

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.

Source C is a primary source - Wilson's address to US Congress in Jan 1918, 10 months prior to the armistice & following Paris Peace Conference. Being a primary source & a speech directly from Wilson one can assume its reliability. As it is to Congress it should not contain much bias, as Wilson would've had little need to alter Congress' perspective esp as ~~the~~ USA weren't directly involved in WWI.

It would be highly useful to an historian studying the allies approach to Germany at the Paris Peace Conference - esp ~~if~~ when compared to Source D. Source C shows Wilson's idealism, w reference to his 14pts. He states "we do not wish to injure her" ~~on to date~~, & mentions the "covenants of justice & law & fair dealing", wanting Germany to "accept a place of equality."

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Question 3 (continued)

Wilson's desire for a fair & just peace is juxtaposed to the ~~French~~ ~~desire~~ British & esp. French desires for a harsh peace to "Bleed Germany white".

When examining Source D, again a primary source directly from the German gov ~~at the time~~ after the Versailles Treaty ~~was is~~ after Germany was informed of the Versailles Treaty. This shows a clear contrast between Wilson's original ideals of just peace, as "The conditions imposed exceed the limits that Germany can in fact achieve". This is very useful evidence as to the role of the Allies approach to Germany being that of wanting a harsh peace, to punish Germany, issuing her as "the sole instigator of the war".

~~The~~ Both sources are directly to or from governments, therefore are ~~the~~ highly useful as primary sources, conveying feelings as they were at the time. Also the clear contrast between Wilson's ideals of a just peace based on his 14pts (to which made Germany seek peace as they thought it would be a just peace) & the harshness of the actual peace treaty show the feelings of hatred of the Allies towards Germany at the Paris Peace conference, as well as their strong role, exemplified by disregard for Wilson's ⁶ideals.

End of Question 3