

Playing Dangerous Games with History or a Review of Selected Nazi Myths

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Answers

Exercise 1

Possible answer:

Yes.

Argument 1. The legend of the medal and the text of the press heading both refer to killing Jews.

Argument 2. Both sources show Jews in a negative light on the basis of several stereotypes concerning speculation in goods and money.

Exercise 2

1. Yes.
2. Negatively, in a stereotypical manner.
3. Yes, because they refer to the same iconographic stereotypes and motifs.

Exercise 4

A number of answer variants is possible. The student may point to the provisions of the law depriving people considered not to be fully 'German blood' of citizenship and refer to the syllabus of the German school on the supremacy of a specific 'race'.

Exercise 5

Class struggle is the key engine of the process of teaching history in German schools after 1933.	F
The Nazi approach to historical education was not objective and proposed the only correct idea, with its underlying reasoning unquestioned.	T
According to German historical propaganda, the Nordic race is the only creator of European culture.	T
According to A. Zand, the Nazi myths are the biggest threat to German science.	T
The task of German teachers is to raise a passive member of the Nazi party.	F
One of the key objectives of the German school is to raise young people in the spirit of national pride.	T
The history agenda in the Nazi school is dominated by the myth that the Germans were betrayed during the First World War, which led to their defeat.	T
The Nazis have a positive view of the Weimar Republic.	F

Exercise 6

Possible answers:

- The 'betrayal' was the making of German diplomats hailing from socialist parties and industrialists.
- The cartoon shows the strong, ready-to-fight and victorious German army.

Exercise 7

No. In Source G the author points out to the external factors and circumstances behind the emergence of the back-stabbing myth.

Exercise 8

Possible answers:

- in 1918 the German command was sure of a looming defeat;
- workers' strikes;
- propaganda stories about successes turned out to be untrue;
- collapse of discipline in the German army and numerous desertions;
- the considerable numerical advantage of the Entente over the German forces.