

Modern History

Section I (continued)

Question 3 (10 marks)

Assess how useful Sources C and D would be for an historian studying the Allies' approaches to Germany at the Paris Peace Conference.

In your answer, consider the perspectives provided by the two sources, and their reliability.

Sources C and D are both useful for an historian studying the Allies' approaches to Germany at the Paris Peace Conference. However, the sources must be analysed to determine their reliability.

Source C is an address made by Woodrow Wilson made on the 8th of January 1918, to a Joint Session of Congress of the United States. It conveys Wilson's attitude towards Germany and the Peace Process as being ~~not~~ a desire to resolve the ~~war~~ war with a just, equitable and fair peace based on his proposed Fourteen Points. It's intended audience is the US Congress and it is a statement of his aims and attitude towards Germany. This ^{primary} source is useful because it demonstrates how the United States wished

Question 3 continues on page 6

Question 3 (continued)

For the Treaty of Versailles to be a fair and democratic peace for Germany it also provides reasoning as to why the US did not ratify the Treaty due to the revengeful nature of the Treaty that was supported by Clemenceau and George. Therefore, this source is reliable as it shows no evidence of bias. Wilson's aim and motive of the speech to inform US Congress of his intentions at the Peace Conference. The attitude expressed is one of peace and for peaceful arbitration. Therefore, Source C is reliable.

Source D is a note from the German government to the Allies dated 22 June 1919. This primary source describes Germany's inability to meet the economic demands in ~~regards~~ regards to reparations, that the Treaty has imposed. Also of his objection to ~~the~~ Clause 231 of the ~~two~~ Treaty, regarding Germany's ~~admission~~ admission of ~~the~~ instigating the war. It is a German perspective of being presented to an American audience. ~~The~~ ~~states~~ It's usefulness is seen ~~through~~ when Germany stipulates her present economic condition. It also provides reasoning to the reason for why the German people resented the Treaty and was a contributing

End of Question 3

(go to booklet)



factor to the outbreak of WW II in 1939.

The source however, does contain elements of ~~truth~~^{bias} as is seen when Germany explains why she does not feel ~~that~~^{not} it being the sole instigator of the war. The source is reliable as it ~~states~~^{states} ~~fact~~ ~~it~~ does not present a balanced view of the situation regarding Clause 231.