

The "outbreak" of World War One in German and Swedish history magazines

The way the beginning of World War One is presented in popular history magazines

The way of presenting the "outbreak" of World War One in Swedish textbooks

In Swedish textbooks World War One is primarily depicted as a matter of power balances, which are disrupted and this turned into a conflict; a total war of previously inconceivable magnitude, following a European era of relative peace and prosperity, not least due to industrialisation. Trying to explain the causes of World War One is a complex act. Politics in Europe were heavily affected by competition regarding power, economy and social status. The scramble for Africa was one matter of conflict and competition, and industrialisation was another. Europe as a whole was going through an era of social transformation, in which social groups of a new bourgeois era challenged traditional groups of power. The nationalism of the 19th century also affected the developments, not least in the Balkans, with a number of conflicts.

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