## MODERN HISTORY

## SOURCE BOOKLET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source set</th>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Related question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Elective 1: Australia 1918–1955</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Elective 2: Russia and the Soviet Union 1914–1945</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective 3: China 1935–1989</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Elective 1: The changing European world since 1945</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Elective 2: Australia's engagement with Asia</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Elective 3: The struggle for peace in the Middle East</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Set 1: Elective 1: Australia 1918–1955

Source 1
(Extract from a speech by Prime Minister Robert Menzies in April 1950, concerning the proposed abolition of the Australian Communist Party.)

At the last general election, 87,958 persons, a small fraction of the total number of electors, voted for Communist candidates. The importance of the Australian Communists is, therefore, not numerical but positional; these Communists are not to be ignored as if they were a mere handful. They occupy key positions in key organisations in the industries upon which this country would have to depend if tomorrow it were fighting for its life. The choice before us is a grim but a simple one. We can do nothing, and let a traitorous minority destroy us, as they most assuredly intend to do … we can fight him wherever we find him, leaving him no immunity and no sanctuary at all …

We would not have tolerated a fifth column¹ in Australia from 1939 to 1945. We certainly, do not propose to tolerate one in 1950, at a time when militant communism, checked for the time being in Western Europe, is moving east and south-east to carry out its plans to put down democracy and to usher in the revolution. Coalmining, iron and steel, engineering, transport, building and power are key industries … it would be an act of criminal folly to leave revolutionary Communists in key positions in those industries …

¹ fifth column – any group of people who undermine a larger group from within, usually in favour of an emerging group or nation

Source 2
(Poster issued during the September 1951 referendum campaign that sought the granting of power for the Commonwealth Government to dissolve the Communist Party.)
Menzies was convinced that Australia needed to prepare for the possibility of a third world war and part of these preparations was legislation to ban the Communist Party of Australia, as had been promised [in 1949] in the Coalition’s election policy. Banning the party turned out to be more difficult than envisaged. Legislation to dissolve the party was introduced on 27 April 1950 but the government did not control the Senate. A deeply divided Labor Party eventually passed the Bill, which was immediately challenged by ten unions in the High Court … The Court found that the legislation was unconstitutional since it relied on defence powers available to the Commonwealth only in a time of war. The government called and won a double-dissolution election, which gave it control of the Senate. It then, in September 1951, held a referendum on amending the Constitution to enable the Commonwealth to make laws dealing with the Communist Party … The referendum was defeated narrowly …

The almost eighteen months from the introduction of the legislation to the defeat of the referendum was filled with high drama and bitter debate about the nature and extent of the dangers facing Australia and the free world. The basic, divisive question was whether the threat Australian communists posed was sufficient to justify the suspension of the civil liberties of some of its citizens.
Set 2: Elective 2: Russia and the Soviet Union 1914–1945

Source 1A

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Source 1B

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Source 2

(Poster published in 1918 celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.)

Title of poster reads: ‘Workers of the world Unite!’

Writing at bottom of poster reads: ‘One year of the Proletariat Dictatorship.’
Source 3
(Cartoon by cartoonist Harry Dart, published in Life, March 1919, in the United States. The American man’s pail reads, ‘Full dinner pail’.)

“Bolshevik: ‘Join Us! See How I’ve Bettered My Condition in Less than Two Years!’”

Source 4
(Extract on ‘Bolshevik Consolidation,’ from Key Features of Modern History, a textbook published in 2003.)

By 1924 the Communist Party had survived severe challenges to its authority and consolidated its position in government. Although the use of terror against opponents had become an important method for retaining power, other factors were equally important. Peace had been secured as promised, the land had been redistributed, and the popularity of these measures should not be underestimated. The promotion of factory workers, the basis of the Bolshevik support, into public office had strengthened the Soviet state. The hardships of the years 1918–21 had conversely helped to secure the communists in power. Hunger, unemployment and the flight from towns cut back the potential for resistance.

Above all, there was the leadership of Lenin. Taking the longer view of the need for the revolution to survive, he was willing to compromise in the short term, often in the face of criticism. Hence, the terms of Brest-Litovsk and the NEP [New Economic Policy] were acceptable to him, not because they were in any sense fair or proper, but because they headed off the threats to the revolution posed in the one instance by the German army and in the other by a rebellious populace.

See next page
As early as 1956 Mao had questioned the validity of the Soviet model as a guide to Chinese development … Mao emphasised the importance of light industry and agriculture, the industrialisation of the countryside, the decentralisation of planning [and] labour intensive projects … This collection of strategies, in Mao’s view, would lead to rapid economic development and allow China to overtake the capitalist West.

The Great Leap Forward campaign that was launched in 1958 to realise this aim also represented Mao’s utopian vision of creating a specifically Chinese form of socialism, which entailed a renewed emphasis on the key role of the peasantry and the ultimate achievement of a ‘collectivist cornucopia’.

The campaign ended in disaster and recent studies have highlighted its enormous cost in lives lost to famine and the drastic decline of agricultural production. The subsequent retreat from Great Leap policies [led to] Mao’s increasing perception that both he and ‘his’ revolution were being sidelined …

1 cornucopia – abundance
Set 4: Elective 1: The changing European world since 1945

Source 1
(Photograph depicting the first Marshall Aid arriving in Europe in 1948. Marshall Aid took the form of either goods or money.)

Source 2
(Extract adapted from the speech made by US Secretary of State George Marshall in 1947.)

The truth of the matter is that Europe’s requirements for the next three or four years of foreign food and other essential products – principally from America – are so much greater than her present ability to pay that she must have substantial additional help or face economic, social, and political deterioration of a very grave character.

The remedy lies in breaking the vicious circle and restoring the confidence of the European people in the economic future of their own countries and of Europe as a whole. The manufacturer and the farmer throughout wide areas must be able and willing to exchange their products for currencies the continuing value of which is not open to question …

It is already evident that, before the United States Government can proceed much further in its efforts to alleviate the situation and help start the European world on its way to recovery, there must be some agreement among the countries of Europe … It would not be fitting for the USA to draw up a program designed to place Europe on its feet economically. This is the business of Europeans. The initiative, I think, must come from Europe. The role of this country [the USA] should consist of friendly aid and support. The program should be a joint one, agreed to by a number, if not all European nations.
Source 3

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Source 4


Europe has never been so prosperous, so secure nor so free. The violence of the first half of the 20th century has given way to a period of peace and stability unprecedented in European history. The creation of the European Union has been central to this development. It has transformed the relations between our states, and the lives of our citizens. European countries are committed to dealing peacefully with disputes and to cooperating through common institutions …

The United States has played a critical role in European integration and European security, in particular through NATO … however, no single country is able to tackle today’s complex problems on its own.

Europe still faces security threats and challenges … Over the last decade, no region of the world has been untouched by armed conflict …

As a union of 25 states with over 450 million people producing a quarter of the world’s Gross National Product (GNP), and with a wide range of instruments at its disposal, the European Union is inevitably a global player … it should be ready to share in the responsibility for global security and in building a better world.
Set 5: Elective 2: Australia’s engagement with Asia

Source 1
(Photograph depicting the clash of supporters and protestors during the visit to Australia of US President Lyndon Baines Johnson in October 1966.)

Source 2
(Extract from a speech by Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt during the federal election campaign in 1966.)

Later I shall have more to say about what is happening in South-East Asia and South Vietnam, but the support we and others are giving in South Vietnam is not only helping the people of South Vietnam to resist communist subversion and aggression. It is providing a shield behind which a new Asia can emerge and grow stronger. The presence of ourselves and other friendly forces ... is not a commitment to war; it is a commitment to peace and freedom ... Together we shall be helping to give the people in these countries the food, the skills, the education and the strength to lead their nations to a better way of life.

That is the kind of involvement we look to with Asia. We all want peace and a peaceful solution of problems and conflicts. We can even be on friendly terms with countries that have fundamentally different ideologies to our own, so long as they don’t try to impose their ideas on us by force, by subversion or any other means.
Source 3
(Cartoon by Geoff Hook commenting on the arrival of the first waves of Vietnamese boat people to Australia, published in 1977.)

"Y'know, we could be watching history repeat itself!"

Source 4

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Set 6: Elective 3: The struggle for peace in the Middle East

Source 1
(Photograph of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser in 1963 observing the construction of the Aswan High Dam across the Nile River.)

Source 2

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Source 3

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Source 4

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Set 1: Elective 1: Australia 1918–1955

Source 1
Parliament of Australia. (1950, April 27). Communist Party Dissolution Bill 1950: Second reading [House of Representatives Hansard—27 April 1950]. Retrieved April, 2016, from http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;adv=yes;orderby=_fragment_number,doc_date-rev;page=9;query=Dataset%3Ahansardr,hansardr80%20Decade%3A%221950s%22%20Year%3A%221950%22%20Month%3A%2204%22%20Day%3A%2227%22;rec=6;resCount=Default
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Source 2

Source 3

Source 4

Set 2: Elective 2: Russia and the Soviet Union 1914–1945

Source 1A

Source 1B

Source 2

Source 3

Source 4

Source 1  

Source 2  

Source 3  

Source 4  

Set 4: Elective 1: The changing European world since 1945

Source 1  

Source 2  

Source 3  

Source 4  

Set 5: Elective 2: Australia’s engagement with Asia

Source 1  

Source 2  
Set 6: Elective 3: The struggle for peace in the Middle East

Source 1  

Source 2  

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