

DBQ10: Causes of World War I

WebQuest Description: What caused World War I? These documents help to answer that question.

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: Wilhelm II, Germany, David Lloyd George, Allied Powers, Central Powers, Great Britain, United States, France, World War I

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Introduction

The documents in this web quest provide information about the causes of World War I. It started in 1914.

Tasks

DOCUMENT BASED QUESTIONS Create a DOCUMENT in Google Drive and name it DBQ10 Causes of WWI. Put your responses to the questions that show up for each document here. Study the selections and answer the questions that follow. Examine the selections and answer the questions that follow. After you have studied the documents, you will be asked to explain the causes of World War I (The Great War). You will need to use evidence from these selections and from our study to support your explanation.

Process

Wilhelm II, the ruler of Germany, gave this speech from the balcony of the royal palace in Berlin on July 31, 1914. A momentous hour has struck for Germany. Envious rivals everywhere force us to legitimate defense. The word has been forced into our hands. I hope that in the event that my efforts to the very last moment do not succeed in bringing our opponents to reasons and in preserving peace, we may use the sword, with the help of God, so that we may sheathe it again with honor. War will demand enormous sacrifices by the German people, but we shall show the enemy what it means to attack Germany. And so I commend you to God. Go forth into the churches, kneel down before God, and implore his help for our brave army. Document 1a. Who does Wilhelm blame for the war? b. The day after Wilhelm gave this speech, Germany declared war on Russia. Do you think that action supports or contradicts what he said in his speech?

On January 5, 1918, British prime minister David Lloyd George made this statement about Great Britain's war goals. We are not fighting a war of aggression against the German people. Their leaders have persuaded them that they are fighting a war of self-defence* against a league of rival nations bent on the destruction of Germany. That is not so. The destruction of Germany or the German people has never been a war aim with us from the first day of this war to this day. Most reluctantly, and indeed quite unprepared for the dreadful ordeal, we were forced to join in this war in self-defence*...we had to join in the struggle or stand aside and see Europe go under and brute force triumph over public right and international justice. It was only the realization of that dreadful alternative that forced the British people into war. Document 2a. What words does Lloyd George use to suggest that Great Britain did not want war? b. Would Lloyd George agree or disagree with Document 1? Explain.*British spelling

After the war's end, the victorious Allied Powers formed a commission to determine responsibility for the war. Below are the conclusions of the commission, which were issued on May 6, 1919. 1. The War was premeditated by the Central Powers together with their Allies, Turkey and Bulgaria, and was the result of acts deliberately committed in order to make it unavoidable. 2. Germany, in agreement with Austria-Hungary, deliberately worked to defeat all the many conciliatory proposals made by the Entente Powers and their repeated efforts to avoid war. Document 3a. What nation or nations does this document blame for starting the war? b. Do you think the authors of this document were biased about the causes of the war? Why or why not?

The cartoon above was created by American artist Orson Lowell. Published in March 1918, it shows Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II hanging by a noose attached to a plank of wood marked "Greedy Ambition." Other figures in the cartoon represent Great Britain, the United States, France, and other countries that fought the Central Powers during World War I. Document 4a. What

are the figures attempting to do to the globe? Why? b. Who does the artist blame for the war? Does he believe that others feel the same way?

Create an entry in your KID BLOG. Give the title DBQ 10- Causes of WW1 Do the following in that entry. Why might the different sides in the war view the causes of the war differently? Using these documents and information from our study, form a thesis that explains your position. Then create a PRESENTATION using GOOGLE DRIVE (a digital version of the example below) supporting your position. Be sure to include: 1. THESIS STATEMENT 2. SUPPORT FOR YOUR THESIS (Check out the files below before you begin) The LAST file is an example of using DOCUMENTS to create a THESIS statement and then supporting it. Check it out.

Evaluation

Criterion D: Thinking critically Maximum: 8 You should be able to: analyze concepts, events, issues, models and/or arguments make connections between information to make valid, well-supported arguments.

Category and Score					Score
				Total Score	

Conclusion

The Allied treatment of Germany after the "Great War" will directly lead to the events that start World War II and the rise of the fascists, such as Adolph Hitler, less than 20 years later.

Teacher Page

Mr. Beavers has worked at JT Moore Middle School through 2013. He joined the faculty of Hillsboro Comprehensive High School in the Fall of 2013 as a member of the Freshman Academy. Mr. Beavers is originally from Florence, Alabama where his family now lives, but grew up in Columbia, Tennessee graduating from Columbia Academy. He has lived in Nashville since 1986.

Standards

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Credits

Other