

472/07

HISTORY – HI2

UNIT 2

PERIOD STUDY 7

ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF EUROPE, c. 1815-1917

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 6 June 2007

(45 minutes)

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 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.

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Answer **one** question.

Candidates in their response to the interpretation question should consider the validity of the interpretation using their knowledge of the period and other possible interpretations. Candidates should also consider the factors which may have influenced the way in which the interpretation has been formed – such as the type of historian/author, the evidence available to the historian/author and the date of the publication.

1. The Second German Empire under Bismarck, 1871-1890.

‘Bismarck hated the socialists more than the Catholics.’

[The Reverend Francis Gray, a clergyman and historian specialising in the history of the Catholic Church, writing in a magazine article on Bismarck and the Church for the Franciscan Religious Order (1992)]

How valid is this interpretation of the Second Empire under Bismarck from 1871-1890? [80]

2. Russia under Alexander II, 1855-1881.

‘Tsar Alexander proved himself not only a disappointing liberal, but more seriously, an inefficient autocrat.’

[W. Mosse, an academic historian and specialist in Russian history, writing in a specialist book, *Alexander II and the modernisation of Russia* (1970)]

How valid is this interpretation of the reign of Tsar Alexander II from 1855-1881? [80]

3. Nationalist tensions in eastern Europe and the Balkans, 1878-1914.

‘Russia’s renewed concentration on Balkan affairs was chiefly due to the growth of Slav nationalism.’

[John Hite, an academic historian and specialist in Russian history, writing in an Advanced Level text-book, *Tsarist Russia 1801-1917* (1989)]

How valid is this interpretation of the changing policies of Russia in the Balkans, 1878-1914? [80]