

Final Peace: Fourteen Points vs. Treaty of Versailles

- ★ Following armistice on 11/11/1918 – decision had to be made on terms of peace
 - ★ Before end of war – Jan. 1918 – President Woodrow Wilson presented a proposal meant to bring a just & lasting peace
 - ★ Called the Fourteen Points
 - ★ Wilson wanted "Peace without Victory"
 - ★ Among the points:
 - ★ No secret treaties
 - ★ Free Trade
 - ★ Arms reduction
 - ★ Borders drawn along lines of ethnicity or nationality
 - ★ Self-determination by people of a country
 - ★ Establishment of League of Nations
 - ★ Wilson went to Versailles insisting on adoption of all 14 Pts
 - ★ Wilson seen as taking moral leadership
 - ★ But...would have to negotiate with other Allied leaders
 - ★ They were more interested in revenge
- ★ Big Four Leaders at Paris Peace Conference (12/18 – 6/19)
 - ★ Great Britain – David Lloyd George
 - ★ France – Georges Clemenceau
 - ★ United States – Woodrow Wilson
 - ★ Italy – Vittorio Orlando
 - ★ 12 nations took part but Big Four dominated
 - ★ Russia not invited to Versailles
 - ★ None of the losers of the war took part in talks
- ★ Lots of conflicting goals - mostly over territory
- ★ Treaty of Versailles
 - ★ Final agreement reached by Big Four
 - ★ Very harsh – not like Wilson's Fourteen Points
 - ★ Wilson gave up on demand for all 14 in order to win inclusion of the point he wanted most...League of Nations
 - ★ Revenge obviously a part of the terms
- ★ Terms:
 - ★ Germany lost 13% of its land & 10% of its population
 - ★ Lost land to France, Poland, Belgium, Denmark
 - ★ France got back Alsace-Lorraine & Saar region

- ★ Territories rich in industry & raw materials
 - ★ Poland became independent & got **Polish Corridor**
 - ★ Strip of land from Poland to Baltic Sea
 - ★ Cut off East Prussia from rest of Germany
 - ★ Denmark & Belgium given land previously taken by Germans
- ★ **Germany lost nearly 50% of its coal mines**
- ★ **German colonies in Af. & Pacific to FR, GB, Japan as mandates**
 - ★ **Mandate** = territory run on behalf of L of N until the territory is ready to be independent
- ★ **Germany's military limited**
 - ★ 100K soldiers in army
 - ★ No troops in Rhineland (border region w/ France)
 - ★ Reduced navy (only 24 ships)
 - ★ No submarines or air force
- ★ **Germany had to accept sole blame for the war**
 - ★ Called the "war guilt clause"
 - ★ Germany had to pay reparations to the Allies
 - ★ **Reparations** = compensation for cost of the war
 - ★ Over \$31 billion to be paid over 30 years
- ★ **Separate treaties with other Central Powers were also harsh**
 - ★ Ottoman Empire reduced to what is now Turkey
 - ★ Other areas controlled by Ottomans became mandates
 - ★ Austria-Hungary split up & independent of each other
 - ★ **New countries of Poland & Czechoslovakia formed**
 - ★ **Sudetenland** in Czech. contained 3 million Germans
 - ★ Austria (now small & mostly German-speaking) not allowed to unify w/ Germany
 - ★ **Anschluss** – German word for union
- ★ Russia got back some land lost in Treaty of Brest-Litovsk but Allies created new countries out of some of it
 - ★ Afraid of spread of communism
- ★ **Treaty of Versailles signed 6/28/19 – Germany had no choice**
 - ★ **U.S. Congress rejected the treaty – Wilson failed to win support**
 - ★ **Americans did not want to be a part of League of Nations**
 - ★ **U.S. returns to isolationism**