

Grade 9 Answer

Reasons for Differences

4/4
Marks

Question:

Why might the authors of Interpretations A and B have a different interpretation about the popularity of the NEP? Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your contextual knowledge. (4 marks)

Answer:

Interpretation A, written by Victor Serge, was published in 1945 and reflects a more immediate, personal experience of the NEP, as Serge was a member of the Russian Communist Party during the time the policy was implemented. Serge may have had a more optimistic view because he experienced the immediate improvements after the harshness of War Communism, which made the NEP seem like a success in stabilizing the economy. In contrast, Interpretation B, written by historian Vladimir Brovkin in 2005, takes a more critical view. His interpretation is shaped by the benefit of hindsight and broader historical analysis, allowing him to assess the NEP's long-term ideological tensions within the Bolshevik Party.

Feedback:

This answer would get 4/4 marks because it recognises a difference in the provenances, and explains why this would lead to a difference in 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]