

# World War I Ends

Chapter 14 Section 4



Jason M. Hauck

# I. The Last Year of the War

A. The year 1917 was not a good one for the Allies.

1. Allied offensives on the Western Front had been badly defeated.
2. The Russian Revolution began.
3. On the positive side, the United States entering the war in 1917 provided fresh troops and supplies.

B. For Germany, Russia's surrender offered new hope for the war.

1. Germany could concentrate entirely on the Western Front.

C. Germans attacked in March 1918.

1. By April German, troops were within about 50 miles of Paris.
  - a. They were stopped at the Second Battle of the Marne on July 18.

D. With more than a million American troops pouring into France, Allied forces began an advance toward Germany.

1. On September 29, 1918, General Ludendorff told German leaders that the war was lost.

E. The Allies were unwilling to make peace with the autocratic imperial government of Germany.



F. On November 3, 1918, sailors in the northern German town of Kiel mutinied.

1. Emperor William II left the country on November 9.
  - a. After his departure, the Social Democrats under Friedrich Ebert announced the creation of a democratic republic.
  - b. Two days later, on November 11, 1918, the new German government signed an armistice to end the fighting.

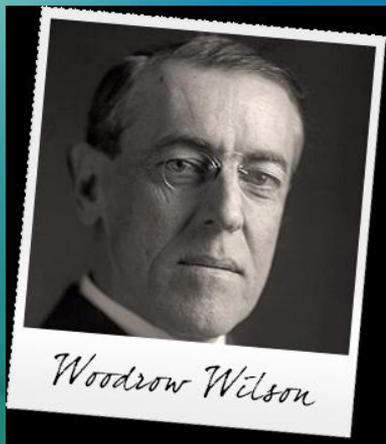
G. The German Communist Party tried to seize in 1918.

H. Austria-Hungary also experienced disintegration and revolution.

1. Ethnic groups increasingly sought to achieve their independence.

## II. The Peace Settlements

1. In January 1919, representatives of 27 victorious Allied nations met in Paris to make a final settlement of World War I.
2. Woodrow Wilson outlined "Fourteen Points."
  1. Open agreements rather than through secret diplomacy.
  2. Reduce armaments (military forces or weapons).
  3. Ensure self-determination.



# Wilson's 14 Points for Peace

1. Open diplomacy
2. Freedom of the Seas
3. Removal of economic barriers
4. Reduction of armaments
5. Adjustment of colonial claims
6. Conquered territories in Russia
7. Preservation of Belgian sovereignty
8. Restoration of French territory
9. Redrawing of Italian frontiers
10. Division of Austria-Hungary
11. Redrawing of Balkan boundaries
12. Limitations on Turkey
13. Establishment of an independent Poland
14. Creation of an Association of Nations

- C. Delegates met in Paris in early 1919 to determine the peace settlement.
  - 1. Complications soon arose at the Paris Peace Conference.
  - 2. Secret agreements that had been made for territorial gains.
    - a. Conflicted with self-determination.
- D. David Lloyd George, prime minister of Great Britain wanted to make the Germans pay for this dreadful war.
- E. France's approach to peace was chiefly guided by its desire for national security.
  - 1. France wanted Germany stripped of all weapons, and reparations.
  - 2. Rhineland would become a buffer state.

# The Rhineland

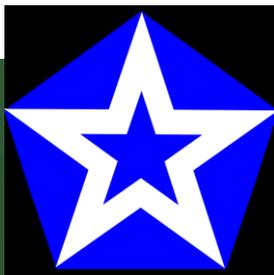
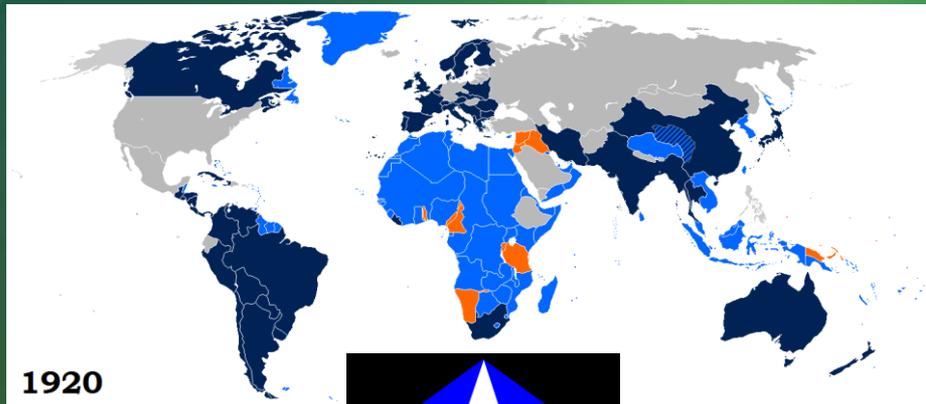


F. Wilson wanted to create a world organization, the League of Nations, to prevent future wars.

1. On January 25, 1919, the conference accepted the idea of a League of Nations.

G. The Germans considered it a harsh peace.

1. They were especially unhappy with Article 231, the so-called War Guilt Clause, which declared that Germany and Austria were responsible for starting the war.
2. The treaty ordered Germany to pay reparations for all damages.



- H. The military and territorial provisions of the Treaty also angered the Germans.
  - 1. Germany had to reduce its army to 100,000 men, cut back its navy, and eliminate its air force.
  - 2. Alsace and Lorraine were returned.
    - a. Parts of Eastern Germany were awarded to a new Polish state.
- I. German land along the Rhine (Rhineland) River became a demilitarized zone.
- J. The war redrew the map of Eastern Europe.
  - 1. The German and Russian empires lost considerable territory in Eastern Europe.
  - 2. The Austro-Hungarian Empire disappeared.
    - a. New nation-states emerged from the lands of these three empires.

# Europe 1914



# Europe 1923



K. The principle of self-determination supposedly guided the Paris Peace Conference.

1. The mixtures of peoples in Eastern Europe made it impossible to draw boundaries along strict ethnic lines.
  - a. Almost every eastern European state was left with ethnic minorities.
  - b. The problem of ethnic minorities within nations would lead to many conflicts later.

L. The Ottoman Empire was broken up by the peace settlement.

1. During the war, the Western Allies had promised to recognize the independence of Arab states in the Ottoman Empire.
2. Once World War I was over, they changed their minds.
  - a. France controlled the territory of Syria.
  - b. Britain controlled the territories of Iraq and Palestine.

M. These acquisitions were officially called mandates.

1. Wilson opposed the outright annexation of colonial territories by the Allies.
2. In the mandate system, a nation officially governed a territory on a temporary basis as a mandate on behalf of the League of Nations, but did not own the territory.

N. World War I was a total war—one that involved a complete mobilization of resources and people.

1. As a result, the power of governments over the lives of their citizens increased.
  - a. Freedom of the press and speech were limited in the name of national security.
2. World War I made the practice of strong central authority a way of life.

- 0. The turmoil created by the war also opened the door to even greater insecurity.
  - 1. Revolutions broke up old empires and created new states, which led to new problems.
  - 2. The war to end all wars was only a fantasy.

