



Group 3

Tasks

Read M1 and M2:

1. Outline possible problems from the perspective of people without disability.
2. Which position is represented by the author?

M1 Transcribed Source - The Industrial Rehabilitation of Disabled Veterans

„The number of our disabled veterans was recently estimated by Fürst Hatzfeld to be a million. The longer the war lasts, the bigger the army of the mutilated gets.

How should these victims find employment? Where should they be sheltered?

You cannot answer this question solely from the viewpoint of common sense, like leaving the war cripple merely to employment agencies which allocate them the positions which arose from labour demand.

All attempts aiming exclusively to consider the sheltering of disabled veterans as a capacity of employment agencies, ignores that these people which are not fully capable of work are less able to compete facing the freezing cold atmosphere of open competition.

Thus, whenever possible, they won't be ceded to the open market, but they have to be placed in another manner.“¹

Meanwhile the unemployment rate increases.

M2 Scientific Text- The social Reintegration

„Indifference und ruthlessness changed into open rejection .²

In contrast to the group of war heroes which were killed in action, whose deaths for the fatherland was, depending on the context, aestheticised and glorified and whose reverence authenticated national collective identity, the living disabled heroes became a problem for the German war and post-war society.

¹ Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart: M1/8 Bü 257. Stille, Oscar: Die berufliche Eingliederung der Kriegsverletzten. In: Deutsche Blätter für Kriegsverletzte 16 (1916). p.14.

² Beil, Christine: Zwischen Hoffnung und Verbitterung. Selbstbild und Erfahrungen von Kriegsbeschädigten in den ersten Jahren der Weimarer Republik. In: Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft 2 (1998). p.152.

On the one hand the public appearance of the war disabled was not very heroic and at the center of critique there was the increasing of begging disabled persons, who demonstratively exposed their artificial limbs, disturbed the public and begged «*intrusively emphasizing their suffering and especially uglify the streets and public open spaces of large cities.*»

On the other hand the traumatised war victims bore the humiliation of the defeat in remembrance.³

³ Kienitz, Sabine: Der Krieg der Invaliden. Helden-Bilder und Männlichkeitskonstruktionen nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg. In: Militärgeschichtliche Zeitschrift 60 (2001), p.378.