

History

1) Pathways to power – USA.

During the period of 1920 to 1930, the US reverted to a period of Isolationism for several reasons. After world war one, the US saw the state of France, Britain, Germany (Europe) and financially helped these countries. Nevertheless, the US saw that most of the countries were living an economic crisis and probably a threat of a second war. Therefore, the US did not want to be involved in any European affairs and reverted to an isolationism policy. The US adopted this policy to avoid the domino effect (if one country falls in a crisis, a war, the US would as well) and so, the US created a non-alliance pact to prevent this from happening.

Furthermore, during the war a US cargo ship was sunk, so, the US decided to stop sending any resources to Britain or France (in fear of losing a ship, money or supplies) and therefore applied a “cash and carry” policy. The US would continue to supply (in smaller amounts) Britain and France, if these two countries sent their own ships to the US and back.

In addition, after world war one, since the countries involved (Britain, Germany, France ...) were economically feeble, these countries were starting to think about Decolonisation, the US on the other hand did not agree with this idea and decided to draw back from any policies or actions towards decolonisation.

This period of Isolationism was not in vain because it was one of the factors which led to the US, adopting the role of a global superpower in 1945.

Since the US adopted the non-alliance pact, it was able to develop, an army and nuclear weapon without being disturbed by other European countries. It's economy rose considerably making it the biggest country (economically). Also the “cash and carry” policy helped European countries and gave them a positive image of the US, therefore, they traded and brought more supplies from the US increasing the latter's economy and productivity.

During world war two, the US again did not take part in the entire war, and came “to the rescue” once Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941. To retaliate, The US bombed Nagasaki and Hiroshima With their A. bomb, showing their power (military and scientific). Also the US sent troops of soldiers to France to help them to fight the nazi occupation. Once the war was finished, the US territory was again left untouched by the disasters of the war whereas Europe territories were destroyed. In exchange of ports in Britain, for example, the US accepted to financially help these countries making the US look like a “war hero”.

The fact that none of the wars took place on the American land, leaving their industry and their economy intact, the fact that the US entered a period of Isolationism and finally the fact that the US helped the European countries during and after world war on and to [sic] led the USA to adopt the role of global superpower in 1945.

Mark awarded = 11-12

3) Development issues

The document A is a map which shows the Human Development Index (HDI) in 2011 and the Gross National Product (GNP) in 2010 for Africa. The document B is an extract of 'L'Afrique au dessus des nuages' from Alain Faujas which explains some of the factors for Africa's growth and also its economic weaknesses.

Document A helps us understand the contrasting levels of development in Africa by showing the HDI and GNP of all the countries within Africa. For example, Algeria's HDI is fairly high (0,65—0,8), South Africa HDI is medium (0,5—0,64) and its GNP is the highest : 300 billion US\$. It is clearly shown that Algeria, being next to the mediterranean sea and having Spanish and French Ports (Morocco, as well), Egypt, having raw material resources, Angola, South Africa being part of the BRICS and being a NIC (Newly Industrialised Country), have the high GNP and are more developed than the rest of Africa, being, for a large part, the Saharan Africa. Document B explains why these countries (Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria and South Africa) are more developed than the rest.

The three reasons expressed by Alan Faujas are first of all the fact that the governmental practices in Africa (used to be many dictatorships) have improved through enduring painful adjustments from 1990 to 2000. Secondly, thanks to Africa's large amount of raw materials and natural resources (oil, cotton, wheat, etc.) many industrialised or emerging countries started to trade considerably with Africa.

And finally the fact that a few countries cancelled Africa national debts towards them had and has "good effects" on Africa's economy and development.

Nevertheless this development is unequally spread throughout the continent. The factors of these inequalities are the high poverty ratio and the vast Saharan area, inexploitable due to a lack of water or facilities.

Document B also explains that the levels of development in Africa depends on the global growth and on Europe's economy.

Document A and B are very useful for understanding the contrasting levels of development in Africa because they give geographic explanation of the levels of HDI and GNP in Africa and also a written explanation on where and why are some countries in Africa developing more than the others.

b) The first strategy of development is for Europe to help improve on Africa's country's government to thus be able to trade with this country, develop it, industrialise the country to then make profits out of their expenses.

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Mark awarded = 5-4