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HISTORY – HI6

UNIT 6 (Synoptic Assessment)

IN-DEPTH STUDY 9

NAZI GERMANY, c. 1933-1945

A.M. FRIDAY, 23 June 2006

50 minutes (of a 1 hour 40 minutes examination)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question.

The sources or quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

UNIT 6
IN-DEPTH STUDY 9
NAZI GERMANY, c. 1933-1945

Answer one question.

Candidates are reminded that their answers should demonstrate a synoptic approach to the question, and should draw together, where appropriate, the political, social, economic, religious and cultural aspects of the topic.

1. The changing fortunes of the Nazi party, c. 1933-1945.

Study the two sources below and answer the question which follows.

Source A

‘In contrast to the depression of 1932, there was a brilliant economic miracle which, at the minimum, guaranteed the basic needs of ‘work and bread’ for everyone from 1936-1937 onwards and was also beginning to meet the demand for higher quality goods. Even the poorest benefited, either through employment or through the ‘Winter Help’ campaigns, which in turn helped people to feel they were all part of the national community. The middle classes on the whole saw the regime as benefiting business.’

[D. Peukert, an academic historian and specialist in Nazi Germany, writing in a specialist book, *Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity and Opposition in Everyday Life* (1987)]

Source B

‘The small businessmen are in a state of gloom and despondency. These people, to whom the present system to a large extent owes its rise, are the most disappointed of all. The shortages of goods restrict their turnover, but they cannot respond by putting up their prices because the price decrees prevent them from doing so. The craftsmen complain about raw material shortages, shoemakers have not had enough leather and the burden of taxes grows. One can say of many small businessmen that inwardly they have long since turned away from the system and would welcome its fall.’

[A report from SOPADE, the socialist opposition in exile, assessing the economic situation in central Germany (July 1939)]

How valid are these two sources as evidence to an historian interpreting the changing fortunes of the Nazi Party, 1933-1945? [80]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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2. Hitler's relations with the German military, c.1933-1945.

Study the two sources below and answer the question which follows.

Source A

'The army stands in close unity with the whole nation, wearing with pride the symbol of the re-birth of Germany [*the swastika had just become part of the uniform*], standing in discipline and loyalty behind the leadership of the state, the Field Marshal of the Great War, Reich President von Hindenburg, its Supreme Commander, and the Fuhrer of the Reich, Adolf Hitler, who came from out of our ranks and will always remain one of ours.'

[General von Blomberg, an Army Chief, writing in an article in *Volkischer Beobachter*, the official Nazi newspaper (29th June 1934)]

Source B

'The first shift in the attitude of the military took place in 1936-1937 when Hitler embarked on his expansionist course. The tensions between the military and the political leaderships, which put an end to the Blomberg era, became pronounced, and at the same time they seemed to offer the first overt criticism and opposition. In the centre of the shift stood the Chief of Staff, General Ludwig Beck. A conservative supporter of Hitler since 1930, Beck demanded explanations for the murder of Schleicher and Bredow and was opposed to the evolving war course, which was becoming obvious to his trained eye.'

[Karl D. Bracher, an academic historian and specialist in Nazi Germany, writing in a specialist book on Hitler, *The Nazi Dictatorship* (1969)]

How valid are these two sources as evidence to an historian interpreting Hitler's relationship with the German military, 1933-1945? [80]