AJP Taylor’s Origins of the Second World War.

Please make sure to thoroughly complete each prompt. Please write out the prompts so they can be used as a future reference. Pay special attention to evidence and perspectives given throughout the chapter. Each of these questions requires elaboration and analysis of the evidence from the chapter.

1. Discuss and Evaluate Taylor’s perspective on the question “To what extent did U.S Foreign Policy cause World War II?”
2. According to Taylor what are the different interpretations of Hitler? Which side does he take? How does he support his argument?
3. According to Taylor what were Hitler’s goals after he came into power? How does use the case of the Reichstag fire to support this?
4. Discuss Taylor’s interpretations of Hitler’s war plans before 1939.
5. Discuss Taylor’s views on dismantling the “slave treaty” - Treaty of Versailles.
6. Taylor believed that Hitler did not want a general war. What evidence does he provide to support this? What did he want instead?
7. According to Taylor Hitler’s rearmament plans were far tamer than Western historians suppose. What evidence supports this? What was his strategy here instead?
8. According to Taylor, political calculations, not military strength are what allowed Hitler to be successful in the first years of the war. Do you agree with this assessment? Why? Why not?
9. According to Taylor the Hossbach memo should be discredited as evidence for Hitler’s plans for European conquest. What evidence does he provide for this?
10. According to the reading what might have been Hitler’s true intentions when advocating for lebensraum?
11. What are Taylor’s views on appeasement?
12. In your own words, summarize what Taylor’s views on Hitler are according to the final paragraph of this reading.