

## Aftermath of World War I

Enduring Understanding: The influence of both world wars and the worldwide Great Depression are still evident. To understand the effects these events had on the modern world, you will explain the outcomes of World War I, including the creation of President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, the Treaty of Versailles, the shifts in national borders, and the League of Nations.



# TREATY SIGNED; WAR OVER

WEATHER—Fair and cooler to-night and Sunday.

## The Evening World.

"Circulation Books Open to All."

PRICE TWO CENTS.

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# WILSON LEAVES PARIS; SAILS SUNDAY

# GERMANS PLEDGED TO ACT IN GOOD FAITH

**CITY'S BELLS RING TIDINGS AS PEACE TREATY IS SIGNED; FLEET JOINS IN CELEBRATION**

Flagship Pennsylvania in Hudson River Salute of 21 Guns to Men "Down Ship."

JOY IN WALL STREET.

Star-Spangled Banner Flies From Flag in North River in Dutch Play.

**BEST DAY IN HISTORY SINCE BETHLEHEM, SAYS SECRETARY OF THE NAVY**

Dutchmen Order Every Ship and House to Hoist Stars and Stripes.

WASHINGTON, June 28.—(Special Telegrams)—The signing of the Treaty of Peace in Versailles today is the best day in the history of the world since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It is the day when the world has been freed from the scourge of war. It is the day when the world has been freed from the scourge of war. It is the day when the world has been freed from the scourge of war.

**TREATY SEVERE ON GERMANY, SAYS WILSON, BUT IMPOSES NOTHING SHE CANNOT DO**

President in an Address to the American Public Says It Furnishes a Charter for a New Order and Ends Rule of Selfish Groups

WASHINGTON, June 28.—(Special Telegrams)—The Treaty of Peace has been signed. It is a charter for a new order and ends the rule of selfish groups. It is a charter for a new order and ends the rule of selfish groups. It is a charter for a new order and ends the rule of selfish groups.

**GUNS BOOM, PLANES FILL AIR; FRENCH CROWDS CHEER PEACE**

Delegates in Statement Say Nation Will Enforce Treaty; No Reservation

WASHINGTON, June 28.—(Special Telegrams)—The Treaty of Peace has been signed. It is a charter for a new order and ends the rule of selfish groups. It is a charter for a new order and ends the rule of selfish groups. It is a charter for a new order and ends the rule of selfish groups.

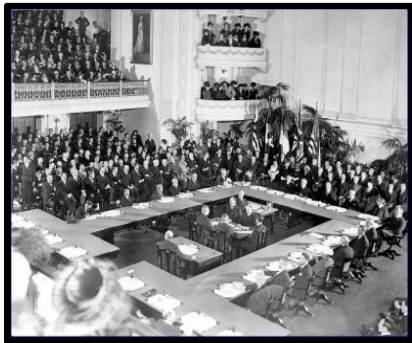
**Mueller Signs for Germans at 3.12, Bell a Minute Later—Wilson's Name Comes Next, Followed by Lloyd George and Clemenceau.**

**Soldiers Break Ranks and Join in the Demonstrations of Joy—Chinese Refuse to Attend Ceremony and Gen. Smuts Signs Under Protest.**

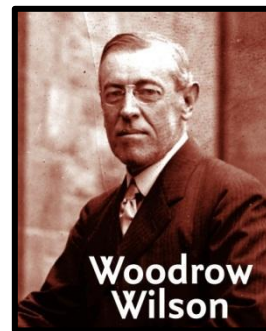
VERSAILLES, June 28 (Associated Press).—The World War was formally ended to-day by the signing of the Peace Treaty with Germany.

The spacial meeting in the Hall of Mirrors began at 3.10 o'clock. The treaty was signed by Dr. Hermann Muller at 3.12 o'clock (8.12 New York time) and by Johannes Bell at 3.13 P. M. They were followed by the American delegates, headed by President Wilson, and then by the plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan. The representatives of the minor powers, signed in alphabetical order.

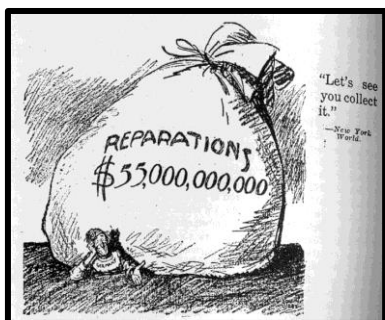
## Treaty of Versailles vs. Fourteen Points



The Allied Powers met in Versailles, France to create a treaty at the end of World War I. These Allied Powers were known as the **Big Four**. Members of the Big Four were President Woodrow Wilson of the United States, Prime Minister David Lloyd George of Great Britain, Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando of Italy, and Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau of France. Russia was not involved, due to signing the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany in 1917. Germany was not invited due to the fact that they lost the war.



The major effects of World War I were diplomatic solutions, geographic and political changes, and economic consequences. The **Treaty of Versailles** was the major peace treaty of World War I and there were several vital components of this treaty. President Woodrow Wilson brought his proposals, known as the **Fourteen Points**, to the conference at Versailles, France to correct many of the problems that caused the Great War and to bring about lasting world peace. Wilson wanted the basis of the treaty to address the causes of the war. His fourteen point proposal contained many ideas directly intended to undo the M.A.I.N. causes (militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism). Some of these points included no military build-up, no secret alliances, and the right to **self-determination**, which is ability of a government to freely determine their own course. His fourteenth point included the idea to create a **League of Nations**, an international organization designed to resolve disputes between nations and avoid future wars.



Wilson's proposals and the leaders of the European Allied Powers post-war ideas were very different. While Wilson wanted to focus on addressing the causes of the war, the major European victors wanted to weaken and punish Germany and maintain, or enhance, their standing in the world. The Europeans views won over and dominated the peace treaty, with the exception of the League of Nations. In its final



format, the Treaty of Versailles (1919) was structured to punish Germany and included, among its foremost features, the **“War Guilt Clause”** in which Germany accepted responsibility for starting the war; German **reparations** (payment for war damages); military restrictions such as limiting the German army to 100,000 soldiers, and no air force or submarines; demilitarization of the **Rhineland** (buffer zone between France and Germany); and German territorial losses (both internally such as Alsace-Lorraine and all overseas possessions). This treaty would cause economic and political instability in Germany in the years to come.



## Section Review

- 1) What US president helped create the peace treaty after WWI?
- 2) What major ideas made up President Wilson's Fourteen Points?
- 3) What were the two goals of the European "winning" nations?
- 4) How did Wilson's plan for peace differ from that of the European leaders?
- 5) How was Germany punished by the Treaty of Versailles?

## Changes in Europe

Political boundaries in Europe drastically changed following World War I. Nationalism, one of the causes leading to World War I, was an issue that needed to be addressed as nations emerged from the conflict. In his Fourteen Points, Wilson proposed self-determination as one of the critical components to be used in determining international borders. One major aspect of the Treaty of Versailles was to weaken those countries of Central and Eastern Europe that fought with the Central Powers. The most significant changes included the breakup of the **Austro-Hungarian** and **Ottoman** Empires; German territorial losses, including all overseas colonies; the creation of Poland; and Russian territorial losses initially due to the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, the separate peace negotiated between Germany and Russia in 1917, though the Soviets did regain some of this territory after the war.



## Section Review

- 6) What did self-determination address?
- 7) Identify two empires that no longer existed following WWI.
- 8) What new nations were created after World War I?
- 9) What two nations signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk?

## The League of Nations

While seen as the crowning achievement of the Treaty of Versailles by many, the League of Nations was ineffective in achieving its goal of world peace because it was very weak and unstructured. Not all major powers were members of the League. The United States chose not to join, while Germany and Russia were not allowed to join (Germany was finally allowed to join in 1926, but withdrew in 1933, while the Soviet Union finally joined in 1934). Japan and Italy, who were charter members, withdrew, in 1933 and 1937, respectively. The League had virtually no authority or influence with non-member nations, thereby limiting its ability to influence international affairs. Another weakness involved the inability of the League to enforce its directives, or orders. In theory, the League could wage war, but would have to use volunteer troops from member nations, an act that was not going to occur readily. A third weakness of



The opening session of the League of Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, 15 November 1920.

the League was that it required unanimous consent (100% agreement) for decisions, an almost impossible directive in most situations. Because of these and other weaknesses, the League never became the international forum for solving disputes among nations that it was intended to become.



### Section Review

10) What was the goal of the League of Nations?

11) What were the strengths of the League of Nations?

12) What were the weaknesses of the League of Nations?

## Sources

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