

PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE (1919-1920)

1. Europe at the End of the War – November 1918

a. The Map of Europe, November 1918

TASK 1: Study the map of Europe and answer the following questions:

1. When was the ceasefire (armistice) with Germany signed? Who ruled Germany at that moment?
2. Where was the war being fought when the ceasefire was signed?
3. Was there any reason for the German people to consider themselves the ones who lost the war?
4. Were there any territorial changes of the map happening prior to the conference?
5. What was the basis for the conditions of the ceasefire Germany and its allies had to sign?



b. The Fourteen Points of Woodrow Wilson, January 8, 1918

TASK 2: Study the following points and decide which **FIVE** do **NOT** belong among Wilson's Fourteen Points.

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| 1. Germany has to accept its blame for the beginning of the war. | 12. France to regain Alsace-Lorraine. |
| 2. No more secret treaties. | 13. Frontier between Austria and Italy to be adjusted. |
| 3. Free access to the seas in peacetime or wartime. | 14. Self/determination for the peoples of eastern Europe. |
| 4. Free trade between countries. | 15. Serbia to have access to the sea. |
| 5. Free elections in all liberated countries. | 16. Self/determination for the people in the Turkish Empire. |
| 6. Disarmament. | 17. Poland to become an independent state with access to the sea. |
| 7. Chemical weapons are to be banned. | 18. League of Nations to be set up. |
| 8. German army to be put under international control. | 19. Germany to be made to pay for the damage caused by war. |
| 9. Colonies to have a say in their own future. | |
| 10. German troops to leave Russia. | |
| 11. Independence for Belgium. | |

The Paris Peace Conference

a. The Main Peacemakers

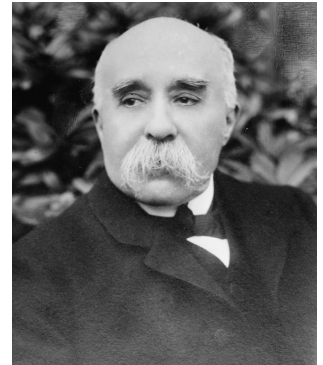
Woodrow Wilson, President of the USA

- born 1856
- first entered politics in 1910
- elected president in 1912, reelected 1916
- author of the Fourteen Points
- idealist, believed in just peace, better, more peaceful world
- Germany should be punished, but not too harshly. Harsh treatment would make Germany want revenge.
- An international body should be created to guarantee world peace – the League of Nations.



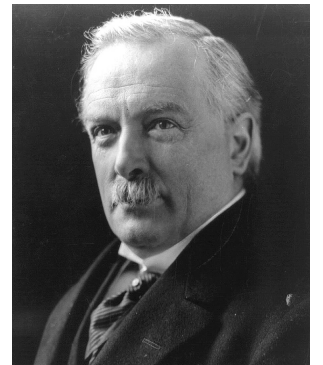
Georges Clemenceau, Prime Minister of France

- born 1841
- first entered French politics in 1871 (after the war with Prussia)
- Prime Minister 1906-1909
- 1914-1917 very critical of the French war leaders
- November 1917 appointed Prime Minister
- Under heavy public pressure demanding revenge for both 1870 – 1872 and 1914 - 1918
- Saw the peace conference as an unique opportunity to get rid of German threat, to cripple its power



David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Great Britain

- born 1863
- first entered politics in 1890
- Prime Minister 1916-1922
- Realist – it is necessary to punish Germany, but not too harshly, not to make Germany seek revenge
- Britain was especially concerned about German navy, colonies and trade



TASK 3: Work in Groups. Imagine that you are the diplomats at the conference. Your groups will represent France, Britain, USA and the new democratic German government. What would be your answers to the following questions?

1. Should Germany be blamed for the war?
2. What should happen to the German army?
3. How much should Germany pay for the damage caused by the war?
4. How much land should Germany lose?
5. What would be the best way to prevent any possible future war?

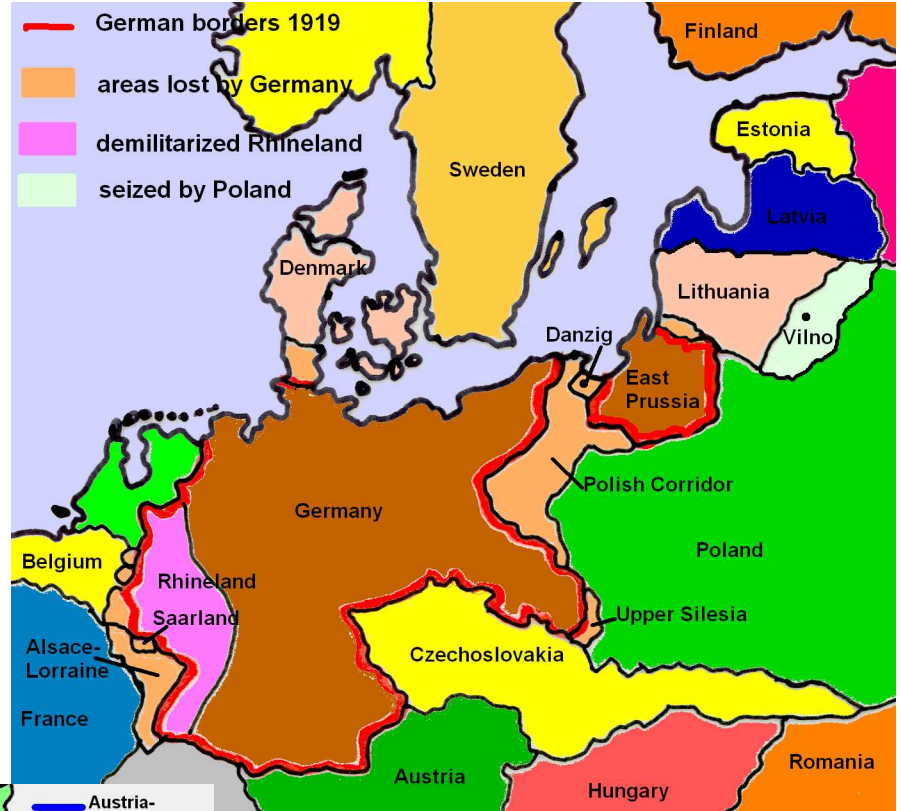
b. The Treaty of Versailles (signed June 28, 1919)

There were all together five peace treaties – with Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey – all of them signed and named after a palace near Paris. The peace treaty with Germany was signed in the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles – therefore the Treaty of Versailles.

TASK 4: Was there any earlier peace treaty signed in the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles? Is there any symbolic meaning of signing the treaty right there?

The terms of the treaty:

- war guilt
- Alsace-Lorraine –
- Saarland –
- Rhineland –
- Polish Corridor –
- colonies –
- reparations –
- army limited to ...
- no submarines, tanks, air force



c. Treaty of Saint-Germain (September 10, 1919) – peace treaty with Austria

The former Austria-Hungary dismantled in October 1918. This fact led to many clashes among the nationalities living in its former territory. The final borders were given by the treaty. **Austria was forbidden to join with Germany.**

d. Treaty of Neuilly (November 5, 1919) – peace treaty with Bulgaria

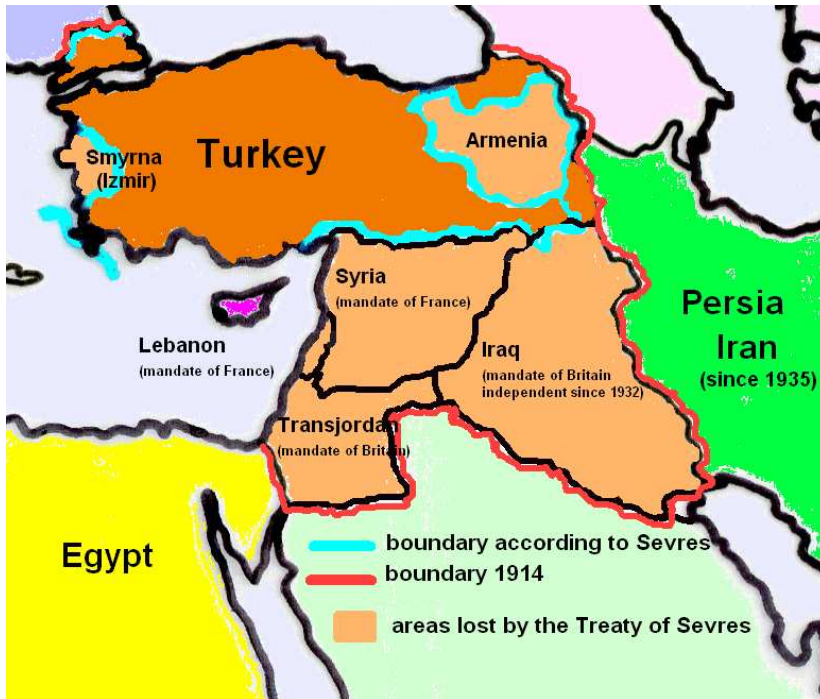
Lost access to the Aegean sea – territory given to Greece

e. Treaty of Trianon (June 4, 1920) – peace treaty with Hungary

Signed only after the defeat of the Hungarian Soviet Republic.

TASK 5: Study the maps and decide which of the countries lost most territory.

f. Treaty of Sevres (August 10, 1920) – peace treaty with Turkey



Turkey had to hand over Smyrna to Greece, agree to the independence of Armenia, respect the autonomy of the Kurds. Syria and Lebanon became French mandates, Transjordan and Iraq British mandates.

The signing of this treaty led to the end of the Sultanate, which was abolished by Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk). As the Greeks wanted to use the opportunity and gain more territory, war with Greece started. At the same time part of Ataturk's forces occupied Armenia. The events led to signing of a new peace treaty.

Treaty of Lausanne (July 1923)

This treaty put Turkey into its present day borders, ignoring the Armenians and Kurds.

TASK 6: Study the cartoons and explain their view on the Treaty of Versailles and wider applications. Try to guess the origin of the cartoon. Who are the characters?

