

1) Pathways to power – USA

In 1917 the US joined the war (WW1) in order to ensure the Allies' victory because the US had loaned huge sums of money to several European nations and knew that if the Allies lost the war, there would be no way of getting their money back. The US did not like the fact they were indirectly forced into the war when they did not intend to join it in the first place and also the fact that the European nations were reliant on the US. The US intended to grow their economy and become increasingly prosperous, however they could not achieve this goal with these inconvenient ties with Europe. Therefore one of the reasons why this US became isolationist throughout the 20s and 30s was to have a thriving economy. Another reason is due to the fact that the Treaty of Versailles was so harsh on Germany (with 6,6 Billion \$ in reparations) that they saw no threat from them in the future. \*

Another main factor of why the USA became isolationist is because they were able to survive on their own without any connections to other countries. Not only were they protected by two enormous oceans, but they also had enough resources (such as food, oil, materials) to sustain their way of living and to progress towards their goal of economical development. The US saw war as their main enemy and did all it could in order to prevent it from coming back, these are the reasons for the US's isolationism period in the 20s and 30s.

\* In addition to this, Woodrow Wilson's 14 points were rejected, these points served the goal of befitting the world more than the US itself. These points included independence to some countries, recovery of land to others, free navigation and free trade, However, congress thought these ideas were anti-imperialist and had too much involvement with other nations which meant a higher chance of war.

● A big factor that shows progress towards the US becoming a global superpower in 1945 is the establishment of the naval ratios mainly for the US, Britain and Japan. The Washington naval conference 1921-22 decided that the ratios of naval power was to be distributed as follows, 5 US : 5 GB : 3 Japan. This enabled the US to use Britain (a close Allie) as a strong reinforcement if necessary, whilst keeping Japan under control and also satisfied. Germany soon experienced inflation, whereby their currency (German mark) began to lose value quickly. This process escalated quickly until Germany was experiencing hyperinflation, which meant that the mark now had no value and was worth nothing (Devastating effects).

At the time the US was experiencing a boom in economy, due to the introduction of the stock market and new concepts to benefit the people, such as the vote for women, even the Jazz age played a roll in the boom. This enabled the saving of Germany through what is called as the Dawes Plan in 1924. This was a successful attempt at restoring value to the German mark by sending an American banker with huge sums of cash and gold and simply transferring it into the German central bank. This showed the US as a helping nation regardless of their isolationist views and powerful enough to bring Germany out of pure devastation. The next year the Locarno Treaty was put in place in order to affirm borders and state that it was not permitted to go to war in order to recover lost territory. This was an attempt at preventing unnecessary conflict between nations that had lost land after the war.

1929 was the start of the Great Depression, this was the collapse of the stock market mainly due to overspeculation (everyone tried selling their shares at the same time), this caused a huge recession

with high unemployment rates, poverty, homelessness and war soon spread throughout many other countries such as Japan, Germany, etc... This meant the US became even more isolationist because their primary concern became to solve their own economic difficulties before helping others. As the 30s continued things slowly improved and nations started to recover to the point when they were once again able to begin fighting and so WW2 began. At the beginning in 1939, the US refused to get involved but as the Axis became stronger and invading more and more countries, more and more pressure was put on the US government to stop this Nazi tyranny. The 1<sup>st</sup> act of war was the cutting off of Japanese oil supply which was very provocative. The US also allowed the Lend and Lease act to Britain which meant they could buy now and pay later as well as having given them 50 destroyers when they were really desperate. However the US only officially joined the war in 1941 after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Before 1945 the US had proved itself as a very wealthy nation but what really classified the US as a global superpower was the end of the war. In order to end the war and to show the dominance in power to the USSR the A-Bomb was dropped firstly on Hiroshima on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945 and then again on Nagasaki 3 days later. This proved to the entire world that not only was the US capable of being the 1<sup>st</sup> to produce the world's most powerful weapon, but they were also ready to use it!

**Mark awarded = 5**

#### Development issues

(a) Document A shows us the levels of development and production distribution of different regions of Africa. We notice immediately a link between the 2, we are shown that in most cases a high level of development means a high level of gross national product and vice versa. This could be explained by the effect of colonial influences or foreign investments in the more successful countries. We also notice that the majority of these more successful countries are based near the coast, this document therefore shows us that access to the sea is an advantage.

Document B reveals the fact that MEDCs now have a lower annual growth percentage than the LEDCs, this shows that the richer countries have the money and technology to improve but that there is a limit to how far standards of living can improve. Whereas the LEDCs on the other hand will invest more in improvements therefore have a higher growth. We also see that between Sub-Saharan Africa and the recently emerging Asia, Asia has a higher growth percentage, this is because Sub-Saharan Africa has less reasons for success in comparison to the world's growth; government improvements with structural adjustments, appetite for its raw materials and the cancellation of several countries' national debts. These are advantages which Africa is lucky enough to have in order to enable them to continue economic growth, are not going prevent the possible sharp drop in the future as said in the concluding paragraph.

To sum it up I would consider these documents quite useful as to understanding the contrasting levels of development in Africa but they do not include information about Africa's population in these countries. This is a vital piece of missing information because it has a direct impact on all 3 criterias listed (which include Human development, Gross national product and annual growth).

(b) First of all it is quite clear that since different countries of the world have different levels of development, they will require different strategies but with the same goal. For the poorer countries investments must be made concentrating mostly on improving living standards in slums. This could be done by giving these slums basic but essential needs which they consider luxuries, such as space, clean water, enough food, toilets and health care. This would then enable them to get out of the cycle of poverty, decrease child mortality and create better chances of getting a decent education. In turn this would increase the number of doctors per person since more people could get this kind of qualification and the population would decrease. This is because, with the reduction of child mortality, less 'compensation babies' are born therefore parents can afford to invest more in each individual child. Overall, we must attempt to get the LEDCs above the level of extreme poverty in order to better their economy and to achieve sustainable population growth if not we may have more than the achievable 9 Billion in 2050.

Another way of achieving sustainable development is to decrease the gap between the poorest and the richest, this can be done with associations such as the Gates foundation which donate huge amounts of money to curing AIDS in Africa for example.

Also, China and India must control their population growths in order to reduce global population so that by 2050, we have enough necessities for everyone.

Poor countries must use MEDCs industrialisation methods and sectoral shift concepts in order to achieve economic growth and create higher paying jobs for people. The improvements in research and technology are also crucial for all countries (Mostly LEDCs) because they help facilitate tasks and increase productivity.

TNCs also play a big part in global wealth distribution because use the poor to become rich whereas is they were to play the game of helping global development rather than themselves then the poor would use the rich to get less poor.

To conclude I would state that "there is enough in the world for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed" which is a quote from Gandi. This illustrates perfectly the result of the huge gap of wealth distribution in the world whereby 1% of the world's population have 99% of global wealth. In order to achieve development goal worldwide, we must first reduce the gap to create a fair distribution of wealth.

**Mark awarded = 5**