

History Paper 2

Marshall Plan

Model Answers



- **2 Model Answers**
- **Revision Notes**

MARSHALL PLAN MODEL ANSWERS

1) Study Sources A and B. How far do these two sources agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources. [7]

Sources A and B, both of which are excerpts from History books, agree to a limited extent – however they diverge and they offer different perspectives on the Marshall Plan. On the one hand, both Sources agree to a limited extent. Both Source A and B appear to agree on the fact that the Marshall Plan was designed to rebuild Europe – in order to avert economic disasters in Europe as well as directly benefit America by assisting Europe as its primary trading partner. Source A asserts that the Marshall Plan was important in financing the “reconstruction of the war-wracked continent” so that Western Europe would recover and “provide profits for US banks, finance corporations and industries.” Source B agrees with this as it asserts that the Plan was “a programme for recovery and growth.”

That being said, both Sources appear to largely diverge and disagree on the motivations fuelling the US’ decision to spend so heavily rescuing Europe’s economies. Source A, which was published in 1974, reveals the Plan was a strategic tool, designed solely for the benefit of Western Europe. It asserts that “the American government did not want Russian participation in the Marshall Plan” as it was designed to be “anti-Soviet.” This Source maintains the Plan was designed with the “political purpose” of isolating the USSR and strengthening the USA’s trading partners in Western Europe.

On the other hand, Source B which was published in 1994 maintains that the Plan was available to “all European countries” including the USSR. Moreover, this Source appears critical of Stalin’s rejection of Marshall Aid as it maintains the USA was keen to make “a clean break with past practice” and possibly build bridges with the USSR. This illustrates that Source B contradicts Source A’s perspective as it maintains the USA had a positive approach towards the USSR and wished to help it economically recover, whilst Source A states that the Plan was designed to isolate the USSR politically.

2) Study Source C. How useful is this source as evidence about the Marshall Plan? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

Source C, which is a cartoon published in Eastern Europe in 1947, is useful to an extent in offering evidence on the Marshall Plan. The Source appears to take a critical view on the Marshall Plan as it conveys Marshall Aid as an exploitative tool which is being used by the USA to plunder Europe and strengthen America. In the cartoon, we can see a cow positioned in Europe as well as Wall Street, America. The cow seems to be eating Western European buildings while British and French politicians look on. Meanwhile, the cow is being “milked” in Wall Street, implying America is plundering Western Europe’s valuable resources and enhancing the profits of Wall Street, implying America is plundering Western Europe’s valuable resources and enhancing the profits of Wall Street. The cow is an interesting symbol as it may be approximating Wall Street’s infamous “bull” statue – which is seen as a symbol of USA’s aggressive capitalist stance. Although we do not know exactly which Eastern European country this cartoon was published in, we can presume the country is Communist and heavily influenced by the USSR, hence this critical depiction of Marshall Aid may be propaganda used to discredit the Marshall Plan.

However the efficacy of this Source as evidence is limited. The Source seems to be quite biased against the USA and heavily influenced by the USSR’s anti-capitalist view. Whilst this

Nevertheless, it may not be entirely the case that Source B shows President Truman was lying in Source C. One could argue that both Sources show mixed reasons behind the Marshall Plan that were both altruistic (alleviating poverty and hunger) but also political (stopping the spread of Communism, which was the primary aim of the Truman Doctrine).

Additionally, General Marshall's speech took place before Czechoslovakia's elections in 1948 when the USSR forcibly placed the Communist party in charge when it seemed likely that they would lose the elections. Hence President Truman's speech in Source C may reflect political developments which increased the sense of urgency he felt in countering Stalin's aggressive takeover of Eastern European countries.

3. Study Sources D and E.

How similar are the messages of these two cartoonists? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge.

The messages of Sources D and E are similar to an extent. Both Sources, which were published in 1948 in British publications, appear to portray the positive impact and effects of the Marshall Plan on Western Europe. In Source D, the positive impact of the Marshall Plan is conveyed through the symbolic imagery of building and construction material on the left hand side of the "Iron Wall," with the label "Marshall Aid" on the boxes. The cartoonist conveys the stark contrast between the construction materials which will presumably "rebuild" Western Europe on the left, in contrast to the empty and barren land behind the iron wall on the right hand side of the cartoon. Moreover, it appears that the Yugoslavian President, Josip Broz Tito is peering over at Western Europe in envy, to the chagrin of Stalin who seems angered and embarrassed at how effective Marshall Aid is.

Additionally, Source E similarly conveys the notion that Marshall Aid is a "Godsend." General Marshall is depicted as an angel in the sky who has come in to help Europe kickstart its recovery by blowing on the windmill – to boost its productivity. The caption in the cartoon: "The Wind From The West" supports the previous message of the cartoonist – that the USA is using the European Recovery Plan (ERP) to help Western Europe's economy recover and grow.

The fact that the provenance of both Sources are British publications further supports the similarity in the messages of both Sources. Britain was one of the recipients of Marshall Aid thus the cartoons may be reflective of the prevailing political view in Britain which supported Marshall Aid and was aligned with the USA's capitalist system.

4. Study Source F.

Why was this cartoon published in 1949? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge.

Source F is an interesting depiction of what the USSR and the Communist world saw as the dark and hidden side of the Marshall Plan. Going contrary to the Western depictions of the Marshall Plan as an altruistic form of aid by the USA to help Europe, Source F portrays the Marshall Plan as an instrument of war. General Marshall is conveyed as handing out harnesses with instruments of war including guns and helmets. This cartoon, which was published in Czechoslovakia in 1949, conveys the hidden costs of accepting Marshall Aid would be the USA using countries as their agents of war against the USSR.

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THE SIGN OF THE FOUR



- CONTEXT & THEMES
- CHARACTERS
- MODEL ANSWERS

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- FIVE MODEL ANSWERS
- CHARACTERS & THEMES
- CONTEXT NOTES

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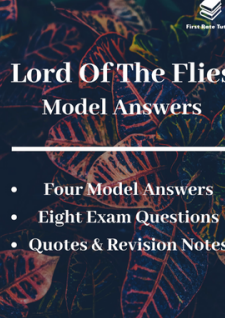
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