

Source A

From a private letter of September 1925, From Gustav Stresemann to Kaiser Wilhelm II's son, the ex-Crown Prince, where he sets out his thoughts on German foreign policy.

In my opinion there are three great tasks that confront German foreign policy in the immediate future:

In the first place, the solution of the Reparations question in a way tolerable for Germany.

Secondly, the protection of Germans abroad, those 10 to 12 million of our kindred who now live under a foreign yoke in foreign lands.

The third great task is the readjustment of our eastern frontiers; the recovery of Danzig, the Polish Corridor, and a correction of the frontier in Upper Silesia. I refused at Thoiry to discuss the question of our eastern frontier and that of our colonies. One can only advance step by step. When the day arrives when, in one way or another, the question of our eastern frontier will come up in discussion, the atmosphere between us and France must already be such that we can broach this new problem. In the Background stands the union with German Austria, although I am quite clear that this not merely brings no advantages to Germany but seriously complicates the problem of the German Reich.

How valuable is this source for a historian studying the aims of Germany's foreign policy in the 1920s?

Remember you need to comment on provenance and content.

Try to comment on as many of the following areas: Author, date, purpose, audience, tone – identify words which support this tone you have identified.

Write up an answer to this question