

Reactions to the Treaty of Versailles

The following sources give the reactions of both the British and Germans to the Treaty of Versailles.

Source A: British MP 1918

The Germans are going to pay every penny; they are going to be squeezed, until the pips squeak

Source B: British Cartoon, 1919



Source C: German Newspaper, 1919.

Vengeance! German Nation

Today in the Hall of Mirrors, the disgraceful Treaty is being signed. Do not forget it. The German people will with unceasing labour press forward to reconquer the place among nations to which it is entitled. Then will come vengeance for the shame of 1919.

Activities:

1. Look carefully at Sources A, B and C.
Copy out the sentences below that are true:

Most Germans thought that the Treaty of Versailles was very fair.

Most Germans hated the Treaty of Versailles and wanted revenge.

The man being squeezed by the giant hand in Source B is German.

The man being squeezed by the giant hand in Source B is French.

The person being squeezed does not want to swallow the pills.

The man being squeezed likes his medicine.

Source B was published in 1920 in a German newspaper.

Source B was published in 1919 in a British newspaper.

2. Look again at Source B. Do you think that the cartoonist agreed with the way Germany was being treated? Why?
3. How much did the pills Germany is supposed to be eating cost?
4. Do you think the German cartoon figure could afford to pay for the pills? Why?
5. Does Source A agree with the way that Germany is being treated in Source B. Why?
6. Look at Source C. How do you think most Germans would have felt about the Treaty of Versailles?
7. Which country would be pleased with the fact that Germany had to pay £6.6 billion pounds in damages? Why?