

National Approach

An example of how the causes and outbreak of World War One are covered in a popular UK history magazine

1. The first three pages of the article tell the story of a group of young students who killed an Austrian Archduke and his wife on a visit to Bosnia.

In not more than 150 words, summarise the story of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife at Sarajevo in 1914. (In history, it is an important skill to be able to make a *précis* [short summary] of a longer text). The first 50 words (approximately), should explain who the victims of the assassination were (why were they important people), and who the students (or 'terrorists') were. The remaining text should give a condensed (shortened) explanation of how the assassination took place.

2. In not more than 150 words, explain why the killing of Archduke Franz Ferdinand led to the outbreak of World War One. (The black text box at the top of page 23 should help you with this question).

3. On page 22 of the article, the author claims that there are some similarities between the situation in Europe in 1914, before the outbreak of World War One, and the situation in the world today. What are these similarities?

4. What key point is the author trying to make in column 2 of page 23 of the article?

5. Articles in popular history magazines are sometimes based on recent historical research. This article is based on research which Christopher Clark has done about the causes of World War One.

The book has been reviewed by other historians and journalists in newspapers in the UK and USA. The reviews give some indication of how good the book and the research are, from other members of the 'community of professional practice' of historians and journalists.

Read the following reviews of Clark's book. How 'respectable' and authoritative is the book according to the reviewers? And what do the reviews tell us about Clark's views about responsibility for the war?

The Sleepwalkers by Christopher Clark – review

Should Germany really be blamed for the First world war, or did European nations simply sleepwalk into it?

* Ian Pindar

* The Guardian, Friday 19 July 2013

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/jul/19/sleepwalkers-christopher-clark-review>

The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914

27 September 2012 Times Higher Education Supplement

Strategy, bellicosity, blunder? A.W. Purdue weighs a fresh look at the Great War's deadly genesis

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/421230.article>

Book review: The Sleepwalkers, By Christopher Clark

Christopher Hirst Author Biography

Friday 16 August 2013, The Independent

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/book-review-the-sleepwalkers-by-christopher-clark-8771140.html>

On the Brink: 'The Sleepwalkers' and 'July 1914', Harold Evans, New York Times, May 12, 2013

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/12/books/review/the-sleepwalkers-and-july-1914.html?_r=0