
AP World History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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AP[®] WORLD HISTORY

2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Short Answer Question 1

Use the passage below to answer all parts of the question that follows.

“The more power a government has, the more it can act arbitrarily according to the whims and desires of the elite, and the more it will make war on others and murder its foreign and domestic subjects. The more constrained the power of governments, the more power is diffused, checked, and balanced, the less it will aggress on others and commit mass violence. At the extremes of power, totalitarian governments slaughter their people by the tens of millions. In contrast, many democracies can barely bring themselves to execute even serial murderers.”

Rudolph Rummel, United States political scientist,
Death by Government, 1994

- Identify ONE historical example of mass violence that was committed by a totalitarian state in the twentieth century that would support Rummel’s argument in the passage.
- Explain ONE historical example of a democratic state committing mass violence that would challenge Rummel’s argument regarding democracies and mass violence.
- Explain ONE development in the late twentieth century that likely shaped Rummel’s view of the relationship between democracy and mass violence.

0–3 points

Score 3

Response accomplishes all three tasks set by the question.

Score 2

Response accomplishes two of the tasks set by the question.

Score 1

Response accomplishes one of the tasks set by the question.

Score 0

Response accomplishes none of the tasks set by the question.

Score NR

No response. Response is completely blank.

Scoring Guide

0–3 points

- ONE point for identifying a historical example of mass violence that was committed by a totalitarian state in the twentieth century that would support the argument made in the passage
- ONE point for explaining a historical example of a democratic state committing mass violence that would challenge the argument made in the passage regarding democracies and mass violence
- ONE point for explaining a development in the late twentieth century that likely shaped the author’s view of the relationship between democracy and mass violence

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Short Answer Question 1 (continued)

Scoring Notes

Examples of responses to part (a) that would earn credit:

- The Nazi Holocaust is an example of mass violence committed by a totalitarian state.
- The genocide in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge is an example of mass violence committed by a totalitarian state.
- The liquidation of the Ukrainian *kulaks* under Stalin is an example of mass violence committed by a totalitarian state.
- The “Great Terror” committed by the Soviet Union under Stalin in the late 1930s is an example of mass violence by a totalitarian state that would support the argument in the passage.
- The Chinese communist government under Mao Zedong used mass violence to force people to accept communist policies during the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.

Examples of responses to part (b) that would earn credit:

- In the nineteenth century European states such as Britain and France violated their democratic principles by using mass violence to crush African resistance to European rule.
- British soldiers and settlers committed mass violence against indigenous populations in Australia, thereby showing that democracies do commit mass violence.
- The firebombing of Dresden during World War II challenges the author’s argument that democracies will not commit acts of mass violence because the Dresden bombing was a deliberate use of terror designed to break the will of the German population.

Examples of responses to part (c) that would earn credit:

- Rummel’s view was likely shaped by the end of the Cold War when the United States and its democratic allies had emerged victorious over totalitarian regimes such as the communist Soviet Union.
- The argument in the passage was likely shaped by the development of a liberal international order after the Second World War, which included the development of institutions such as the United Nations that advocated for peace and international cooperation.
- Ethnic cleansing perpetrated by Serbian forces in Yugoslavia in the early 1990s would likely have shaped Rummel’s arguments about the relationship between democracies and mass violence because Serbia was an authoritarian state under Slobodan Milosevic.
- Rummel’s assertion that democratic states will not engage in mass violence was likely shaped by conservative thinkers who argued after the end of the Cold War that democracy had triumphed, every state would soon adopt democracy, and war between states would end.

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1** on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.

A. One historical example of mass violence that was committed by a totalitarian state in the twentieth century was Russia under the rule of ~~Stalin~~ Joseph Stalin. His Five-Year Plans and issues of collectivisation, taking property away from peasants ^{ie. the government} because it is for everyone, caused mass starvation in the ~~low~~ lower class population, killing almost/about or around ~~4~~ millions of people.

B. The genocide that occurred in Rwanda with all the Hutus executing the Tutsis to ethnically cleanse Rwanda. Rwanda had become a democratic state yet the genocide of the Tutsis still continued.

C. One development that occurred in the late twentieth century that likely shaped Rummel's view of the relationship between democracy and mass violence is the rise of communism. To political scientists in the United States, such as Rummel himself, the rise of communism and its spreading equaled totalitarianism and mass violence and death because of how communism in Russia spread to China and Cuba, causing violence to spread under the name of Communism. China had mass starvation occur due to Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward, his five-year plan modeled after Stalin's.

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1** on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.

In the time succeeding the begin of World War two when Hitler was in power, he had a mission to exterminate the Jewish population. Hitler was a totalitarian leader meaning like a dictator, he had complete power over Germany. For that reason he was able to murder 12 million people under his reign. Democratic States are not completely innocent however, ~~Rwanda~~ The British Empire had control over ~~India~~ Australia which at the time was inhabited by the native people, referred to as Aborigines. When the British moved there they wiped out the majority of them leaving only a small percentage alive. The reason that ~~Drummet~~ most likely believes this is because democratic states such as the United States fought against the states that committed these murders such as Germany and ~~Rwanda~~.

Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1** on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.

Rummel argues that totalitarian states are more likely than democracies to commit mass violence. An obvious example of this is Nazi Germany during World War II and the Holocaust. Dictator Adolph Hitler and his Nazi followers committed mass genocide against the Jewish population, and he was able to do this because despite the large Jewish population, he possessed all the power and used it to "murder [Germany's] foreign and domestic subjects."

However, democracies are capable of genocide as well. Serbia during World War I was a democracy that facilitated the Armenian Genocide, in which thousands of Armenians were killed based on the whims of the higher-up government officials. Because it went on during the Great War, this act of mass violence is often forgotten.

Democratic nations, such as the US, are very big on fair trials. "Many democracies can barely bring themselves to execute war serial murderers." Dictatorships are able to kill who they please, with barely a word from the public due to fear instilled in them. An example of such a trial that democratic nations promise and are known for is that of OS Simpson.

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2018 SCORING COMMENTARY

Short Answer Question 1

Overview

For this short-answer question, students were expected to be able to interpret an argument from a secondary source and identify examples of mass violence committed by totalitarian and democratic states that would either support or undermine the author’s argument. Additionally, students were expected to explain a development in the late twentieth century (post–World War II) that likely shaped the author’s view of the relationship between democracy and mass violence. The question addressed Key Concepts 5.2, 6.2, and 6.3 in the AP World History Curriculum Framework, the historical reasoning skill of Contextualization, and the Disciplinary Practice of Analyzing Historical Evidence (Secondary Sources).

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

- a) The response earned 1 point because it identifies mass starvation in the Soviet Union (“Russia”) resulting from Joseph Stalin's Five-Year Plans and collectivization as instances of mass violence committed by a totalitarian state in the twentieth century as an example that would support Rummel’s argument in the passage.
- b) The response earned 1 point because it explains that the Rwandan genocide occurred even though the government was democratic, thereby challenging Rummel’s argument that democratic states do not engage in mass violence.
- c) The response earned 1 point because it explains that United States political scientists such as Rummel would most likely have equated communism with totalitarianism and associated communist regimes such as Mao Zedong’s China with mass violence.

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

- a) The response earned 1 point because its discussion of Adolf Hitler and the Holocaust is an example of mass violence committed by a totalitarian state in the twentieth century that would support Rummel’s argument in the passage.
- b) The response earned 1 point because its example of the British committing mass violence against the aboriginal people of Australia challenges Rummel’s argument in the passage.
- c) The response did not earn the point because the United States did not fight against Germany and Rwanda in the late twentieth century. These examples, therefore, would not have shaped Rummel’s view regarding the relationship between democracies, totalitarian states, and mass violence.

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

- a) The response earned 1 point because it identifies the Holocaust in Nazi Germany as an example of a totalitarian state committing mass violence that would support Rummel’s argument in the passage.

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Short Answer Question 1 (continued)

- b) The response did not earn the point because Serbia did not commit the Armenian genocide during World War I.

- c) The response did not earn the point because it does not sufficiently explain why the United States judicial system would have influenced Rummel's view about the relationship between democracy and mass violence.