

SECTION C

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

- 5 Historians have different views about how far Hitler's foreign policy was responsible for the Second World War. Analyse and evaluate the extracts and use your knowledge of the issues to explain your answer to the following question.

How convincing do you find the view that Hitler wanted the Second World War primarily to make living space for Germans?

(20)

Hitler Taylor makes it clear in his extract that Lebensraum was not Hitler's main reason for the Second World War. Therefore Taylor supports a ^{justification of} ~~internationalist~~ stance on the Second World War. However, Carr states that it was his plan all along to gain Lebensraum eastward. Therefore he was planning a war. In my opinion I believe that Hitler did not want a world war as taking living space was not his primary focus.

The two ^{authors} ~~sources~~ have very different opinions on explaining the Second World War to be the result of Hitler's desire of living space. Taylor says that it was not Hitler's main intention as



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"only seven of the seven hundred" pages we focused on Lebensraum. Whereas, Carr says that it must have been an important objective of the future as the Lebensraum was ~~"declared Hitler"~~ ~~"d"~~ was as his "declared ambition on the first page of the book". Carr clearly states that he believes Hitler's foreign policy was responsible for the Second World War as Hitler's main intentions were Lebensraum. On the other hand, Taylor believes that Hitler did not plan a world war as he did not focus on his primary focus was not Lebensraum. Carr and Taylor both believe that Hitler wanted influence in the West and Europe however they disagree on the methods he was going to do this by. I follow Taylor's side of argument and believe that Lebensraum was not Hitler's main intention ~~was~~ I think



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He was after a racially pure Germany and ~~AB~~ anti-Semitism was his true focus.

Carr is an internationalist. He believes Hitler had a master plan all along and his policy of Lebensraum was the main cause of WW2. Carr states that Hitler ~~wanted~~ wanted a "new and mighty Reich" that "would arise dominating Europe" clearly showing that he believes Hitler wanted to have a world war to gain a huge amount of living space for the Germans. There is evidence to suggest that this was Hitler's aim as he did state his policy in ~~the~~ ~~Mein Kampf~~ of Lebensraum in ~~Mein Kampf~~. However, Carr does not talk about any of Hitler's other foreign policies. To answer Carr's question of "was Nazi foreign policy a continuation of policy under previous



(Section C continued) governments?" To some extent yes. The Weimar Republic was already secretly hearing in the dark under. This shows that maybe Hitler did continue some of his foreign policy from previous governments and his policy of Lebensraum was not solely to blame for WW2. However, Britain and France did guarantee Poland's independence and Hitler ~~be~~ followed his policy of Lebensraum which is a contributing factor to WW2.

Taylor follows a structuralist view point. Taylor believes that Hitler's main aim was not Lebensraum but he was more "obsessed with anti-Semitism". Taylor believes that perhaps Hitler's foreign policy is not solely to blame for WW2. Taylor believes that Hitler's focus ~~on~~ Lebensraum or expansion east was more to do with anti-Bolshevism and Hitler wanted



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to "win the hearts and minds of those in the west." This shows that Taylor is not convinced that Hitler wanted the second world war out of living space. Taylor believes that Hitler was not focused on anti-Semitism. I don't believe that Hitler had a solid plan for Lebensraum and it was that the main factor for explaining the cause of WW2. I believe Hitler wanted a shorter war as he believed in Blitzkrieg (lightning war) and wanted to secure a "racially pure" race.

Overall, I am not convinced that Hitler wanted the second world war purely out of his desire for Lebensraum. I believe that Hitler wanted a racially pure nation as he took many measures to achieve this from his policy of Lebensraum.

