

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY

2012 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

Analyze various ways in which ideology shaped foreign policy in Nazi Germany in the period 1933 through 1945.

9–8 points

- Thesis is explicit and fully responsive to the question. Thesis may appear in the beginning or in the closing paragraph.
- Analyzes multiple examples of ideology and foreign policy actions/initiatives in some detail.
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- Essay is well balanced, discussing both ideology and foreign policy with specificity.
- All major assertions are supported by multiple pieces of relevant evidence.
- Contains strong linkage between ideology and foreign policy.
- May contain errors that do not detract from the argument.

7–6 points

- Thesis is explicit and responsive to the question.
- Analyzes multiple examples of ideology and foreign policy actions/initiatives.
- Organization is clear, is effective in support of the argument, but may not be consistently followed.
- Essay is balanced, discussing both ideology and foreign policies with some specificity.
- Contains clear linkage between ideology and foreign policy.
- All major assertions are supported by at least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain an error that detracts from the argument.

5–4 points

- Thesis is explicit but not fully responsive to the question.
- Analysis may mention both ideology and foreign policy but discuss one with more specificity.
- Organization is clear, effective in support of the argument, but not consistently followed.
- Essay shows some imbalance; neglects some major topics suggested by the prompt.
- Linkage may not be clearly articulated or developed.
- Most major assertions are supported by least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain a few errors that detract from the argument.

3–2 points

- Thesis is not explicit or merely repeats or paraphrases the prompt.
- Analysis may mention an ideology or foreign policy.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective; essay lacks specificity and may restrict itself to generalities.
- Essay shows serious imbalance, neglecting most major topics suggested by the prompt; only one aspect of ideology or foreign policy may be covered.
- Linkage is merely suggested or altogether absent.
- Only one or two major assertions are supported by relevant evidence.
- May contain several errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 6 (continued)

1–0 points

- There is no discernible attempt at a thesis.
- There is no discernible organization.
- One or none of the major topics suggested by the prompt is mentioned.
- Little or no supporting evidence is used.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.
- May contain information entirely unconnected to the question.

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Question 6 (continued)

Historical Background

Nazi ideology saw the world in terms of a “struggle of nations” for dominance; a nation’s worth was largely measured in terms of military power and an ability to support aggression, thus Hitler early in his reign committed Germany to massive rearmament and abrogation of the Versailles Treaty.

Relevant restrictions on Germany in the Versailles Treaty:

- Reduction of military forces (army reduced to 100,000 men; navy reduced; no tanks, no submarines, no air force).
- Loss of territory: Rhineland made into a Demilitarized Zone (DMZ); the Saar, Danzig, and Memel put under League of Nations control; West Prussia, Upper Silesia, and Posen to Poland; Alsace-Lorraine to France; Hultschin to Czechoslovakia; Eupen and Malmady to Belgium; Northern Schleswig to Denmark; lands gained in Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.
- Reparations payments to victor nations and acceptance of Article 231, the “war guilt clause.”

“**Struggle of nations**” idea also led Hitler to try to make Germany economically self-sufficient (autarky). He adopted the concept of a defense-led economy (*Wehrwirtschaft*) and linked it to the national struggle. This belief implied that crucial resources outside Germany (e.g., oil) should be acquired by conquest rather than trade. Hitler further stated that acquiring the territory set aside in the Polish Corridor was vital to Germany’s ability to withstand any wartime blockades. The “struggle of nations” also meant that Hitler would never negotiate for a compromise peace once the war had begun.

Mein Kampf was published in 1925. In it Hitler outlined the idea of *Lebensraum*, or living space, required for the German people; his racial theory characterized the Aryan race as predominant and other races (Poles, Slavs, Roma, Jews) as inferior. It articulated an idea of Germany’s destiny as Europe’s most powerful nation, a destiny achievable through the leadership and authority of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party. Hitler’s early speeches emphasized concern for sovereign equality and national self-determination: although this originally meant self-determination for Germany (escaping Versailles’s restrictions), eventually the language was used to advocate self-determination for all Germans (those in the Saar, in Czechoslovakia, etc.).

Rearmament occurred throughout the 1920s as Germany secretly rebuilt its military while still keeping to the letter of the Versailles restrictions. Hitler wanted to openly rebuild Germany’s military power:

- 1933 — Army prepared to treble in size; Air Ministry built 1,000 planes; increased construction on military bases. Hitler withdrew from the Geneva Disarmament Conference when France would not agree to equal levels of armament with Germany.
- 1935 — Hitler openly broke with Versailles Treaty, announced Germany’s rearmament, and subsequently mandated conscription for German men; the number of planes in *Luftwaffe* increased to 2,500; the *Wehrmacht* expanded to 300,000 men.

Nazi ideology is authoritarian, stressing the importance of a single strong leader (*Fuhrerprinzip*). On an administrative level, Nazi Germany’s foreign policy was placed almost entirely in Hitler’s hands.

Nazi ideology stressed German nationalism and the idea that all Germans should be under one state (*Grossdeutschland*); thus Hitler committed himself to occupation of all regions with significant German populations (Austria, Sudetenland).

- 1935 — A plebiscite in the Saar region confirmed a desire for reunification with Germany. A Nazi-funded Czech Sudeten-German party was created that complained of discrimination against ethnic Germans.

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Question 6 (continued)

- 1938 — March: Hitler sent the army to occupy Austria (*Anschluss*); in September held Munich Conference (including England's Neville Chamberlain, France's Edouard Daladier, Italy's Benito Mussolini). The Munich Compromise authorized Germany's occupation of the Sudetenland. Czechoslovakia and the USSR were excluded. The following year Germany occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia.

Anticommunism (anti-Bolshevism, anti-Judeo-Bolshevism) was central to Nazi ideology; thus Hitler saw eventual conflict with the Soviet Union as inevitable.

- 1939 — Nazi-Soviet Pact was signed in August. Molotov for the USSR and von Ribbentrop for Germany agreed that each country would remain neutral if the other was involved in a war.
- 1941 — Operation Barbarossa: Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union included the “commissar order” to shoot Communist Party agents in the army, communist agitators, Bolshevik rebels, and Jews. The *Einsatzgruppen* (SS) was given specific orders to isolate, terrorize, and murder Jewish populations.

Fascist Italy was seen as a natural partner and ally because of ideological similarities. Pact of Steel in 1939 committed Italy to supporting Germany in the event of a war and made the agreement that neither would negotiate a peace without the consent of the other.

Support of the Nationalists in the Spanish Civil War is also an example of ideology driving foreign policy.

- 1936 — Germany signed a nonintervention agreement with regard to Spain but formed the Condor Legion (a combined air-army force), which aided the Nationalists from 1936 to 1939.
- 1937 — Guernica was bombed by the Condor Legion.

Support of quasi-fascist regimes in Eastern Europe and the Balkans (Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria) and for ethnic Germans in the Balkan countries (*Volksdeutsche*) led to formation of *Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle* (VoMi), or Ethnic German Aid Office, in 1935.

Nazi racial ideology of Aryan superiority over non-Aryan *Untermenschen* encouraged Polish and Balkan conquests and the invasion of Russia, expulsions of non-Aryan populations in Eastern Europe, destruction of Polish intelligentsia, etc. The treatment of occupied countries in Western Europe was significantly less harsh, in part because of the ideological perception that Western European “races” were more akin to the Aryans.

Anti-Semitism of Nazi ideology led to extermination of Jews in occupied countries (Holocaust).

- 1935 — Nuremberg Laws deprived German Jews of citizenship, civil rights, and civil liberties (domestic).
- 1937–1938 — Labor and concentration camps set up in Germany (Buchenwald, Flossenburg) (domestic).
- 1939 — *Einsatzgruppen* (SS) sent to Poland and USSR to find and murder Jews; ghettos for Jews established in Poland; camps for detention, slave labor (e.g., Chelmno or Kulmhof) established.
- 1941 — “Final Solution” adopted, camps created or adapted for use as extermination sites (e.g., Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Poznan in Poland); transit and detention camps established in France, the Netherlands, Italy, Ukraine, Croatia, and other occupied areas.

Nazi foreign policy, though rightly criticized, is often overlooked analytically. The roots of that policy are ignored in the wake of its devastating consequences. The Nazis fundamentally were nationalist, racist, and vengeful, which unequivocally determined its foreign policy. The Nazi ideologies of nationalism, racism, and vengeance shaped Germany's foreign policy from 1933 through 1945.

The National Socialist Party was first and foremost a nationalist organization. When it came to power, its nationalism became incorporated into Germany's foreign policy. Nationalism, or national pride, was very common in Europe during that time period. However, the Nazis' extreme nationalism included the goal of acquiring other German-speaking territories, such as Austria and ~~the~~ part of Czechoslovakia for the Third Reich. It also engaged in an aggressive policy of acquiring new territory, particularly from Poland, to liberate the "suppressed" ethnic Germans in those lands and use that land for "living space" for ethnic Germans. This nationalism eventually led to German occupation through invasion and warfare of most of Europe. German foreign policy at this point was to take land seen by the Nazis as advantageous to the Reich out of national pride. Extreme Nazi nationalism plunged Europe into war and destruction.

The Nazis were also inherently racist, particularly against the Jews, believing ethnic Germans to

be a "super race", directly descended from the Aryans, ~~who were~~ who were related to divine beings. Thus, the Nazis pursued a rigorous policy of ethnic cleansing in their Reich and its incorporated territories. Moreover, it waged warfare against nations it saw as ethnically inferior such as the Poles (Poland) and Slavs (Soviet Union) and the Roma people. Its racist ideology caused it to wage violence and war crimes against these nations but peaceful invasion of German-majority nations such as Austria and Czechoslovakia. It invaded nations, like the Netherlands, which offered little strategic value due to its small size, mainly to eradicate the Jewish population. Without this racist foreign policy, significant suffering and death could have been avoided.

Finally, the Nazis pursued a foreign policy based on vengeance. At the end of the First World War, the Treaty of Versailles had over 440 clauses, over 400 of which were solely dedicated to punishing Germany. German military and economy were totally incapacitated, compounded by the Great Depression. The Nazis brought unprecedented economic growth to Germany and secretly and illegally rebuilt German military power. Germany was out for revenge. Hitler and the Nazis were determined to regain both their territory and their honor. The Nazis built a foreign policy based on propaganda and on regaining the Rhineland to show the world German might and achieve revenge. This vindictive quest for vengeance created a dangerously powerful German military determined to regain the German land and

Q A-3

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

Wimmer lost in the First World War. The Nazis ~~wanted~~ wanted to "stick it" to the Allies and sought a foreign policy of revenge.

The Nazi ideologies of nationalism, racism, and vengeance combined into a destructive and powerful foreign policy between 1933 ~~1930~~ 1945. Nationalism drove the Reich to invade ~~and~~ and control other nations for German benefit. ~~It~~ It murdered millions and invaded nations on the basis of ethnicity, demonstrating its racism. Finally, it sought revenge for the humiliation ~~it~~ it endured after the First World War. Nazi Germany's violent, racist, nationalistic, and vengeful foreign policy dragged Europe into war and ultimately resulted in the longest and arguably most influential event/era of the 20th century: the Cold War.

The Nazis furthermore believed that as the German Super race,
↳ they had both the right and responsibility to rule over nations of ethnic inferiority. Thus, they did not ~~hesitate~~ hesitate to invade and conquer other nations.

After suffering losses in WWI in the form of war guilt clause and reparations, German society was shaken up, whereas ^{the} ~~to~~ ~~request~~ reform of the Nazi party. The Nazi party manipulated the present circumstances of Germany and used this to promote their ideologies that would at the time seem relieving for the German people. Coming from humiliated in WWI, the Nazi party in Germany used baseline ideology with German pride glorification, ~~the~~ concept of the myth, and necessity of a German rule over foreign power.

With the war guilt clause still having residual effects on the German people, the Nazi party ~~pre~~ emphasized German pride and used it as justification for vengeful justice, in the beginning of foreign involvement. Nazi party leader, Adolf Hitler, first used this to unite a German speaking people. Meets with much resistance at first Hitler's "Lebensraum" policy justifies the growing German culture to have more "arm space" by ~~attacking~~ assuming control where necessary. First targeted Austria, possibly with vengeful spirit, since Austria held the presidency ~~as~~ over the German Confederation keeping in from unifying under Metternich, Hitler eventually moved in to take over. Being a large industrial power, possibly the largest with the renewal of German power after Great World Depression in 1920, Hitler used the idea of the superior German person as a catalyst towards human development, making his ~~poor~~ foreign policies appealing to disgruntled German people.

From the start of the Nazi party, one of the most important ideology that influenced their overwhelming control was ~~the~~ myth.

G. - B - 2

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

Having his own theories about racial distinction, Hitler conceived myths which he used to evoke passion and belief in his people, even creating a role similar to a god for himself.

Anti-Semitism was very influential in Hitler's foreign policy first rooting out Jews in Germany and then moving to larger populations like Poland in 1939 which began WWII. Along with the concepts of culture progressing people, Hitler idealized the so called hair blue-eyed Aryan race. Even though not all Germans even himself did not fit into this group, it still justified foreign role because of his support.

First responsible for Hitler coming to power, Hitler used specific emergencies to facilitate a necessity for quick reform. Coming to power after he staged the Night of the Long Knives, Hitler used fear to increase support for change which he promised to bring. Coming up with his racial beliefs, the Night of Broken Glass induced fear in Jewish population causing an effect of German his power. Since Germany was in a state of low unemployment, Hitler's public work policy was also an example of his fast pace reform which he translated into foreign policy. This necessity for immediate change helped encourage aggressive expansion in the German power if German power was ever likely to take over.

Nazi ideology was the one of most important factors in German foreign policy during mid twentieth century, relating

6 C-1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

After world war 1 Germany was treated very poorly by the victors. They had to ~~pay~~ pay a lot of money ~~to~~ to the allies for damages and the allies set up a new government for Germany that did not work. This is what gave rise to Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. Between 1933 and 1945 Nazi Germany used ideology of being against communism and the need to break the chains that was placed on them after World War One to shape foreign policy.

The Nazis in Germany were against communism. They felt that communism was bad and therefore the Soviet Union was too. Although Germany makes the non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union and Germany did not trust each other and fought against each other in World War two. ~~Germany~~ The Nazis and Adolf Hitler tried to appeal to the middle class and big businesses.

The Nazis in Germany used propaganda and rallied people against the victors of World War one for the poor treatment of Germany. They ~~showed~~ showed propaganda of the people of Germany breaking the chains there were placed on them by the victors - of

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

6 C-2

~~World~~ World War one. The Nazi promised the people of Germany that they would return to a point of Germany being powerful.

~~The~~ In conclusion, ~~the~~ Nazi Germany used the ideology of being against communism and propoganda focused on germany returning to its glory and breaking the chains the victors of World War one put on them

next essay starts on next page.

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Question 6

Overview

This question was intended to measure students' knowledge of Nazi ideology and foreign policy and their ability to analyze connections between the two.

Sample: 6A

Score: 9

This essay's opening sentence is insightful, and the thesis is strong. The introduction is well formulated and organizes a well-constructed essay. Some minor errors (the rationale for invading the Netherlands, the 400 clauses in the Versailles Treaty to punish Germany) do not detract from the analytic quality of the essay. The nuanced analysis strongly links foreign policy and ideology ("the Nazis pursued a rigorous policy of ethnic cleansing in the Reich and its incorporated territories") and provides numerous and specific examples (e.g., Jews, Slavs, and Roma people are all mentioned as examples of victims Nazi racial policies). This is an exemplary essay because of its strong linkages between ideology and policies, the quality of the evidence provided, and the fluidity of the writing.

Sample: 6B

Score: 5

This essay sets out to address both ideology and foreign policy. The themes of Lebensraum, German superiority, and Nazi racial distinctions are adequately developed as ideological bases for policy. There are some connections drawn between ideology and policies (e.g., invasion of Austria, targeting Jews in Poland). In general, however, the topic of Nazi foreign policy is not sufficiently well developed, and some of the attempted linkages contain incorrect information that detracts from the overall argument (e.g., the suggestion that Austria was invaded in revenge for nineteenth-century Habsburg policies vis-à-vis the German Confederacy). The fourth paragraph, dealing with Hitler's use of "emergencies" to acquire more power, does not advance the argument because the chosen examples pertain to domestic rather than foreign policy.

Sample: 6C

Score: 2

This essay mentions anticommunism as a component of Nazi ideology and attempts to link it to the invasion of Russia. The essay also refers to German revanchist sentiment ("break the chains that was [*sic*] placed on them after World War One") but does not explain it further or link it to any specific foreign policy. The third paragraph, dealing with Nazi use of propaganda, is not linked to any specific foreign policy. The essay's organization is ineffective, and there is very little specific evidence presented in support of the argument (the exception being a reference to the Ribbentrop-Molotov nonaggression pact). The essay lacks a valid thesis and offers both weak evidence and weak linkages between ideology and policies.