

Chapter 7

The Treaty of Versailles

How did we get here?

- **Who:** Those involved in WW1
- **What:** The Paris Peace Conference
- **Why:** To discuss how to prevent a catastrophe event from happening again, how to rebuild, and negotiating settlements of peace between the nations
- **When:** 1919
- **Where:** Versailles Palace outside of Paris, France



Vocab

- **Versailles:** a famous palace near Paris.
- **Conference:** a meeting.
- **Armistice:** a cease-fire.
- **Treaty:** an agreement between nations.
- **Delegate:** a person representing a country at a conference.

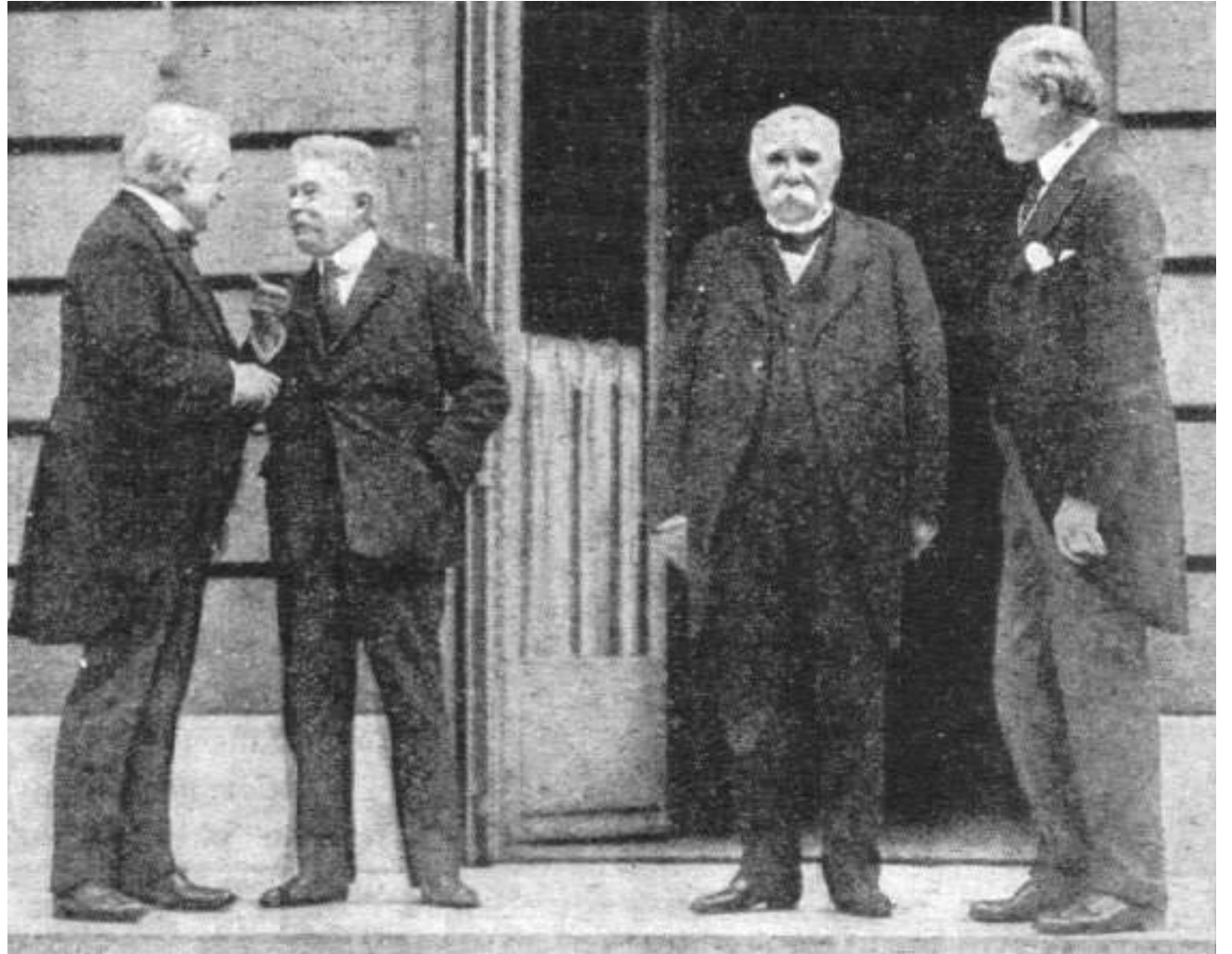
Paris Peace Conference 1919

- The Treaty of Versailles was one of the treaties negotiated with the defeated powers at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. It was held at the Versailles palace outside of Paris.
- The Treaty dealt with Germany and negotiated the settlement of peace among the nations.
- The 4 most influential men who created the treaty were:
 - Georges Clemenceau (France)
 - Woodrow Wilson (USA)
 - David Lloyd George (Britain)
 - Vittorio Orlando (Italy)

The Big 4

Why were only four nations represented when creating the peace treaty?

Why wasn't Germany involved? What lasting ramifications may this have?



Competing National Interests

- The members of the big 4 all had different goals and different national interests in mind when dealing with defeated Germany
- Defeated Germany was not allowed to send any delegates, and had no choice but to accept whatever was decided.
- Most of the delegates wanted revenge.

Clemenceau



Georges Clemenceau

He was the Prime Minister of France.

He wanted **revenge**, and to **punish** the Germans for what they had done.

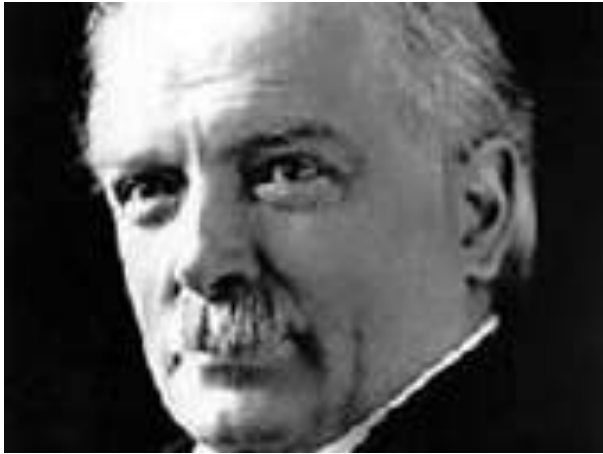
He wanted to **make Germany pay** for the damage done during the war.

He also wanted to **weaken** Germany, so France would never be invaded again.

- His goal was to enact revenge on Germany
- The war had shown France that victory would not have occurred for France had it not been for her allies (Britain, USA)
- Clemenceau wanted to protect France from future aggression from Germany – he wanted Germany basically crippled

*Were his goals during the treaty talks nationalist or internationalist in nature?
Do you agree with his goals?*

David Lloyd George



David Lloyd George

He was Prime Minister of England.

He *said* he would '**make Germany pay**' – because he knew that was what the British people wanted to hear.

He wanted '**justice**', but he **did not want revenge**. He said that the peace must **not be harsh** – that would just cause another war in a few years time.

He tried to get a '**halfway point**' – a compromise between Wilson and Clemenceau.

- Had promised the Brits that Germany would pay for damages incurred because of the war
- He wanted to ensure that Britain could maintain access to its colonies and that a powerful Germany navy wouldn't threaten Britain

Woodrow Wilson



Woodrow Wilson

He was President of the United States.

He was a History professor. He wanted to **make the world safe**. He wanted to **end war** by making a **fair peace** deal

In 1918, Wilson published '**Fourteen Points**' saying what he wanted. He said that he wanted **disarmament**, and a **League of Nations** (where countries could talk out their problems, without going to war).

He also promised **self-determination** for the peoples of Eastern Europe.

- Wilson believed that punishing Germany for aggressions during WWI wouldn't maintain long term peace
- He hoped to create a humane peace with Germany
- "fair and just peace"
- He wanted a treaty that would follow: free trade, open agreements, self-determination, protection of human rights

Was Wilson's objectives going into the peace conference nationalist or internationalist. How did his opinions differ from the other powers involved in the talks?

Wilson's 14 Points

1. No more secret agreements ("Open covenants openly arrived at").
2. Free navigation of all seas.
3. An end to all economic barriers between countries.
4. Countries to reduce weapon numbers.
5. All decisions regarding the colonies should be impartial
6. The German Army is to be removed from Russia. Russia should be left to develop their own political set-up
7. Belgium should be independent like before the war.
8. France should be fully liberated and allowed to recover Alsace-Lorraine
9. All Italians are to be allowed to live in Italy. Italy's borders are to "along clearly recognizable lines of nationality."
10. Self-determination should be allowed for all those living in Austria-Hungary.
11. Self-determination and guarantees of independence should be allowed for the Balkan states.
12. The Turkish people should be governed by the Turkish government. Non-Turks in the old Turkish Empire should govern themselves.
13. An independent Poland should be created which should have access to the sea.
14. A League of Nations should be set up to guarantee the political and territorial independence of all states

Did you know?

- Few of Wilson's 14 points made it into the Treaty
- When Wilson returned to the United States the Senate refused to join the League of Nations and refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles

Vittorio Orlando



- Italy was originally part of the Triple Alliance
- Italy switched sides in 1915, because the allies promised Italy land
- Orlando attending the Peace Conferences to ensure that the land promised to Italy actually became under Italian jurisdiction

Spectrum of National Interests at the Treaty of Versailles



Revenge—Make Germany Pay!
Clemenceau, Lloyd George

Obtain Lands
Orlando

Peace Without Victory
Wilson

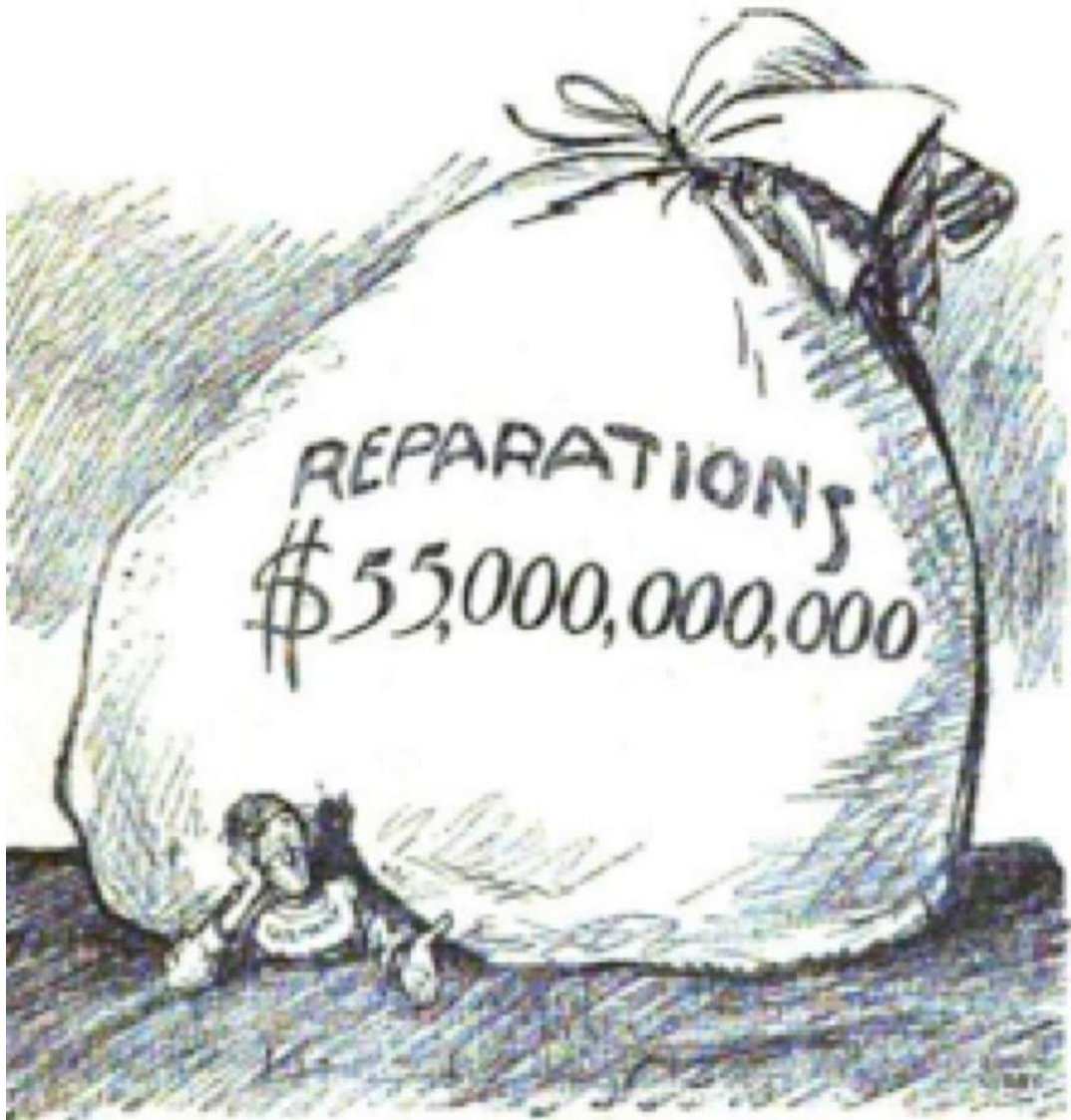
The Treaty of Versailles: Summary

1. Germany's army was to be reduced to 100,000 men and no tanks (which nation benefitted?)
2. Germany's navy was to be reduced and would not be permitted to build submarines (which nation benefitted?)
3. There was to be no German air force
4. Alsace-Lorraine was to be returned to France (which France had lost during the Franco-Prussian War in the 1800s)
5. Germany lost colonies in Africa, China and islands in the Pacific
6. The Rhineland in Germany was to be demilitarized (the strip of land approx. 50 miles wide beside France)

Treaty of Versailles: Summary con't

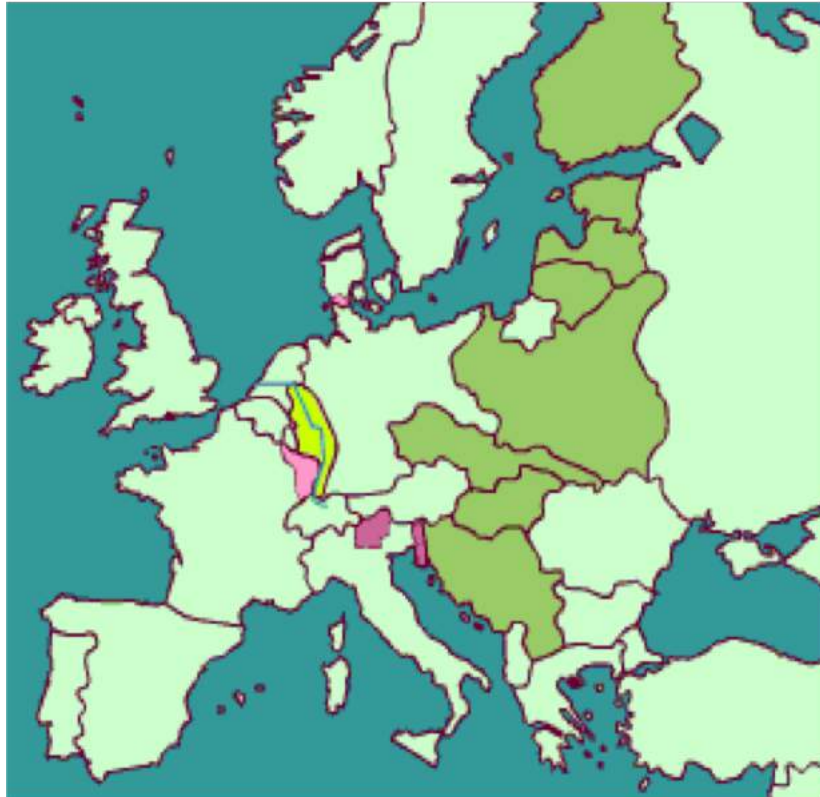
7. Anschluss (union) with Austria was forbidden
8. Germany had to recognize the following new nations: Poland, Czechoslovakia (created using former German lands)
9. Germany had to sign the war guilt clause (Article 231): Germany and her allies were responsible for the outbreak of WWI
10. Germany had to pay reparations - \$33 billion to the USA for death and damages

Who lost the most? What could go wrong?



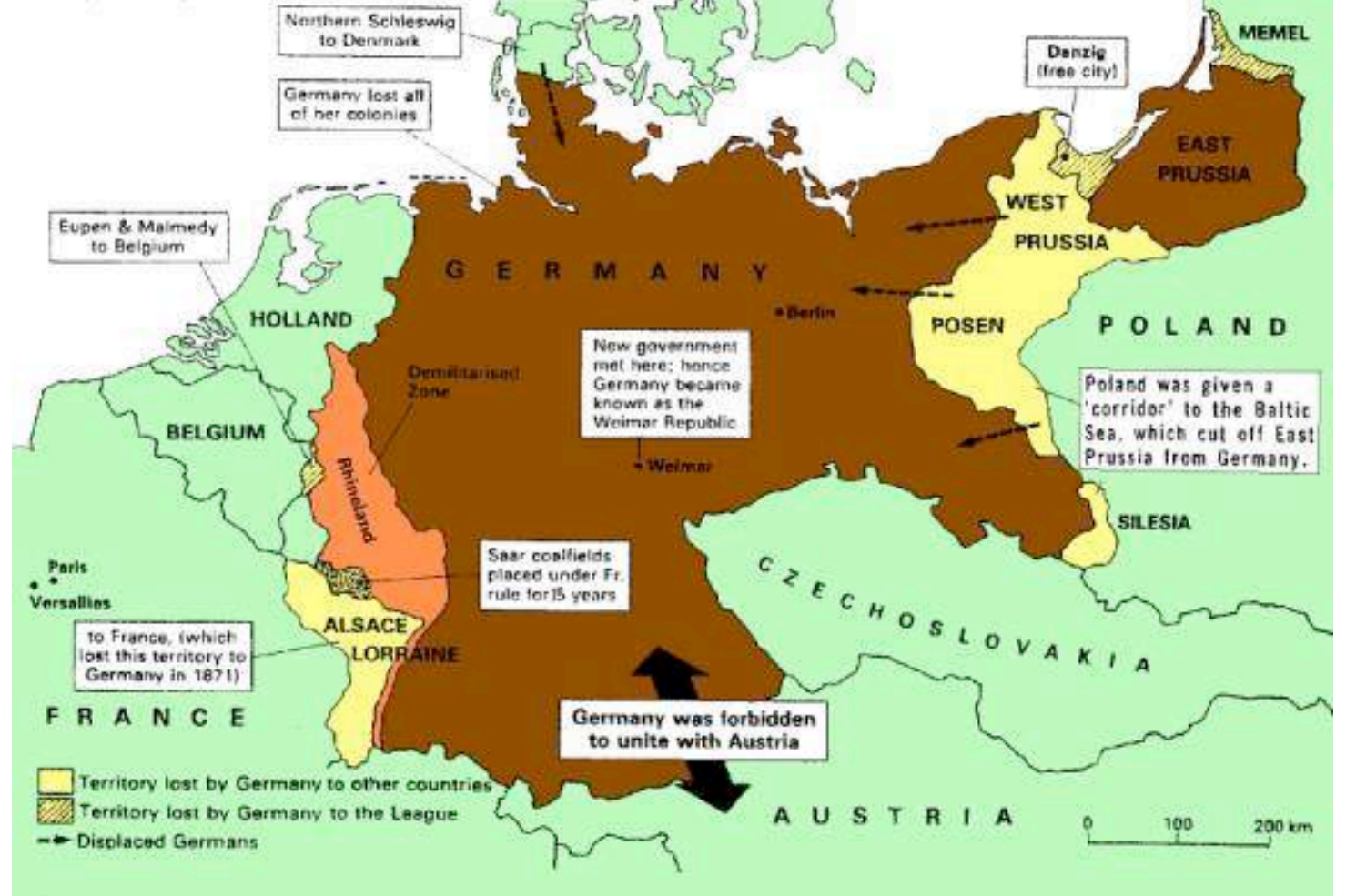
THE FINISHING TOUCH.

Map of Europe after the Treaty of Versailles



-  New countries
-  Land gained by Italy
-  Land gained by Belgium, France and Denmark
-  De-militarised Rhineland

A map showing Germany's loss of territory by the Versailles Treaty..



A map showing Germany's loss of territory by the Versailles Treaty..



Notice the differences?



In Conclusion

- Germans were angry about the terms of the Treaty of Versailles
 - Some were not in favor of signing the Treaty
 - They were angry about the War Guilt Clause
 - They lost 1/10th of their land
 - Other nations gained **self-determination** however this meant the re-drawing of borders had Germans living in other countries.
- The causes of WWI were not settled by the Treaty of Versailles
- The same causes of WWI – nationalism, imperialism, militarism, international alliances – caused WWII
- War continues to be a foreign policy option to pursue national interests



THE SOURCE.

