

472/08

**HISTORY – HI2**

**UNIT 2**

**PERIOD STUDY 8**

**ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF EUROPE, c. 1878-1980**

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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## ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF EUROPE, c. 1878-1980.

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. Revolution in Russia, civil war and the rule of Stalin, 1917-1941.**

‘Nothing strikes the visitor to Stalin’s Soviet Union more forcibly than the complete lack of fear. There is no fear of wage reduction in a land where none are unemployed.’

[The Reverend Dr. Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, in a speech to his congregation after visiting the Soviet Union on an official organised visit (1939)]

How valid is this interpretation of the rule of Stalin?

[80]

**2. Fascist Italy, 1922-1939.**

‘The Italian genius (*Mussolini*) has developed a highly authoritarian regime, but it does not threaten to take away either religious or economic freedom.’

[Lord Halifax, the British Foreign Secretary, writing in an official government pamphlet aimed at flattering Mussolini (April 1940)]

How valid is this interpretation of the impact of Fascist rule upon Italian society between 1922-1939?

[80]

**3. Nazi Germany, 1933-1939.**

‘Among the positive achievements of Hitler the one which outshone all others was his economic miracle.’

[Sebastian Haffner, a German academic historian and journalist, writing in a specialist book on the life and work of Hitler, *The Meaning of Hitler* (1978)]

How valid is this interpretation of Nazi Germany between 1933-1939?

[80]