



Read Interpretation 1. How far do you agree with this interpretation of the impact of the hunger marches?

Summary of interpretation	Own knowledge to support interpretation
<p>The Hunger Marches grabbed the attention and sympathy of the nation. Hunger Marches showed that capitalism was failing. The middle and working class were supportive; “middle class people felt the call of conscience”.</p>	<p>Marchers were surprised about the amount of support they received, especially in the south of country. Newspapers covered the march favourably. They were given free meals, put up in church halls and even had shoes repaired free of charge.</p>
Attribution: Author? When? Title? Any other info?	
<p>AJP Taylor, <i>English History 1914-45</i>. Published in 1965. Best seller. Academic historian. Taylor was proud of northern background. Left wing politically.</p>	
Strengths of attribution	Limitations of attribution
<p>Academic historian – a well-researched and argued account of the period. 1914-45 – book covers a relatively short period of time so chance to explore and discuss impact of the marches. Northern English background – marches came from the north so he may have had a particular interest and understanding of them. Best seller – the public must have related to it. If wildly inaccurate then would it have sold so well?</p>	<p>Northern English background and left wing views – is this an over-romantic version of the impact of the marches? <i>English History</i> – no focus on the marches from Wales. 1914-45 – will the book be a triumphant account of how the country came together to overcome the odds? Best seller – perhaps a ‘feel good’ tone to the book means impact exaggerated.</p>
Other possible interpretations?	Summary – how far do you agree?
<p>The marches had no real positive impact – marchers’ lives and the towns they came from remained neglected. The plight of Welsh marches received little sympathy and even less government intervention.</p>	<p>The marches and publicity surrounding them certainly did drum up awareness and support. The potential for the country to come together over an issue was seen again during the war – perhaps the marches first revealed it. However, maybe this impact is over emphasised by AJP Taylor. Is his background and political viewpoint influencing his interpretation too much?</p>