

Grade 9 Answer

Interpretation Differences

4/4
Marks

Question:

How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about the popularity of the NEP? Explain your answer based on what it says in Interpretations A and B.
(4 marks)

Answer:

Interpretation A shows that the NEP was popular with the public, describing how it brought "marvellous results" by reducing famine and reopening businesses, with people associating it with prosperity. This suggests that the NEP was a success and was very popular. In contrast, Interpretation B highlights the Bolshevik Party's negative view of the NEP, stating that it was seen as a "detour" and a "temporary obstacle," not a path to socialism. This suggests that the NEP was not popular among the Bolsheviks, who saw it as merely a necessary pause in their revolutionary goals.

Feedback:

This answer would get 4/4 marks because it recognises a difference between the interpretations, and gives a developed analysis of these differences using content from the interpretations.

Interpretation A

From 'Memoirs of a Revolutionary' by Victor Serge, published in 1945. Serge was a member of the Russian Communist Party.

The New Economic Policy was, in the space of a few months, already giving marvellous results. From one week to the next, the famine and the speculation were diminishing perceptibly.

Restaurants were opening again and, wonder of wonders, pastries which were actually edible were on sale as a rouble apiece. The public was beginning to recover its breath, and people were apt to talk about the return of capitalism, which was synonymous with prosperity.

Interpretation B

From Russia After Lenin: Politics, Culture, and Society, 1921-29 by Vladimir Brovkin published in 2005.

Brovkin is a Russian-born historian.

The terms in which Lenin defined the relationship between the old economic policy (war communism) and the new (NEP) were of offensive and retreat, construction and pause, leaving no room for a positive acceptance of the NEP in Bolshevik minds. NEP was never conceived of as a path to socialism but as a detour, as a temporary obstacle to overcome. The Bolshevik Party desperately needed a role to play; it needed a reaffirmation that it was leading Russia and not simply waiting for the conditions to arise when the socialist offensive could resume.

[http://www.orlandofiges.info/section9_TheNewEconomicPolicy/OppositiontotheNEP.php]