

Pakistanis can't win a revolution because we can't win anything.

Q. 3 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (20)

There is no indication that Heinz Guderian had any doubts whatsoever about Hitler's decision to go to war. The year 1939 was the moment when the general finally left the office desk and became a commander in the field. For the upcoming Blitzkrieg campaigns, he appeared to have a natural talent. Guderian had initiative; he was leading from the front, and he was a bully against peers that happened to get into his way. During the war against Poland in September/October 1939, Guderian commanded the motorized XIX Army Corps which was part of the Northern panzer movement. Against France, his corps managed an early and important breakthrough at Sedan in May 1940, followed by a speedy push toward the coast. This helped to cut off French and British forces. It was Guderian - and at first he alone - who introduced the tank to the Army and its use as an operative weapon. Guderian favoured from the beginning the strategic use of panzer forces - a deep thrust

into the enemy, without worrying about a possible threat to his own unprotected and far-extended flanks. That was why he planned to transport all supporting elements of the panzer forces (infantry, artillery and engineers) in a similar way - that is, on tracks - and why the supply services (petrol, ammunition, food) were organically incorporated with the fighting troops. This enabled them to accompany, and keep up with the tank core until fused with it - at the same time assuring Guderian's own supplies for three to five days. The successes in Poland and France also gave Heinz Guderian the opportunity to promote his personal image. His drive and tactical independence had a dark side: Guderian did not care much about communications with his superiors. He was not a team player. He disobeyed orders. His unreined initiative only worked as long as the Wehrmacht had the factor surprise on its side and as long as it fought against inferior adversaries.

not a team player. He disobeyed orders. His unreined initiative only worked as long as the Wehrmacht had the factor surprise on its side and as long as it fought against inferior adversaries.

However, this all came to an end on 22 June 1941. The attack on the Soviet Union resulted in a severe crisis of Hitler's war plan. After Kiev, Guderian resumed course against Moscow. However, the Red Army's dogged defence, the German's outrunning their own supply lines, and the advent of the winter thwarted the plan of attack on the capital. After the failure of General Busse to rescue the encircled German troops at Küstrin, General Heinz Guderian and Adolf Hitler shouted at each other in pure rage. The German army in was hopelessly cut off. Guderian tried to convince Hitler that this position should be abandoned and the army transported across the Baltic Sea. Hitler disagreed, as he always did when asked to authorize a retreat. Guderian did not give in. Hitler insisted, the tone sharpened, and finally Guderian opposed Hitler with an openness unprecedented in this circle. With flashing eyes and the hairs of his mustache literally standing on end, he stood facing Hitler across the marble table. Guderian, purple in his face, screamed at Hitler. Hitler's staff stood by in shock. In the end, both men had to be separated. Hitler's generals were used to be yelled at by Hitler ; Hitler wasn't used to be yelled at by his generals . On March 28, 1945, Hitler relieved Guderian of his command: "I think you have had enough. You are relieved of command. You can go home now." Guderian had to take leave. He never saw Hitler again. Nevertheless, from hindsight, this involuntary time-out paid off very well for Guderian. It saved him from becoming involved in war crimes, as it had been the case with many of the German generals.

Questions:

- Q1. What made Guderian a talented and rebellious commander?
- Q2. What were the offensive tactics of Guderian during wars?
- Q3. What was his disagreement with Hitler?
- Q4. How was his relief from command proved a blessing in disguise?
- Q5. What would have happened if Guderian had not been sacked?

Q1 What made Guderian a talented and rebellious commander?

Guderian had innate leadership ability to stay at the forefront in the battlefield rather than directing from behind. He used logistical planning to integrate supply services with fighting troops allowing his army to remain supplied and operational for extended periods. Moreover, his assertive nature helped him push his strategies forward without considering the orders of superior officers. This made Guderian a talented and rebellious commander.

Q2 What were the offensive tactics of Guderian during wars?

Guderian advocated for deep penetrations into enemy territory, aiming to disrupt supply lines, communication networks, and rear defenses, thereby destabilizing the enemy's ability to respond effectively. Guderian emphasized the coordination of tanks in cohesive operations, aiming to overwhelm and disorient ^{the enemy} through offensive arm tactics.

Q3 What was his disagreement with Hitler?

Heinz Guderian's disagreement with Adolf Hitler centered on strategic military decisions during World War II. Guderian believed that a German tactical retreat was necessary to prevent the encirclement of German forces, but Hitler insisted that such a retreat would signal weakness and potentially lead to further collapses. The disagreement escalated into a heated argument as Guderian opposed Hitler with unparalleled intensity.

Q4 How was his relief from command proved a blessing in disguise?

His relief spared him from becoming involved in further military operations that led to war crimes. Due to this relief, he was able to live a post-war life relatively free from the stigma of the most egregious war crimes committed by the Nazi regime. Guderian's removal from the front line also ensured his personal safety during the turbulent period of World War II. In this way, his relief from command proved a blessing in disguise for him.

Q5 What would have happened if Guderian had not been sacked?

If Guderian had not been sacked, he would likely have continued to be involved in the increasingly desperate and futile military operations of the German army. Continuous involvement in the war might have led to decisions and actions that would negatively impact his historical legacy. His reputation as a brilliant tactician and commander might have been overshadowed by the failures and atrocities of the war.