

The "Outbreak" of World War One

Transnational Comparison

Articles in historical magazines from various countries sometimes describe the same event in a different way. The problem of outbreak of the First World War is a good example of such phenomenon. The comparison of papers on similar subjects, but produced in different countries can help in understanding different perspectives and points of view, especially in such controversial area of science as history.

TASKS

1. Read articles from the [Polish](#), [German](#) and [Spanish](#) magazines. Consider how each of the authors shows the role of the German Empire in the First World War.
 - a. What is the source of differences in the presentation of the same problem in the three analyzed texts ([Polish](#), [German](#) and [Spanish](#))?
2. How do the considered [German](#) and [Spanish](#) articles show the public moods of the European societies on the eve of the outbreak of the war? How does this approach differ from the picture sketched in the [Polish](#) article?
3. How do the [Polish](#) and [Spanish](#) articles show the attitude of the nations without their own state to the war?
4. Have a look at the beer advertisement from the [Polish article](#) and the caricature of King George V in the [Spanish magazine](#). What are the functions of the humour and jokes on the subject of the war in these two figures?
 - a. Discuss in the group the following problem: how are the values associated with the military promoted today? What are the actions governments take to get public support for the military participation in international armed conflicts (such as intervention in Iraq or Afghanistan)?