

The "outbreak" of World War One

Critical Media Analysis: portrayal of the assassination of Sarajevo

Popular history magazines always contain a huge range of images. In the following section, the images used by the German history magazines [GEO-EPOCHE \(2004\)](#), [DAMALS \(2004\)](#) as well as [G/Geschichte \(2007\)](#) to illustrate the assassination of Sarajevo, will be critically questioned.

The main focus of the following exercises lies in a critical analysis of the use of the images as pictorial sources as well as a sensitising of the approach to media and the training of media competences.

Tasks

1

Portrayal of “the assassination of Sarajevo” (1)

a. If you have a look at the images of the assassination in the magazine [GEO-EPOCHE \(2004\)](#) and compare these to image sources of [DAMALS \(2004\)](#) and [G/Geschichte \(2007\)](#), you will certainly recognise that all of them are using the same pictures. How could you explain this? Debate with your neighbour and speculate.

b. Research of the images of the assassination provided by the Internet:

Europeana: http://www.europeana.eu/portal/usingeuropeana_search.html

Wiki commons: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Hint: Use the place of the assassination and the respective year as key word.



2

Portrayal of “the assassination of Sarajevo” (2)

Read the respective caption and try to answer the following questions with the use of the magazine [GEO-EPOCHE \(2004\)](#):

- a. According to the caption in [GEO-EPOCHE](#), which aspect of the assassination is portrayed?
- b. Choose the images, which feature the assassination directly. Which technique has been used to produce it? Speculate why this technique had been chosen.
- c. Compare the picture of the heir of the photo to the one of the press drawing ([GEO-EPOCHE](#) p.25 and 26) and take notes of the differences. Additionally, you can compare them to the photo, printed in the Swedish magazine [Populär Historia \(2008\)](#) on page 27.
- d. Find possible reasons, why the drawer illustrates the hat of Franz Ferdinand in a different way, from the photo, showing him on his way from the city hall to the car. Do you think we can rely on the drawing being a source of the assassination? State your thoughts!

3

Critical Media Analysis: Captions of the photograph of “the arrest of the assassin of Sarajevo”

One picture of the assassination of Sarajevo shown most often is the photograph of “the arrest of the assassin”. In the following, we will question whether the presentation of the picture in the magazines is reliable or not.

- a. Have a close look at the photograph [GEO-EPOCHE \(2004\)](#), p. 27 and try to picture what you see in this photograph! Also pay attention to the information which the photograph cannot give you.¹
- b. Compare the photo’s captions of the German magazine [GEO-EPOCHE \(2004\)](#), p.27 and [G/Geschichte \(2007\)](#) to those of the magazines [History Review \(2011\)](#) (p.15) and [BBC History Magazine \(2012\)](#) (p.20) as well as the Swedish magazine [Populär Historia \(2008\)](#) (p.26). What do you recognise?

c. Today, there is proof that the picture portrays a certain Ferdinand (Ferdo) Behr, a man who was under suspicion of supporting Princip. Demonstrably, this man had nothing to do with the assassination. Check your textbook: Do you find this picture in there? What is the caption?

d. Why do you think is there still the false caption although people are aware of this fact?

¹ Primary or natural subject matter of Panofskys' analysing of images