

Read the following passage carefully and answer the Questions in your own words. All questions carry equal marks.

(20)

Colonel Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg, the man who, on 20 July 1944, placed a bomb next to Hitler in his east Prussian headquarters, the Wolf's Lair. The bomb failed to kill Hitler, merely blowing his trousers to ribbons. That night, when the coup was seen to have failed, Stauffenberg was shot in the courtyard of the army headquarters in Berlin on the orders of General Fromm, his superior, who was in on the plot and hoped - in vain - to save himself. The film 'Valkyrie' is true to most of the facts of the plot but fails to convey any sense of the catastrophic moral and political vortex into which Germans were being drawn. Nor does it give much sense of the immense charisma of Stauffenberg, to whom generals and politicians deferred and who had for some time been tipped as a future chief of staff. And the film gives no indication at all of Stauffenberg's background and philosophy: he fitted perfectly into the German tradition of Dichter und Helden, poets and heroes. For a start, he looked the part, tall with classical features; he was often compared to a medieval statue of a knight. Even Hitler believed that Stauffenberg was the embodiment of a German hero. Stauffenberg's stroke of genius was to subvert the emergency plan for defending Berlin against insurrection, Valkyrie, into a plan for a putsch after Hitler had been killed. As Hitler became more paranoid, it seemed that Stauffenberg was the only one who had both the access and the resolve to kill him. He was fully aware that the chances of success were slim, but he felt that he needed to demonstrate to the world that there was a better Germany - what he thought of as secret Germany - and perhaps that he was the agent of history.

1. Who was Stauffenberg?
2. How far was the movie 'Valkyrie' successful to present the true picture of Stauffenberg and his struggle?
3. Was the plot by Stauffenberg to kill Hitler justified in the opinion of the writer?
4. What kind of contrasted and complementary sentiments are evoked in this passage?
5. What would have happened if Stauffenberg had survived the War?

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COMPREHENSION

Answer 1:

Stauffenberg was the man who made the failed attempt to assassinate Hitler by placing a bomb in his headquarter. Later, he was shot dead in the army headquarters of Berlin on the order of General Fromm, who was his senior.

Answer 2:

The movie "Valkyrie" did present some true facts of the plot but failed to portray the exact true picture of Stauffenberg and his struggles. The movie failed to present the heroic character of Stauffenberg and his courage during the war.

Answer 3:

In the opinion of the writer, the plot by Stauffenberg to kill Hitler was justified. As per him, only Stauffenberg had the access and the capability to kill the paranoid Hitler at that time.

Answer 4:

In the given passage, some contrasted and complementary sentiments are evoked as the writer believes the Stauffenberg had immense charisma which was not truly presented in the true context. Stauffenberg was also compared to the medieval statue of a knight in the passage.

Answer 5:

If Stauffenberg had survived the war, he would have been

regarded as the ~~hero~~ of Germany
as he ~~tried~~ to make it a better
place. Although the chances of
success was mere but he took
the risk to assassinate Hitler,
portraying his heroic character

well done

basics are good and satisfactory

answers are satisfactory

keep it up 10/20