Sebastian Pham 31A

Nguyen Cucinelli

Honors 10 Humanities, Period ½

March 12, 2020

OPCVL Source Analysis

**Source 1:**

"Three-Power (Tripartite) Pact between Germany, Italy, and Japan, Signed in Berlin, September 27, 1940." Germany at War: 400 Years of Military History, edited by David T. Zabecki, vol. 4, ABC-CLIO, 2014, pp. 1571-1572. Gale eBooks. Accessed 17 Mar. 2020.

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|  | **Value** | **Limitations** |
| **Origins** | This source is an extract from the Tripartite Pact. This is a formal agreement between the governments of Germany, Italy and Japan drafted in 1940 and signed by representatives of each of the three nations in September 27th of that year in Berlin, Germany. The source is from 1940, so it is an authentic primary document from the early stages of World War Two. Its significant value for historians is that it provides an official record of the specific terms of the pact. | The source is a public document and a public declaration of cooperation and strength so it has the limitation that it may be a piece of propaganda intended to intimidate other countries such as the United States, who were not involved in the war yet at this point in 1940 when the source was written. |
| **Purpose** | Being an official agreement (pact) between the governments of Germany, Italy and Japan, the purpose of the pact lays out a term of cooperation between Germany, Italy and Japan in their goals of establishing a “new order” in Europe and Asia. Despite not directly requiring each of the signatories to make declarations of war if one of the signatory declares war on an enemy belligerent nation, it is heavily implied. This pact essentially establishes a formal alliance between these three nations (Axis Powers) during WWII and shows how the Axis Powers strengthened their ties at this time. This helps historians to understand the relationship between the governments of Italy, Germany and Japan during this period because it gives an official version of the policies and relationships of the countries involved. | In this way, the source may reflect the public message that the governments of Japan, Italy and Germany wanted to send out, rather than reflecting the actual relationship between these three countries. Another limitation that this source has for the historian is that some of the terminology is quite vague and is not defined, as seen for example in the reference to the establishment of a “new order”. |
| **Content** | WWII had just began in Europe when this pact was signed; with Germany implementing its aggressive policy of Lebensraum, attacking and invading its neighbors to expand its territory. While in Asia, the war had already started with Japan’s invasion and subsequent occupation of China in 1937. The content of the pact is quite vague, besides acknowledge that each nation will respect each other’s goal of establishing a “new order” in Europe/East Asia and to provide each other with assistance if or when one of the three nations are attacked while trying to achieve their “new order”, there are no further details. This provides valuable insight on how the policy of appeasement towards rising German and Italian aggression, failed to prevent war, as it allowed for these three nations to aggressively push their special interest and at the same time form an powerful alliance right under the noses of the major Western Powers (Britain, France, United States). It further gave Japan the confidence to attack the United States’ naval base at Pearl Harbor the following year. | The limitations of this source’s content lies in its simple and vague language. The source does not provide any discernment on the true nature of the relationship between the Germany, Italy, and Japan. It is not possible to infer from the content of the source and the historical context of the time, whether this was an agreement of necessity or if these three nations had a bigger darker joint ulterior plan. |

**Source 2:**

MLA citation of source here

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|  | **Value** | **Limitations** |
| **Origins** |  |  |
| **Purpose** |  |  |
| **Content** |  |  |