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# The Path to World War II

## Lesson 1: Paris Peace Conference, 1919 *Guided Notes*

### Vocabulary

	definition	synonyms	related words
alliance	(n) formal agreement for countries to work together, often involves military support	coalition pact union	ally align
annexation	(n) appropriation of territory	seizure conquest occupation	annex
armistice	(n) an agreement to stop fighting in a war	ceasefire truce	arms (weapons) armor armory armaments
conference	(n) a formal meeting for discussion, often of politics or business	discussion consultation	confer
imperialism	(n) policy of imposing control over other nations	expansionism colonialization	imperial emperor empire empirical
interventionism	(n) policy of getting involved with foreign affairs	policing the world	intervention/intervene
isolationism	(n) policy of staying out of foreign affairs	domestic focus	isolate / isolation solace solo sole
nationalism	(n) love and devotion to one's country and its sovereignty	patriotism	nation
reparations	(n) the making-up for a wrong or injustice, usually financial payment	payment compensation atonement	repair
self-determination	(n) concept that a country/people decides its own statehood and government	self-control	self determine/determination
socialism	(n) economic/governmental system where the state controls the economy	(similar to) communism	social society
treaty	(n) a formal agreement between countries, often to end a war	agreement pact settlement accord	treat treatise treatment

### other words you want to remember

sovereignty: autonomous power of a nation

vindictive: vengeful

diplomatic: having to do with foreign nations in a positive manner

## Ending World War I

World War I, known then as the Great War, came to an end with an armistice, or ceasefire, that went into effect at 11 am on 11 / 11 / 1918. That date is now honored as Veterans Day.





- *The fighting had stopped, but what needs to be created?* a treaty
- *In your own words, why was that needed?* A treaty will lay down official rules that the defeated nation must follow.

70 representatives from around 30 different countries met for the Paris Peace Conference to decide what to do with Germany (and more). The conference began on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1919 - the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Germany's unification, which, like this conference, had its grand ceremony in the Hall of Mirrors inside the Palace of Versailles.

- *Why that date and place? What's ironic about it?* That was the same place where Bismarck unified Germany. It's ironic because they wanted to tear Germany back down.

## The Big Four

*Draw lines from each photo to its corresponding name and nation.*

<b>Vittorio Orlando</b>	<b>Woodrow Wilson</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>USA</b>
			
<b>David Lloyd George</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Georges Mendenceau</b>	<b>France</b>

Hand-drawn lines connect the portraits to the labels below: a green line from Vittorio Orlando to Italy; a blue line from Woodrow Wilson to Great Britain; a red line from Great Britain to USA; a black line from Georges Mendenceau to France; and a black line from the USA portrait to France.



## Different Objectives

President Woodrow Wilson, United States

Goals/Concerns: his "Fourteen Points" agenda, peace and diplomacy,  
creation of the League of Nations so that there is an  
international force to deal with future world problems  
before escalating to war

Prime Minister David Lloyd George, Great Britain

Goals/Concerns: protecting Britain's foreign interests, making  
Germany pay, disabling Germany's navy

Premier Georges "the Tiger" Mendenceau, France

Goals/Concerns: Vengeance and reparations, dismantling Germany's  
military, controlling/occupying the Rhineland or making it into  
a neutral buffer zone

Premier Vittorio Orlando, Italy

Goals/Concerns: acquiring new territory from the defeated  
empires as repayment for war costs

## Know Your Basic Geography!

Write a "G" on Germany, a "B" on Britain, an "F" on France, and circle the general area of the Rhineland.



*(the map reflects current boundaries)*

### Make Connections

- How do the locations of Allied nations affect post-war concerns? France? Britain? USA?

France shares a land border with Germany, so they wanted a buffer zone or control of German lands near the border (the Rhineland).

Britain is separated from mainland Europe by a small channel, so they wanted Germany's navy disabled.

The USA is far away from Europe, so it was easy to turn its back on Europe.



## Disagreement Yields to Compromise

• Who left the Conference early and why? Italy because lands it wanted were either given to other nations or allowed self-determination

• What two prominent nations were not there at all, and what was the reason for each?

Germany because the Allies did not want them there to argue for softer stipulations.

Russia because they were involved in their own political crises.

France finally compromised their demands over the Rhineland in exchange for an alliance with Britain and the USA. France and Britain

agreed to one part of US President Woodrow Wilson's "Fourteen Points," the

creation of the League of Nations. The Treaty of

Versailles was written and given to the Germans, who protested its unrealistic and

harsh conditions. Name four major stipulations of the treaty:

1. pay for the war
2. admit blame for the war
3. 15-year ~~long~~ Allied occupation of the Rhineland
4. loss of territory

} also:  
limited  
military

The Germans were essentially forced to give in and accept the terms because the Allied Powers had imposed a naval blockade that was starving the German people. The treaty was signed in the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles – the same place where Otto von Bismarck celebrated his 1871 unification of Germany – on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1919. The most notorious section of the treaty is popularly known as the War Guilt clause.



If you were writing a treaty with a defeated enemy you fear may retaliate, what demands or stipulations would you make?

- dismantling of their military
- occupation of their lands
- supervised governmental and economic rebuilding

## Other Developments

President Woodrow Wilson hoped the conference would reinforce ideas and values found in his "Fourteen Points," such as self-determination, which asserts the right of peoples of the same ethnicity/culture/nationality to decide their own political identity, sovereignty, and borders. Instead, France and Britain were very much perpetuating the concept of imperialism with their decided control and influence over areas of the Middle East.

- Was Germany the only nation with whom a treaty was signed? If not, then what other nations?

No: Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey (the Ottomans)

## American and British Rejection

President Woodrow Wilson returned home to find a strong opposition to his hard work in Paris.

- Which house of Congress was standing in the way of things? the Senate

- Infer why it was that house that was the problem versus the other house of Congress.

The Senate has power over ratifying treaties.

Also, the Senate was Republican-led, versus Wilson being a Democrat.

- Who led the opposition? Senator Henry Cabot Lodge [ Rep. / Dem. ]

- What two things were not ratified? the alliance with France

and the Treaty of Versailles

(mainly due to the creation of the League of Nations, which the US never joined)

- Both those things follow a policy of interventionism, opposite the US' desire of isolationism.

- Today's entity that replaced the League of Nations is the United Nations

- Who followed the US' lead by also turning their backs on Europe? Britain

- Who was largely left alone to deal with Germany? France

**Homework Essay (1 page):** What are the implications of abandoning Europe? To what might it lead?