no choice but to stay united’. In other words, they were united against the Soviet Union just because there was no other option, and their cooperation was to a limited extent only.

From the Source, ‘many European countries disliked America’ and thought ‘American values were based on the question “Can it be sold?”’ In other words, they believed America was too commercialized and cared only about its economic interests. It was clear that they had troubled relationship.

According to the Source, America also wanted to ‘form a multinational force under unified command and control’ but France opposed this idea and even withdrew from the organization. Apparently, there were disagreements between America and Western European countries and their cooperation was not very close.

- (c) ‘In the period 1946-91, the ideological factor was the most important factor that shaped the situation in Europe.’ Do you agree? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. (8 marks)

Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague answer, ineffective in using both Source and own knowledge. [max. 2]
 L2 Lack in balance, effective in using Source or own knowledge only. [max. 4]
 L3 Sound and balance answer, effective in using both Source and own knowledge. [max. 8]

Ideological factor

- e.g.
- The anti-communist NATO started the arms race. (Source A)
 - Western European countries cooperated with America to counteract Soviet communist expansion. (Source B)
 - As a measure against the capitalist bloc, the communist Soviet Union provided economic assistance for Eastern European countries and formed the Warsaw Pact. (Source B)
 - To contain the spread of communism, America introduced the Marshall Plan that facilitated economic cooperation among Western European countries. (Own knowledge)
 - In the late 1980s, the ideological struggle cooled down and Europe became more peaceful. (Own knowledge)

Other factors:

- e.g.
- Military factor. France left the NATO since it opposed the idea of forming a multinational force under unified command and control. (Source B)
 - Economic factor. Communist Poland asked for loans from capitalist America. (Source B)
 - Racial factor. Germany was reunified in 1990. (Own knowledge)

Suggested Answer

I agree with what the question suggests.

From Source A, the NATO followed ‘anti-communism’, its missile-shaped locomotive represented ‘arms race’ and some of its members were equipped with firearms. It was clear that the anti-communist NATO would have an arms race and military confrontation with the communist bloc, creating tension in Europe.

Also, from Source A, the NATO followed ‘anti-communism’ and it was this ideology that brought those countries to the same train. Therefore, the ideological factor also prompted some countries to establish the NATO for cooperation and keep them united.

From Source B, many European countries did not like America, but ‘in view of the continuation of worldwide communist infiltration directed by the Soviet Union, America and Western European countries had no choice but to stay united’. Therefore, communist expansion was the main factor that promoted cooperation between Western European countries and America, and brought Western Europe under American military protection.

From Source B, ‘in order to combat the NATO from the capitalist bloc’, the Soviet Union provided economic assistance for communist countries in Eastern Europe and formed the Warsaw Pact. It was clear that the confrontation between the capitalist and communist blocs not only led to conflicts between Eastern and Western Europe, but also facilitated cooperation among Eastern European countries.

From my own knowledge, in social aspect, with a view to preventing liberal and democratic thoughts from capitalist countries from entering Eastern Europe, the communist Soviet Union restricted the contact between Eastern and Western Europe, including transportation and communication access. Apparently, the ideological factor kept Eastern and Western Europe divided for more than half a century and shaped their confrontation.

In economic aspect, since adverse economic conditions would promote the spread of communism, America introduced the Marshall Plan in 1948 to provide Western European countries with economic assistance, which gave them an incentive to establish the Organization for European Economic Cooperation to distribute the loans. As a result, Western European economic cooperation took place and organizations such as the European Community (1967) were established afterwards. Therefore, the ideological factor was the main factor that prompted Western European countries to have economic cooperation.

In political aspect, in the late 1980s, the Soviet political reform of ‘openness’ and its relaxed control over Eastern Europe improved the overall atmosphere in Europe and made many Eastern European countries no longer communist. It was clear that the introduction of democratic ideas to the communist Soviet Union greatly improved the situation in Europe and promoted the democratization of Eastern Europe.

Although there were other factors that shaped the situation in Europe, they were not as important as the ideological factor.

From Source B, America wanted to ‘form a multinational force under unified command and control’ but France opposed this idea and left the NATO. It was clear that the military factor also shaped the situation in Europe since France withdrew from the cooperation after opposing the idea of forming a multinational force and terminated its military partnership with other Western European countries.

However, the ideological factor was more important. From my own knowledge, in terms of scope, the military factor only stopped France from cooperating with other countries, and most countries chose to cooperate with America for fear of the Soviet threat. Clearly, the impact of the ideological factor was more far-reaching.

From Source B, Poland from the communist bloc ‘requested loans from America for food and machinery’ in 1975. This showed that Poland asked for American assistance under economic pressure, and that the economic factor made possible the cooperation between America and Poland as an Eastern European country.

However, the ideological factor was more important. From my own knowledge, in terms of limitation, the 1970s was the détente period of the ideological struggle. At that time, the relationship between the two major blocs was improving and this explained why Poland could get loans from America. In fact, the ideological factor had greater impact on the situation in Europe.

From my own knowledge, the racial factor also shaped the situation in Europe. Since both East Germany and West Germany were inhabited by ethnic Germans of the same race, it was possible for them to become one unified country in 1990 and end their long-standing division.

However, in terms of causality, the ideological struggle was the decisive factor that led to their reunification. Due to the struggle between the capitalist and communist blocs, East Germany and West Germany remained divided for more than half a century. Their reunification in 1990 was possible because the Cold War cooled down and was coming to an end in the late 1980s. Therefore, the ideological factor was clearly more important.

Therefore, what the question suggests is valid.