

The Treaty of Versailles

Notes

The Paris Peace Conference

- On November 11, 1918 WWI ended and it was necessary to decide on what post-war Europe would look like
- The Allies met to discuss the post-war world
 - **Germany** and **Russia** were not allowed to attend the peace conference

The Paris Peace Conference (continued)

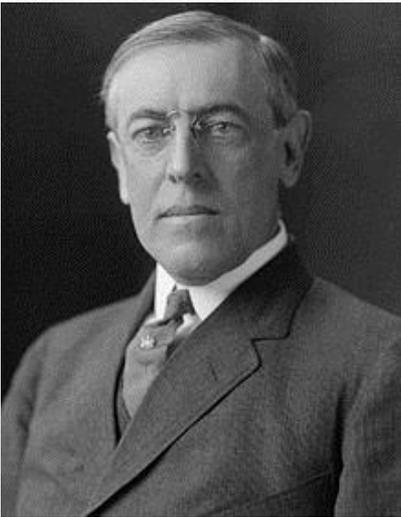
- There were many questions that needed to be addressed after the war:
 - What should happen to the losing countries, Austria-Hungary and Germany?
 - Who should be held responsible for the war?

The Paris Peace Conference (continued)

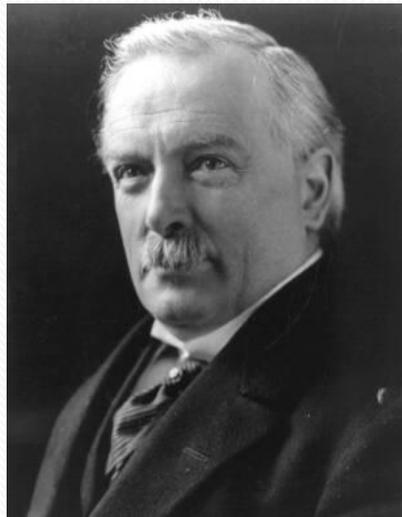
- How would Europe pay for the costs of the war?
- What should happen to the minority ethnic groups in Europe?

The Big Four

- 4 key leaders attended the conference



**United States –
President Wilson**



**United Kingdom –
David Lloyd
George**



**France –
Georges
Clemenceau**



**Italy –
Vittorio Orlando**

The Agenda of the Big Four

- Each leader came to the conference with his own agenda:
 - President Wilson came prepared with the **14 Points**—his plan for what post-war Europe should look like
 - His plan included the **League of Nations**, an international peacekeeping organization

The Agenda of the Big Four (continued)

- David Lloyd George wanted to build up Britain and make it a major power again and wanted to “make Germany pay”
- Clemenceau wanted to punish Germany so that it could never hurt France again
- Orlando wanted the land he was promised for switching sides during the war

The Treaty of Versailles

- The Allies ordered Germany to sign the Treaty that *they* drew up (remember, Germany was **not invited** to the peace conference)
- The Treaty included the following provisions:
 - Germany had to take the blame for the war (the war guilt clause)
 - Germany had to pay heavy war reparations (in the amount of \$30 billion)

The Treaty of Versailles (continued)

- The size of Germany's military was severely limited
- The territory of Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France
- Germany lost its overseas colonies
- Finally...many new countries were created as the map of Europe changed significantly

The Treaty of Versailles (continued)

- Germany signed the Treaty since it was given **no choice**

What was Germany's Reaction?

- Germany believed it was treated extremely unfairly by the Treaty of Versailles
- This Treaty would later lead to WWII since Germany felt the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles were too harsh

Outcomes of the Peace Settlement

- **Self-determination**

- New nations emerged as the Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed and lands ruled by Germany and Russia sought self-rule
 - Poland was created
 - Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia became independent of Russia
 - Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Austria, and Hungary were established as independent nations

Outcomes of the Peace Settlement (continued)

- **The Mandate System**

- At the end of the war many colonial leaders hoped that peace meant freedom
- Instead of colonies achieving freedom, the Allies maintained and expanded their overseas empires through mandates

The League of Nations

- More than 40 nations joined the League of Nations after WWI
 - Although it was President Wilson's idea, the U.S. **never** joined the League, which led the organization to be very weak

German Leader

- **Kaiser Wilhelm II**



Palace of Versailles

