

Section A: Source-Based Case Study

Study the sources carefully and then answer all the questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources you were told to use. In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Source A.

What is the message of the source? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

Are you surprised by the source? Explain your answer. [6]

(c) Study Source C.

How useful is this source as evidence about the purpose of NATO?

Explain your answer. [5]

(d) Study Sources D and E.

Does Source D prove that what was said in Source E is true? [6]

Explain your answer.

- (e) Study all sources.

"NATO was created mainly to deter the Soviets in Europe." How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you answer some of the questions.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), military alliance was established on April 4, 1949. Comprising of member countries mainly from Western Europe as well as the USA, the alliance sought to enhance security and promote democratic values in Europe. The formation of NATO came about during a period of developing Cold War tensions between USA and the USSR, as well as in the midst of events such as the Berlin Blockade, which had seen Europe being increasingly divided into two distinct ideological blocs.

What was the main purpose in creating NATO?

Source A: Cartoon about NATO by a German cartoonist that was published in a German newspaper in 1948.



Source B: Statement from the Soviet Foreign Ministry on NATO, published by Soviet News in 1949.

The USA had attempted to present NATO as a symbol of agreement on security issues among the countries in Western Europe. Everyone knows that these countries are not threatened by any aggression, and this alone shows the inconsistencies of USA's explanation regarding the need for this military alliance. As such, the USA government was unable to conceal the hostile nature of the military alliance towards the USSR.

Changkat Changi

Source C: *Article about the history of NATO taken from an online website that provides educational resources for students.*

In 1949, NATO was created. With its creation, the idea of a free, democratic and united Europe felt very much achievable. The core of NATO's strength comes a commitment made among member countries that an attack on one member country will be considered an attack on the entire alliance. NATO's founding members structured the organization so that all decisions would be made through consensus. They also sought ways to expand NATO, with many viewing this as crucial in ensuring peace in Europe. Despite this, the USA's leading role in the alliance was always clear from the start.

Source D: *Online article about the founding of NATO taken from the official NATO website.*

It is often said that NATO was founded in response to the actions taken by the USSR but this was only partially true. Indeed, the USSR was aggressive in its moves and was expanding in influence, concerning many who were watching. However, there was also a greater desire to encourage European political unity and cooperation. European states needed confidence in their military security before they could work with one another. As such, there was a strong desire to foster greater military cooperation and collective defence, as well as the security that these developments would bring. It was in this context that NATO was formed.

Source E: *Speech given by Lord Ismay, the General-Secretary of NATO, during a NATO committee meeting in 1956.*

Seven years ago, Western Europe faced the threat of imminent aggression by Soviet forces of overwhelming strength. Through events like the Berlin Blockade and supporting the overthrow of democratic governments, the USSR seemed to have sinister intentions in mind. Thus, in that hour of mortal danger, NATO was formed.... The NATO military alliance saved the free world from disaster. Soviet westward expansion has been halted. A shield of armed forces has been built up which, though not yet strong enough to resist an all out attack, is at least a significant deterrent to aggression. The forces of NATO are no longer a dream, they are a reality.