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# GCSE HISTORY

Paper 1A/B: Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship

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## Interpretations Booklet

Interpretations **A** and **B** for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03

**Interpretation A** Albert Speer, writing in his book, 'Inside the Third Reich' written in 1960.

He remembers hearing Adolf Hitler speak in January 1931 at Berlin University. Albert Speer went on to become the Nazi Minister for weapons. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison after the war and released in 1966.

Everything about him was reasonable and ordinary looking; he was no shrieking fanatic in a uniform. He spoke passionately; it was hypnotic and persuasive. We were carried on a wave of enthusiasm. It swept away our doubts. Here, it seemed was hope, new ideals, a new understanding. The peril of communism could be stopped.

**Interpretation B** Victor Schiff, in an article written in 1950 where he explains Hitler's rise to power.

Schiff was a German journalist and socialist who worked as the Paris correspondent for the American 'Daily Herald' newspaper in the 1930s.

If there is one point on which we all agree, it must be surely that Hitler owes his rise and ultimate victory to the World Economic Crisis. Hitler appealed to the despair of the unemployed workers; the young people who had no future; to the middle class businessman and craftsman heading for bankruptcy and to the farmers threatened with a fall in agricultural prices.

## END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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