

Document Based Essay Question

THE POLICY AND IMPACT OF APPEASEMENT

Aims- To encourage students to engage actively with historical documents. To build analytical and critical thinking skills. To formulate evidence-based arguments. To practice writing concisely and persuasively.

QUESTION:

What was the policy of Appeasement designed to accomplish? How successful was Appeasement in achieving that result? Drawing on your knowledge of interwar Europe, use the following documents to inform and support your answer.

DOCUMENTS:

1. Foreign Armaments. Report by the Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee. CAB 56/2. 16 February 1937.
<http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.cab56/0002/028/001>
2. Review of the Military Situation in the Mediterranean, Middle East and North East Africa. Outline of Draft Appreciation by the Joint Planning Sub-Committee. CAB 56/2. 19 February 1937.
<http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.cab56/0002/029>
3. Clandestine Negotiations between George Steward, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's Press Officer, and Dr Fritz Hesse, Press Adviser to the German Embassy, 1938: Hesse's Report to Ribbentrop. FO 1093/107. 1938. <http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.fo1093/0107/002>
4. Military Implications of German Aggression Against Czechoslovakia. Minutes of the Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee on Imperial Defence. CAB 56/1. 16 March 1938.
<http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.cab56/0001/016/001>
5. Appreciation for a European War. Political Setting. Note by the Secretary to the Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee. CAB 56/4. 16 November 1938.
<http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.cab56/0004/010/001>
6. MI5, General: Correspondence and Papers Regarding German Intentions in 1939. FO 1093/88. 1 March 1939 - 31 July 1939. <http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.fo1093/0088/002>
7. C1, General: Volume I, January to April 1939; Correspondence and Papers Regarding Secret Service Matters Including Pre-War German Mobilization, Assessments of International Threats, Germany's Aims and Methods, Precautions Against Domestic Sabotage and London Evacuation Plans. FO 1093/86. 1 December 1938 - 30 April 1939. See pages 83-97.
<http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.fo1093/0086/002/083>
8. C1, General, Volume II, May to November 1939: Correspondence and Papers on Secret Service Matters Including British Communists and Refugees, Communications with Turkey and British Propaganda. FO 1093/87. 1 January 1939 - 31 July 1939. See especially pages 1-10.
<http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com/Content/swwf.fo1093/0087/002>

Seminar Topics

THE RUSSIAN FRONT

FURTHER READING:

B. J. C. McKercher (2017) Anschluss: The Chamberlain Government and the First Test of Appeasement, February–March 1938, *The International History Review*, 39:2, 274-294, DOI: 10.1080/07075332.2016.1179207

Scott Ramsay (2019) Ensuring Benevolent Neutrality: The British Government's Appeasement of General Franco during the Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939, *The International History Review*, 41:3, 604-623, DOI: 10.1080/07075332.2018.1428211

G. Bruce Strang (2008) The Spirit of Ulysses? Ideology and British Appeasement in the 1930s, *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, 19:3, 481-526, DOI: 10.1080/0959229080234497



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