

Study all the sources and use your own knowledge of this period. Does the evidence in these sources prove that the Treaty of Versailles would inevitably fail? Explain your answer. [12]

It seems that the majority of the sources in this paper do not give evidence to prove that the Treaty of Versailles would inevitably have failed.

By looking at Source A one can conclude that failure of the treaty was very likely, because the treaty was "too harsh and unworkable". In addition to this, no one was satisfied with the treaty and the treaty failed to ensure France's security. Wilson also showed doubts as to whether the treaty was just, when he said "we can only wait and see". This, however, does not necessarily prove the inevitable failure of the treaty, but only hints at failure.

In a similar way Source D (the German cartoon) hints at inevitable failure of the treaty as it shows how extreme German dissatisfaction with the treaty was. However, the cartoon does not explicitly prove inevitable failure of the treaty.

Also sources B and C (both British cartoons) and source I (from Lloyd George) only predict inevitable failure of the treaty, but do not prove failure. Source B predicts that the "class of 1940" might take revenge. Source C portrays Germany as big and strong and thus shows that she might fight back against the peace terms. The cartoon thus also predicts failure of the treaty. In a similar way, Lloyd George predicts inevitable

failure of the treaty in Source I when he says that "she will find a way to gain revenge on her conquerors". None of these sources, however, prove that the treaty would inevitably fail.

Sources E, F and H are the only sources that could possibly be used to prove that the Treaty of Versailles would inevitably fail. The extract from the German textbook (Source E) shows the absolute disgust of the Weimar Republic towards the treaty. As it is a school textbook, it might have influenced children to resent the treaty and thus points to the failure of the treaty in keeping peace, as Germany (future generations) might want to take revenge. The treaty failed as it did not succeed in merely punishing Germany justly, but actually caused great resentment.

Sources F and H both show how the treaty would inevitably fail, as it failed to keep Germany weak and disarmed. In Source F it is clear that the German government was determined to seek a revision of the terms of the treaty ("The revision of the treaty is Germany's most urgent concern.") and in Source H it is clear that the German people were determined to rearm ("We will have weapons again."). These sources might thus be used to prove inevitable failure of the treaty. On the other hand, Source H was written by Hitler who attempted to stir up radical moods, which might not be the typical feeling of the whole German population.

The only source which proves without doubt that "the treaty of Versailles would inevitably fail", is Source G. This

1935 newsreel showed German rearmament. The treaty was supposed to restrict German armaments. Yet nothing was done to prevent German rearmament — the treaty had thus been breached. This could only mean further breaches of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

The evidence in the sources therefore does not explicitly prove that the treaty would inevitably fail. There is, however, strong evidence in these sources that future failure of the treaty was very likely, due to extreme resentment of the treaty by Germany.