

Hitler – Master Planner or Opportunist

Historians have argued whether Hitler had planned all of the events that took place in the 1930’s to eventually lead to war in 1939. For this assignment you will be debating the following topic;

Was Hitler a Master Planner, or did he improvise with what occurred in the world, to lead his country to the eventual outcome of war? Consider the following when deciding which of the viewpoints is more accurate;

- a. Views in *Mein Kampf*
- b. Hossbach Memorandum
- c. Hitler’s views on Germany’s needs
- d. Hitler’s belief in the need for racial superiority
- e. Hitler’s improvisations
- f. Planning
- g. Hitler exploiting events that were outside of his control (i.e. Abyssinia, Spanish Civil War)
- h. Did he have plans, just not an end goal?

Also, consider how much a leader can improvise within an overall plan, and to what extent a leader can be in full control of outcomes for their country when it comes to foreign policy?

You will be handing in this assignment in the form of a 5 paragraph, historical, essay. You will also be participating in an in-class debate on this topic.

Use the attached papers for information, as well as previous assignments, and the following sections in your History 12 Reader, Part I;

1. Internal Policies in Nazi Germany; pp. 142 – 146
2. German Rearmament; pp. 149 – 150
3. Social Changes in Nazi Germany; pp. 150 – 153
4. Italian Invasion of Abyssinia; pp. 176 – 179
5. The Spanish Civil War; pp. 183 – 184
6. The Failure of Appeasement; pp. 185 – 197
7. The Invasion of Poland; pp. 198 - 201

Assessment Rubric

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Incomplete/Does Not Meet Expectations
Historical Essay Format, and Thesis Statement	The essay is formatted into at least 5 paragraphs, with topic sentences for each paragraph, all ideas are organized into their own paragraphs, thesis statement is clear and concise, is highlighted and sticks with the overall idea being argued within the essay	The essay is formatted into 5, organized paragraphs, some paragraphs have topic sentences, there is a thesis statement that primarily sticks to the general idea of the essay	The essay is formatted into 5 paragraphs, however the paragraphs do not have topic sentences, there is no clear thesis statement present, or the thesis that is in the introduction does not relate to the argument being presented in the rest of the essay	The essay is formatted into 5 paragraphs

Involvement in the class debate	The student is tremendously involved in the debate, and everything the student says pertains to the topic being discussed	The student says 2 or 3 things during the debate, but not all of it pertains to the argument being discussed	The student says 1 or 2 things during the debate, with it only slightly pertaining to the topic being discussed	The student is not involved in the class debate
Plausibility of the argument being presented in relation to the topic	The argument being presented is highly plausible with tremendous discussion on why it is	The argument being presented is plausible with limited discussion on why it is	The argument being presented is only somewhat plausible	The argument being presented is not plausible
Consideration and explanation on how the topics for consideration help determine the plausibility of the argument being presented	All of the topics for consideration have been discussed within the essay and there is a clear explanation of how they help lead to the argument being presented	Most of the topics have been discussed (only 1 or 2 are missing) and there is a brief explanation on how they help lead to the argument being presented	Half of the topics have been discussed with a brief explanation on how they help lead to the argument being presented	Only 2 or 3 of the topics have been discussed, with very limited explanations on how they help lead to the argument being presented
Use of Evidence in the Essay, including Footnotes	The student uses a large amount of evidence to back up their argument, there is also the presence of appropriately organized footnotes for any evidence that is presented as fact, or are quoted from the original document	The student uses a fair amount of evidence to support their argument, and there are 2 or 3 footnotes used in the paper	The student uses a brief amount of evidence to support their argument, and there are no footnotes present	There is no evidence used to support the argument being presented

Total: /40 marks