



Daily Article (Bharath's Reading list) - Answers and Explanations 02.01.2024

Article link :[Link](#) (How the British Council Made a Soft Power Superpower)

1. The British Council was created for all the following reasons except:

- A. Fighting the rise of fascism
- B. Shoring up the propaganda of the Axis powers
- C. Supporting British interests against those of competing states
- D. Strengthening and supporting the British Empire

Explanation : B

The British Council sought to counter, not shore up the propaganda of the Axis powers. All other options are true: ' Its creation in 1934 as the British Committee for Relations with Other Countries responded to the challenges facing interwar Britain: supporting its interests against those of competing states, countering the rise of fascism and shoring up the British Empire.'

2. The author is least likely to agree with which of the following statements?

- A. The best way for Britain to exert global influence is through soft power
- B. Through cultural diplomacy, the British Council fosters sympathy to the British point of view
- C. Though Britain wields soft power, it cannot be regarded as a superpower in the 21st century
- D. The Chinese Confucius Institutes seek to bolster China's soft power through cultural diplomacy

Explanation: C

The author does not disagree with the view that Britain is a superpower: 'That the UK should be a soft power 'superpower' is no accident: the British state was one of several which sought to expand their influence and bolster their economies in the interwar period through cultural diplomacy'.

3. Which of the following is not a justification given by the British government's Integrated Review for its description of the UK as a 'soft power superpower'?

- A. British sporting achievements
- B. The BBC
- C. Britain's economic might

Explanation: C

All options except C are true: 'The review justified this assessment by singling out the UK's strengths in the arts and sciences, as well as the BBC, the number of foreign students studying at UK universities and the nation's sporting achievements.'