

SAQ Practice

Time: 1900-Present

Unit #7 - Global Conflict

1. Use the passage to answer all parts of the question that follow

“Revolutions have been rare but momentous occurrences in modern world history. . . . They have given birth to nations whose power markedly surpassed their own prerevolutionary pasts. . . . Nor have revolutions had only national significance. In some cases, revolutions have given rise to models and ideals of enormous international impact and appeal. . . . [Major] revolutions affect not only those abroad who would like to imitate them. They also affect those in other countries who oppose revolutionary ideals but are compelled to respond to the challenges or threats posed by the enhanced national power that has been generated [by those revolutions]. . . .

[Political] upheavals and socioeconomic changes have happened in every country. But . . . revolutions deserve special attention, not only because of their extraordinary significance for the histories of nations and the world but also because of their distinctive pattern of [social and political] change. Revolutions are rapid, basic transformations of a society’s state and class structures; and they are accompanied and, in part, carried through by class-based revolts from below.”

- Theda Skocpol, United States political scientist, *States and Social Revolutions*, book published in 1979

Use the passage to answer all parts of the question that follows.

- A. Describe ONE argument that the author makes about revolutions in the first paragraph.
- B. Explain how ONE piece of evidence from the period after 1750 would support the author’s argument about revolutions and class.
- C. Explain how ONE piece of evidence from the period after 1750 would challenge the author’s argument in the passage.

2. Answer all parts of the question that follows.

- A. Identify ONE new state that emerged in Europe in the period before 1939.
- B. Explain ONE development in Europe that led to the creation of new states in the period 1914–1939.
- C. Explain ONE way in which the circumstances that led to the creation of new states in Europe in the period 1914–1939 contributed to conflict in Europe in the period 1939–1945.

Answers to 1:

Task A: Describe ONE argument that the author makes about revolutions in the first paragraph.

- The author argues that revolutions have been rare but momentous occasions in world history.
- Skocpol argues that revolutions have impacts beyond national borders because people in other countries often seek to copy revolutions, or that revolutions influence people from other countries who want to imitate them.
- Skocpol claims that revolutions are significant because people who oppose revolutions in one country still feel compelled to react to the potential threats that revolutions in another country may pose.

Task B: Explain how ONE piece of evidence from the period after 1750 would support the author's argument about revolutions and class.

- The French Revolution would support the author's argument because it was led by members of the lower and middle classes against the nobility.
- The Haitian Revolution would be one piece of evidence that supports Skocpol's argument because slaves led that revolution to overthrow French rule.
- Skocpol's argument that revolutions are partly carried out by class-based revolts from below is supported by the events of the Russian Revolution, during which workers and Marxist intellectuals overthrew the Czar.

Task C: Explain how ONE piece of evidence from the period after 1750 would challenge the author's argument in the passage.

- The American Revolution would challenge the author's argument because it was led by people who were members of the elite class.
- Decolonization in Africa and Asia in the twentieth century was often led by members of Asian and African elites rather than by the lower classes, which challenges the author's argument.
- The revolutions in Latin America challenge Skocpol's argument because even though the Creoles did not have the same social status or political power as the *Peninsulares*, they were elites with tremendous influence.

Answers to 2:

Task A: Identify ONE new state that emerged in Europe in the period before 1939.

- Czechoslovakia was a new state that emerged before 1939.
- Yugoslavia was a new state that emerged in Europe.
- The Soviet Union was a new state that emerged in Europe before 1939.

Task B: Explain ONE development in Europe that led to the creation of new states in the period 1914–1939.

- The First World War led to the creation of new states in Europe because the war resulted in the collapse of empires such as Austria-Hungary, from which new states emerged.
- The Treaty of Versailles led to the creation of new states in Europe because the treaty dismantled previous empires such as Germany and Austria and made new states such as Czechoslovakia out of their former territories.
- The Bolshevik Revolution led to the creation of new states because it overthrew the Russian Empire of the tsar and formed the Soviet Union.

Task C: Explain ONE way in which the circumstances that led to the creation of new states in Europe in the period 1914–1939 contributed to conflict in Europe in the period 1939–1945.

- The Treaty of Versailles created new states in Europe but also led to the Second World War because the harsh conditions imposed on Germany by the treaty fueled the rise of the Nazis.
 - Nationalism helped lead to the First World War and the creation of new states, but it also contributed to further conflict because many of the post-1918 national boundaries were contested, leading to some countries feeling deprived of territories that they believed should belong to them. These resentments and lingering conflicts eventually contributed to the rise of the fascist states that started the Second World War.
- The First World War led to the creation of new states and also led to the Second World War because states such as Germany wanted to recapture territory that had been lost following the First World War.