

2 Study Source C.

Why was this source published in May 1935? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

SOURCE C



A British cartoon published in May 1935. The three figures on the right are Hitler and two of his leading ministers.

This cartoon was published in May 1935 as the months leading up to its publication saw Italy acting aggressively towards a fellow League member — in Dec. 1934 Italian forces ^{allegedly} clashed with Abyssinian forces at Wal Wal. The Italians used this as an excuse to engage in various battles with the Abyssinians.

The source makes mention of "central European ambition" and shows Hitler (with some leading Nazis) dressed up as girls. It also shows Mussolini marching in the direction of "the Abyssinian gamble". At the time Italy

was taking a gamble, as other countries (League members, and especially Britain) might have stopped Mussolini. Italy was also taking a gamble as in 1896 the Italians were badly defeated at the Battle of Adowa by the Abyssinians, when Italy tried to take Abyssinia. (The road sign says "via Adowa". The ^{skull} ~~sign~~ also points to a previous battle.) However, this time Mussolini appears to be strong, confident and determined to add Abyssinia to the Italian empire that he desired to create. (If the ^{skull} ~~sign~~ it was obvious that this was Mussolini's intentions, as Italy already had Eritrea and Somaliland, which border Abyssinia.)

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With regard to "the girls he left behind him" it seems that the cartoonist acknowledged that Germany had their own expansionist aims. By May 1935 it was clear that Germany was rearming and that the Nazis had expansionist aims in Central Europe. The year before, for example, Germany tried anschluss with Austria. However, she failed as Mussolini threatened to send armed forces into Austria to prevent union between Germany and Austria. Italy is clearly being portrayed as the dominant country, as Germany is shown to be patronised in this cartoon. The "girls" ^(Germany) do not seem to stand a chance against the strong soldier (Italy). Italy is pursuing its aggressive foreign policy, but Germany seems to be 'left behind' in a mockery, having failed to achieve their aims. However, the cartoonist drew the girls in such a way that menace may be implied. So, apart from Italy causing a problem (in Africa) Germany may cause problems in Europe.

This cartoon was published in May 1935 to comment on Italy's intentions in Abyssinia. It also intended to reveal relations between Italy and Germany at the time. Both Italy and Germany were fascist, with expansionist ideals. However, the cartoon shows that they were not on good terms. The potential for good relations is implied, though. Even though Mussolini seems to be disinterested, Hitler and his leading ministers smile and wave at him.

They certainly are no threat to him (Germany left the league in 1936) and may even be potential allies. "The girls" seem to give their consent to Mussolini's ambitions in Africa, as they themselves had ambitions in central Europe — they wave what seems to be a hat with the words "central European ambition".