'Russian Prisoner of War' by Egon Schiele

INTRODUCTION & DESCRIPTION

The painting 'Russian prisoner of war' by Egon Schiele, published in 1916 and displayed in the Leopold Museum in Vienna, is about a Russian prisoner of war in the First World War. In the painting you only see a man in a military uniform. There is nothing else except the man.
You can only see his upper body and that he seems to have just one hand.

ANALYSIS

The man looks sceptical, as if he had seen something awful… something that he never wanted to see in his life. His posture implies that he does not dare to move in his position because of the terrible thing that he saw. Maybe the man fought in the war for his country and thus lost his right hand. The red colour of his hand stands for his injuries or generally for the blood spilled in war.

CONCLUSION

I think the painter wants to show how many soldiers get hurt in war, which is a very serious theme. World War I has influenced art extremely, because painters like Schiele wanted to make it clear what effects and consequences the war had. I think it's a really good painting with an important message.

Jelena (Year 9)