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SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

Level 2 History, 2016

91233 Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event

9.30 a.m. Wednesday 23 November 2016

Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Examine, in depth, causes and consequences of a significant historical event.	Comprehensively examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

If you need more room for your answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Merit

TOTAL

5

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INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay on ONE significant historical event, using the essay task below.

Your essay must include an introduction and a conclusion, and use detailed supporting evidence.

You should provide context for your discussion by adding a detailed paragraph describing the historical event.

Write your chosen historical event in the box below.

Plan your essay on page 3. Begin your essay on page 4.

ESSAY TASK

Examine the long-term and short-term causes of a significant historical event, and explain the consequences.

Historical event: _____

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Description of the historical event	
Long-term cause(s) of the event	Examination/Evidence
Short-term cause(s) of the event	Examination/Evidence
Consequences of the event	

Begin your essay here:

(MS)

On the 6th August 1945 the American bomber Enola Gay dropped a bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later US President Truman 'green lit' another bomb to 'destroy the city of Nagasaki'. The bombs had done what they were promised to do 'cause complete and utter destruction'. For these were no ordinary bombs but the first atomic bombs to be used in warfare. This would lead to the Japanese surrender and end years of war in the Pacific and lead to a new era of warfare. The Cold War and the nuclear arms race where mankind would be teetering on the brink of destruction.

The first cause can be attributed to the long term influence of politics and power in Asia. During the 1920's and 30's Japan's relationship with the US had deteriorated after the invasion of Manchuria by Japan in 1931. In 1936 the Japanese signed the Axis Alliance with Germany and Italy to prevent British, American and Soviet interference in Asia which Japan claimed as it's region of control. By 1941 President Roosevelt had in place an oil and trade embargo with Japan as a result of Japan's aggression towards the new US trade partner China. Without US oil Japan could not colonise Asia. Japanese army general Tojo would not give up his right to colonise Asia so the only option was to take on the US and move into the oil rich areas of the Dutch East Indies. To do this, Japan must

by-pass the US navy fleets around the Philippines and cripple the larger force at Pearl Harbour. On the 7th December 1941 the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour as well as the Philippines and the British colonies of Hong Kong and Malaya. This act forces the US to join WWII and would lead to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Another significant cause was the short term economic and social costs the war was having on the US. After the Japanese show of might at Pearl Harbour they thought the US would retreat and let them colonise Asia but this bet did not pay off. The US were only preparing for what they thought would be a short war overcoming the Japanese and would lead to a decisive allied victory. However as battling goes on into its fourth year, by 1945 the human and economic costs of the war start to mount back in the US. One hundred and forty three aircrafts are lost at the Battle of Midway alone and at Okinawa the death toll for the allies is 12,000 with a further 50,000 injured. It is not helped by the fact that Britain was not in a place to be able to pay the debt owed to the US for their war effort. But the losses for Japan were even worse but they did not surrender. Behind the ethos of the Japanese was the samurai spirit of not giving in and to die

for your country. As can be seen by the kamikaze pilots. This concerned new US President Truman and his British ally Churchill when they are advised that the Japanese could hold out for at least another year. So when Truman hears of the top secret government project to create nuclear weapons he sees a destructive way to swiftly end the war. At the Potsdam Conference between Russia, UK and the US on the 17th July 1945, Truman is told of a successful nuclear weapons test held in America. Churchill would later say "that the bombs would bring an end to the war in one or two violent shocks and we would not need the support of the Russians." Truman would send a warning to Japan to surrender or suffer the consequences of this new destructive weapon but in true 'samurai spirit' this is ignored. So on the 26th July 1945 Truman feels forced to drop the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Another cause can be attributed to the short term threat of Truman's ally Stalin. There is great debate that ~~not only~~ ~~the~~ Truman ~~wanted to end~~ not only wanted to end the war in the Pacific but also to show Stalin that the US had the upper hand in world politics. During the war Russia was considered an ally fighting the shared Axis of Germany, Italy and Japan but Truman has

growing concerns over Stalin as he starts to see him as a true dictator as Eastern Europe starts to collapse. Stalin, the leader of Communist Russia is no stranger to turning on his allies such as his betrayal of Trotsky. Truman, in a play of power, at the Potsdam Conference hints to Stalin about these new superior weapons but is disappointed in Stalin's lack of reaction. Truman's distrust of Stalin is warranted as Stalin's Russian spies had infiltrated the Manhattan Project and Stalin was working on his own atomic bombs. Truman and Churchill did not want Russia taking any kudos for the defeat over Japan. So the swift deployment of the bombs to show the world and Russia that the US is the dominant world super power could have contributed to his decision to drop the bombs.

~~Skeptics may say~~

Another short term cause is the need for a real life test environment. Sceptics believe that the bombs were dropped to see how much destruction they could cause. The US had never tested the plutonium-based bomb so Nagasaki was seen as a test run. This could give some credence to the statement that the US needed a testing environment for the bombs and could have been a reason why Truman wanted to drop the bombs.

With all the causes mounting up, the US dropped the bomb on Hiroshima on the 6th August 1945. The bomb, named 'Little Boy', initially killed 70,000 people and injured a further 70,000 with a destruction radius of 4.7 miles, turning the city into dust and rubble. Three days later the bomb named 'Fat Man' was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. The bomb initially killed 40,000 with an extra 40,000 injured. The bomb with a destruction radius of 1 mile destroyed the city. On the 15th August a depleted Japan would surrender and bring an end to World War II. This could be considered a military success if it were not for the consequences which would become more apparent.

The most obvious short-term consequence ~~is that~~ ~~they are~~ is that the ~~bombs~~ bombings are credited with the end of WWII. A week after the second bomb was dropped, Japan surrenders and ends WWII. This brings many allied soldiers home to their families, many of whom had already lost brothers, fathers, sons and uncles. The result of the war was a negative for Japan but the swift deployment of the bombs could have potentially saved thousands of Japanese and Allied lives. This would bring in a time of economic growth and development for Allied countries in an era known as

'the post war boom.'

A negative short-term consequence for Japan is that they would no longer be the imperial power they once had been. The bombs had initially killed around 100,000 people but the long-term health effects would become more apparent within days, weeks and indeed decades after the bombings. It is considered that an estimated 200,000 people died of radiation burns and poisoning and has affected the families of the survivors as they suffer from on-going miscarriages, birth deformities and high rates of cancer. The long term stress and ~~trauma~~ trauma that the bombings would have on Japanese society is much harder to measure. This would also see Japan front anti-nuclear treaties like the Non Proliferation Treaty of 1968.

A significant long-term consequence of the bombings was the growing distrust between the USSR and the US in an era spanning over ~~four~~ ~~year~~ for 40 years called the 'Cold War'. After the war the Soviets would expand Communism into Eastern Europe. This would bring fear in the US that Stalin planned to rule the world. The USSR resents America's arrogance and both countries increase their nuclear armory. It would also

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see them take sides in politically motivated wars in Vietnam, Korea and Cuba. The Cuban Missile Crisis, a stand-off between the US and Russia in 1962, is the closest we've ever been to a nuclear war. With President Kennedy just hours from approving an attack on Russia before an agreement is made between the two countries. In 1991 we would see an end to Communist Russia and the Cold War.

Another long term consequence of the bombings would be the increase in making and testing nuclear weapons. Over 2,000 nuclear tests had been completed since 1945 by the US, USSR, UK, ~~France~~ France and more. For most of these countries this meant testing these weapons as far away from their own country as possible, often in Pacific colonies like French Polynesia and even South Australia. The effects of radiation became a concern to Pacific nations especially NZ and Australia who would start protesting nuclear testing in the 1960's. It would also see relationships between the US and NZ deteriorate in 1985 when a planned warship visit to NZ is cancelled due to anti-

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nuclear demonstrations. Later that year, the anti-nuclear Greenpeace ship, the Rainbow Warrior would be bombed by French secret agents in Auckland harbour, killing one man. NZ is involved in a bitter diplomatic row with France over the issue. The issue upsets mainstream NZ and by 1987 NZ had implemented anti-nuclear laws. This would see anti-nuclear groups form around the world and would result in a re-thinking of the use of nuclear testing.

In conclusion, the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki can be put down to these causes, the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the need to end a protracted war and to show the US' dominance on a world stage.

Truman would later go on to say that he "did not regret dropping the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki" but if he were alive to see the negative consequences he may change his mind. As this event is as shocking today as it was 70 years ago.

M5



M5

- 'detailed' evidence
- Lapses in 'examination/explanation' i.e. 'limitations'