

30 minutes

Study Sources A and B.

SOURCE A

The cartoon below was published in 1938.



The Pan-German Peace Coryphee

SOURCE B

The following is adapted from the comment of a historian on the appeasement policy.

The purpose of Britain and France's appeasement policy was to curb Soviet expansion and divert the peril of Nazi Germany to the East. Faced with the rise of the communist Soviet Union newly established after the war, capitalist countries worldwide, especially Britain, had a deep fear aroused within them - the bourgeoisie would inevitably be destroyed once the proletariat campaign swept through Britain. Therefore, whether Britain should act actively against the Soviet Union and communism came as an unavoidable question to the British authorities. Germany's special geographical location and its growing anti-Soviet attitude made the country the first line of defense for Eastern Europe against the Soviet Union, which was manifested particularly by its eastward expansion in 1939. The British would surely rejoice at this in private - the Nazi did Europe a great favour as a barrier against communism. They believed that 'diverting the peril towards the East' was a shortcut to overwhelm the proletariat. If Britain diverted the Nazi peril towards the communist Soviet Union, the latter would have conflicts with Germany and they would both suffer from war. As a result, British hegemony and interests would stay intact and the European balance of power would be consolidated to an even greater degree.

- (a) Identify **two** characteristics of Nazism reflected by Source A. Support your answer with relevant clues from Source A. (4 marks)
- (b) According to Source B, what did the author think was Britain's main concern? Explain your answer. (3 marks)
- (c) 'The ideological factor was the main factor that affected Europe's stability in the 1930s.' Comment on the validity of this statement with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. (8 marks)

Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer

(a) Identify two characteristics of Nazism reflected by Source A. Support your answer with relevant clues from Source A. (4 marks)

Marking Scheme

One characteristic plus relevant clue

max. 2 marks

- e.g.
- Violent (The sword and his warrior custom)
 - Expansionist (A ribbon writing 'Austria' on the Nazi flag)
 - Nationalist ('Pan-German')

Suggestion Answer

The first characteristic of Nazism was that it was violent. Although in the cartoon it says 'Pan-German Peace' that suggests harmony, the coryphee holds a sword and wears warrior custom with horned helmet and armour. This is a satire on Nazism that was not peaceful but contained violence.

Another characteristic of Nazism was its expansionist policy. In the Source there is a ribbon writing 'Austria' on the Nazi flag. This suggests that Nazi Germany would have foreign expansion and annex Austria, showing its expansionist feature in diplomatic aspect.

Nazism was also characterized by its nationalist nature. The caption of the cartoon says 'The Pan-German Peace Coryphee' and the word 'Pan-German' refers to the German race. This shows that Nazism was based on Pan-Germanism and had nationalist feature.

Point to Note

When the question requires two characteristics, students must answer two only. The principle of 'answering as many points as possible' is not applicable under such circumstances. Instead, they should elaborate their points in detail so that marks will not be deducted because of inadequate explanation.

(b) According to Source B, what did the author think was Britain's main concern?

Explain your answer.

(3 marks)

Marking Scheme

Concern: [1 mark]

e.g. - Rise of the communist Soviet Union

L1 Able to cite relevant clues without due explanation [max. 1]

L2 Able to cite relevant clues with due explanation [max. 2]

e.g. - 'Faced with the rise of the communist Soviet Union newly established after the war, capitalist countries worldwide, especially Britain, had a deep fear aroused within them'

Suggested Answer

Britain's main concern was the rise of the communist Soviet Union.

The author pointed out that Britain had deep fear with 'the rise of the communist Soviet Union newly established after the war'. It was clear that Britain was greatly concerned about the expansion of the communist Soviet Union and a possible communist encroachment.

The author also claimed that 'the purpose of Britain and France's appeasement policy was to curb Soviet expansion' and to use Germany as 'the first line of defense for Eastern Europe against the Soviet Union'. It was clear that the purpose of Britain 'diverting the peril to the East' was to use Germany against the Soviet Union and Britain's concern was the expansion of the communist Soviet Union.

- (b) ‘The ideological factor was the main factor that affected Europe’s stability in the 1930s.’ Comment on the validity of this statement with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. (8 marks)**

Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague argument, ineffective in using both Sources and own knowledge, and/or limited discussion of factors that affected Europe’s stability in the 1930s. [max. 2]
- L2 Unbalanced discussion with effective use of Sources or own knowledge only, and/or one-side discussion of factors that affected Europe’s stability in the 1930s. [max. 4]
- L3 Sound and balanced discussion with effective use of both Sources and own knowledge, and reasonably balanced discussion of factors that affected Europe’s stability in the 1930s. [max. 8]

The ideological factor:

- e.g. - The Nazis were violent and expansionist. (Source A)
- Capitalist Britain’s fear of the communist Soviet Union promoted German aggression. (Source B)
- Fascist Italy’s foreign expansion (Own knowledge)

Other factors:

- e.g. - Pan-Germanism also undermined stability in Europe. (Source A)
- The Great Depression (Own knowledge)
- Peacekeeping organizations helped maintain Europe’s stability in the 1930s (Own knowledge)

Suggested Answer

The statement concerned is valid.

From Source A, the Nazis carried out violent military expansion. In the Source, the Coryphee holds a sword in her hand and there is a ribbon writing 'Austria' on the Nazi flag. The cartoon suggests that Nazism was violent, aggressive and detrimental to territorial integrity and independence of the neighbouring countries, as well as stability in Europe.

From Source B, Britain had a great fear of 'the rise of the communist Soviet Union' and it wanted to divert the peril to the East and use Germany as a barrier against the USSR. They therefore connived German aggression exemplified by 'its eastward expansion in 1939'. Therefore, capitalist Britain's fear of communism promoted Germany's invasions and harmed Europe's stability.

From Source B, Britain also took advantage of Nazi Germany against the communist Soviet Union and wanted them to 'have conflicts' and 'both suffer from war'. In other words, the ideological confrontation between Nazi Germany and the communist Soviet Union might also lead to conflicts and undermine stability in Europe.

From my own knowledge, Fascism was also harmful to stability in Europe. For example, Fascist Italy invaded Albania in the Balkans in 1939 and led to wars, which constituted threat to European stability.

In addition, the rise of Fascism in Spain led to the Spanish Civil War in the period 1936-39. During the war, Germany and Italy provided military assistance to General Francisco Franco, who was also a Fascist. Europe was therefore under the shadow of war and its stability was greatly undermined.

Moreover, since both the ideologies of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy advocated foreign expansion, they signed the Pact of Steel in 1939 to give themselves greater confidence in practicing their aggression. With this, Germany launched a sudden attack against Poland in September of the same year and caused the Second World War, which completely destroyed peace and stability in Europe.

Meanwhile, the ideological factor could also facilitate Europe's stability. In fear of Nazi Germany, capitalist France and the communist Soviet Union signed a treaty of mutual assistance to protect them from Nazi invasion. Therefore, the ideological factor also fostered cooperation and was somehow conducive to stability in Europe.

Although there were other factors, they were less important than the ideological factor.

From Source A, ‘the Pan-German Peace Coryphee’ holds a Nazi flag with a ribbon writing ‘Austria’ on it. Since Austria also had a mainly Germanic population, German invasion of the country was as well based on nationalist concerns. Therefore, the nationalist factor was also a threat to stability in Europe.

However, the nationalist factor was less important than the ideological one because in 1939, Germany also invaded countries like Czechoslovakia and Poland that were not populated by the Germanic peoples. Instead, the reason for Germany’s invasions was the expansionism embedded in Nazism. Therefore, the ideological factor had greater importance.

From my own knowledge, the economic factor also affected Europe’s stability. After the Great Depression of 1929, European countries were faced with serious economic problems. For example, more than 6 million people were unemployed in Germany in 1933 and this led to the rise of Hitler and his aggression. The economic factor worked against stability in Europe.

However, the ideological factor was more important. Although the economic factor promoted the rise of Nazism in Germany, what actually made capitalist countries connive German aggression was their fear of communism. Such appeasement caused repeated invasions by Germany that undermined stability in Europe. Therefore, the ideological factor was of greater importance.

Peacekeeping organizations also helped maintain stability in Europe in the early 1930s. The League of Nations helped resolve disputes among its member states and promoted disarmament as a peacekeeping organization. For example, it held the Geneva Disarmament Conference in 1932 as a platform to discuss disarmament issues. They had certain contributions to European stability.

However, the ideological factor was more important. Right after the rise of Nazism, Germany withdrew from the League of Nations and Geneva Disarmament Conference. Peacekeeping organizations became dispensable and stability in Europe was greatly destroyed by Nazi Germany. The ideological factor was therefore more important.

In conclusion, I agree with what the question suggests.