

The outbreak of World War I: causes and generators

Analysis of the reasons for the outbreak of an inevitable war (or not...)

Spanish textbooks perspective related to the outbreak of World War I.

The outbreak of the Great War appears in the Spanish textbooks in a topic entitled "Imperialism Time", "The Empire and the War", "Imperialism and the World War I" and the like. In some textbooks it is also included, in this same unit, the Russian Revolution, while in other this topic is left for the next unit, "Time between wars". There is much information about imperialism and its colonial expansion in the textbooks, the world distribution and the consequences of colonization, the causes of World War I, the evolution and characteristics of the conflict, its stages, the peace treaties and the consequences of war.

The situation of tension which is reached at the beginning of the 20th century in Europe due to all the mentioned causes is the ideal condition for the war to be inevitable. In the textbooks the assassination in Sarajevo is pointed out to be the trigger of the war. However, while some books point at the Austria-Hungary interest to blame Serbia for the assassination (to have this way an excuse to justify the ultimatum and the following declaration of war, so as to spread their domination on the Balkans this way), other books simply mention the attempt and the following declaration of war, which apparently gives the assassination enough strength to unleash the conflict.

On the other hand, the textbooks explain the process of involvement of the different powers in the conflict, supporting Austria-Hungary and Serbia, respectively, according to their respective alliances, but they do not stop to analyze each country's particular motivations to get involved in the conflict, further than their condition of ally of each one of the contenders.

After explaining the conflict stages and their development, the textbooks explain the peace treaties, mentioning specifically the hard conditions the Treaty of Versailles imposes on Germany, being considered the responsible for the war.

Finally, the textbooks enlighten the consequences of the war and the result both in human and material losses, and regarding to geographical, economic, social and political changes which are experienced by the European continent. In the extension sections of the books additional information about rivalries among powers or the assassination in Sarajevo is given as well as the soldiers' equipment or the war at the trenches, propaganda or the role women played during the conflict, etc.

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