

## *The "outbreak" of World War One*

### **Analysis of the topic "Start of World War One" by using two German popular history magazines**

Was World War One an inevitable consequence of the Sarajevo assassination or could the resulting crisis have been solved in a peaceful way? The different views of German history magazines are analysed in the following part, developing different interpretations by the use of the following magazines: [GEO-EPOCHE \(2004\)](#), [DAMALS \(2004\)](#) well as [G/Geschichte \(2007\)](#).

The comparative analysis of different explanatory models should contradict a mono-causal way of contemplating the historical events. Furthermore, the different interpretations are supposed to be understood as differing views of research, showing that there is no single national view of an event. (Even though national tendencies may exist in the respective narrations).

#### Tasks

1

**We are often confronted by World War One in movies, books, obviously in school as well as in history magazines:**

- a. What have you already heard about the "outbreak" of World War One? Think about it and make notes. After that, discuss this topic with your partner.
- b. How did you get this information? From your parents, museums, movies, comics or any other source? Add additional hints to your notes.
- c. Why is this topic still of relevance? Explain your opinion.



2

**Start of World War One: "Chain reactions", "fatal interplay", "culpable failure" or "calculated strategy"?**

a. The [Swedish article](#), considered more precisely within the [international comparison](#), raises the question in the headline: "World War One – an inevitable catastrophe?" For this purpose, compare the article's headlines and leads of [G/Geschichte \(2007\)](#), [GEO-EPOCHE \(2004\)](#) and [DAMALS \(2004\)](#). How is the path to war described and interpreted? Take notes of the differences.

3

**Compare to your textbook: How is the start of World War One described?**

a. Check, how your textbook describes the beginning of World War One and how the question of the German guilt is discussed?

Hint: The Treaty of Versailles of 1919 (Art. 231 VV) states Germany to be guilty for World War One.

b. Compare these results with those you got from exercise two.