

1. How useful are Sources B and C to a historian studying why the League of Nations failed to keep the peace?

Source B – A British cartoon from Punch magazine in December 1919, the figure in the white hat represents America.



Source C – Adapted from a memo written by the British Foreign secretary, Arthur Balfour, 15 May 1920. He is discussing the problems of reaching a settlement with Turkey.

The chief weapons of the League are Public Discussion, Investigation, Arbitration (diplomacy) and finally in the last resort Compulsion (meaning military action). These are powerful weapons but there are regions where nothing but force is understood, and even force is useless if it isn't rapidly applied. It would seem that in parts of the world such as these the League can only be effective if there is a Great Power with a mandate (authority) through which the League can act.