

“What Is France Doing with Our Billions of Reparations?” (1920s)

Abstract

This three-page folded flyer presented an explicit contrast between the reasons that the French gave as a justification for their occupation of the Rhineland and Ruhr region and what the unnamed author of this flyer perceived as the real reason for the occupation: that France simply wanted to permanently control this coal-rich region of Germany for the benefit of France’s iron and steel industries. It also suggested that the reparations paid by Germany to France simply went toward funding this French expansionism, rather than for rebuilding the parts of France devastated by the war, as was its stated purpose. It is likely that this flyer was produced by an organization called “Rheinische Volkspflege,” a seemingly private front organization that produced and distributed anti-Western propaganda on behalf of the government.

Source



Source: Flyer, 1920s. Artist unknown. Stadtarchiv Düsseldorf. Accessed via: Portal Rheinische Geschichte, Landschaftsverband Rheinland (LVR)–Institut für Landeskunde und Regionalgeschichte. Available online at:

<http://www.rheinische-geschichte.lvr.de/Epochen-und-Themen/Themen/die-rheinlandbesetzung-1918-1930/DE-2086/lido/57d133f17e43d1.98845861>

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