



Example for an overhead transparency for worksheet 3: **The public perception of the war cripples**

Gists from the information text:

- Since fall 1914 the first severely wounded soldiers returned home
- The civil society appreciated the extent of the war
- Alone in the German Reich one and a half million men returned home as disabled persons
- The disabled soldiers didn't get any adoration
- the public appearance of war invalids was little to compare with a hero
- the war veterans were unable to work in their learned work → society despised them
- society automatically linked war cripples with the lost war

Comparison of M1 & Q1 with M2 & M3:

Text M1: Part from "Deutsche Blätter für Kriegsverletzte" (German magazine for war invalids), 1915.

"[...] You, young man or young lady [...] take the mutilated hand and shake hands warmly – it was lost for you; and you, hero of the holy war, accustom yourself to the idea that you are a bit crippled, but still the same person; if you struggled through this, than you have won and a golden treasure in your heart, which will give you the chance to live the rest of your life laughing and god trusting."

M1 & Q1:

- were published in the beginnings of war
- the documents are in favour of invalids
- Attempt to reintegrate the invalids in society
- euphemistic representation of the disabled person in Q1 Invaliden in Q1
→ wishful thinking

Text M3: The number of begging invalids, while "showing obtrusive their suffering, go begging and made especially the streets and big cities to ugly places"(1919) increased constantly.

M2 & M3:

- Occurred after the war
- Anti-invalids attitude
- Abuse of the invalids as 'uglification of the street scene'
→ reality

Text M1: HSTAS: M 1/8 Bü 256. Deutsche Blätter für Kriegsverletzte. Zentralorgan für die gesamte Kriegswohlfahrtspflege 7, 1915. P.3. (Author's translation)

Text M3: n.p.: Gegen das Betteln von ‚Kriegsbeschädigten‘. In: Deutsche Tageszeitung 587, 1919. Cited after: Kienitz, Sabine : Der Krieg der Invaliden. Helden-Bilder und Männlichkeitskonstruktionen nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg. In: Militärgeschichtliche Zeitschrift 60, 2001. P. 267-402, P. 378. (Author's translation)