5. Study Source H.

Why was this source published in September 1939? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge.

The source was published in September 1939 to reflect Polish anger, and their feeling of betrayal at the Nazi-Soviet Pact which, by this time had led to the German invasion and rapid conquest of Poland. The cartoonist suggests that Stalin has been flattered into believing he has the upper-hand in the deal, with Stalin on his throne and Ribbentrop kneeling and kissing his hand, but that Stalin is not really in control of developments, indicated by the cartoonist suggesting Stalin might say 'we will see what comes next'. Stalin is also being ridiculed by showing him with a red, bulbous nose. The cartoonist has also drawn attention to the falseness of the Pact by including the star, hammer and sickle of the Soviet Union and the Swastika representing the opposing philosophy of the Nazis. Finally, Soviet soldiers are shown looking on in the background, perhaps reflecting Polish anxiety about how they might be used. So perhaps the purpose of this cartoon was to warn the Polish people that a further attack, this time from Russia in the east might be coming - a very justified anxiety as shortly afterwards, under the secret terms of the Pact, the Soviets did indeed invade Poland from the east.