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World War I

Analyzing Visual Primary Sources *World History Series*

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Introduction

Primary sources are the building blocks of history. Using these sources to introduce students to historical periods offers students the opportunity to become historians themselves—to analyze the evidence, form hypotheses, and learn how to support arguments based on evidence. They learn what it means to interpret the past in ways that provide meaning for the present. Textual primary sources can often be difficult for students to engage with because they are often couched in unfamiliar language from a different historical era. Visual primary sources can prove more appealing and accessible to students, and they also involve different types of “reading” skills.

How to Use This Product

This PowerPoint® presentation is designed to walk students through the process of primary source interpretation. Slides help to focus students’ attention and train them how to “read” visual primary sources. Targeted questions and enlarged insets from images help to train students to see deeper into the historical record, to uncover evidence that, though plainly before their eyes, is not always obvious at first glance.

Let Us Know What You Think

At Social Studies School Service, we always strive to provide the best supplemental curriculum materials at a superior value. If you have feedback that could help us improve this product, requests for other titles in this series, or stories of how it has helped your students, please let us know. You can e-mail us at access@socialstudies.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Dr. Aaron Willis
Chief Education Officer
Social Studies School Service



JOHN BULL USES THE AMERICAN FLAG FOR PROTECTION. From the American (New York) March, 1915

World War I

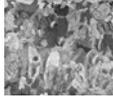


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Triple Entente

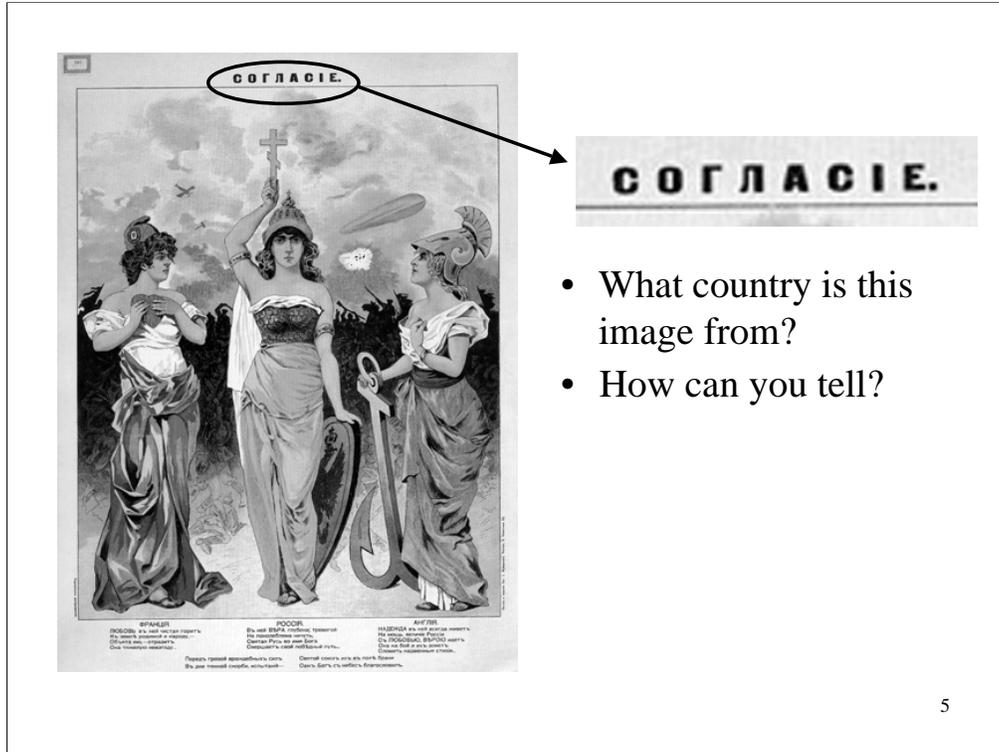
- The web of alliances and the beginning of the war
- Britain, France, and Russia's reasons for fighting against Germany
- The promotion of the Entente at home and abroad

3

In the years preceding World War I, European countries had foreseen the possibility of a conflict and had formed a web of alliances: France and Russia pledged in 1892 to fight together in case of a German attack, Britain and France formalized an alliance in 1904, and in 1907, Britain and Russia signed an entente.

The three nations of the Triple Entente—Britain, France, and Russia—each had their own immediate reasons for entering World War I. Russia mobilized its troops to protect Serbia, which it had sworn to do, after the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, and Germany declared war against Russia on August 1, 1914. The German strategy was to fight a war on two fronts by mobilizing quickly against France and defeating it within weeks in order to concentrate on Russia. Thus Germany declared war on France two days later. In order to defeat France, the Germans invaded Belgium. This violation of Belgium's neutrality was the immediate catalyst for the British declaration of war on Germany.

Germany, which had its own alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy, was a formidable foe. The three nations of the Triple Entente knew that one nation could not win the war alone and that they would have to depend on each other. They wanted to promote their alliance and show it in the best possible light for two reasons: in order that their people would understand the reasons behind the war and support efforts to fight it, and in order to encourage other countries to give up their neutrality and fight on their side.



This image is from Russia. The text is Russian and is written in Cyrillic, a different alphabet than the Latin alphabet used throughout the English-speaking world and for most European languages. Cyrillic was the alphabet of the Russian Empire and is still used today. The word at the top of the image means “entente” or “agreement.”

