



# Treaty of Versailles & League of Nations

# The world was transformed by World War I

22 million soldiers and civilians died;  
20 million were wounded; 10 million were refugees

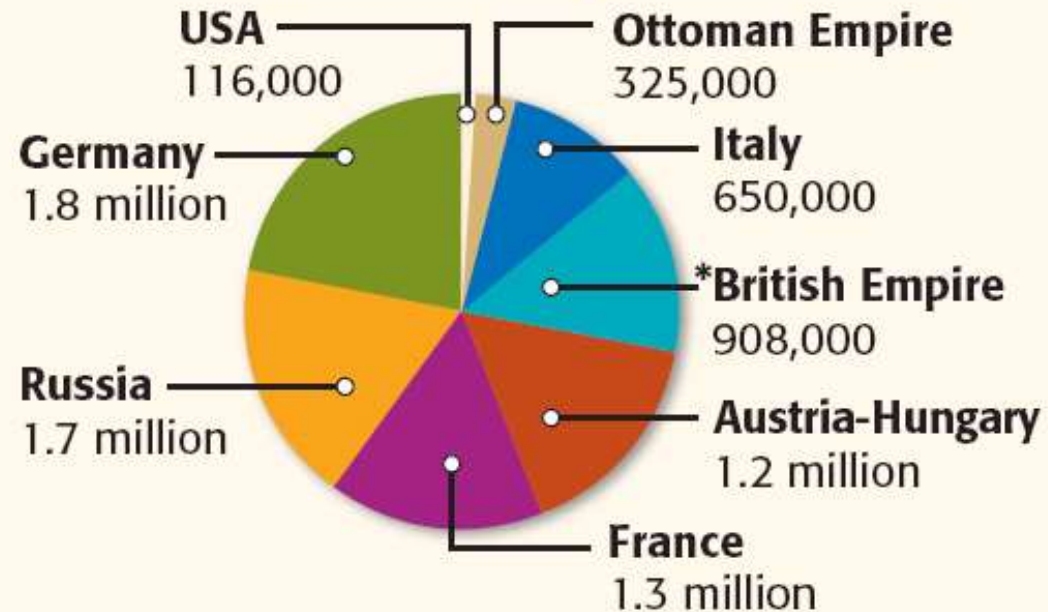
## World War I Statistics

### Total Number of Troops Mobilized

**Allied Powers:**  
42 million

**Central Powers:**  
23 million

### Battlefield Deaths of Major Combatants



Source:  
*Encyclopaedia Britannica*

\* Includes troops from Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, and South Africa

22 million soldiers and civilians dead



20 million people wounded

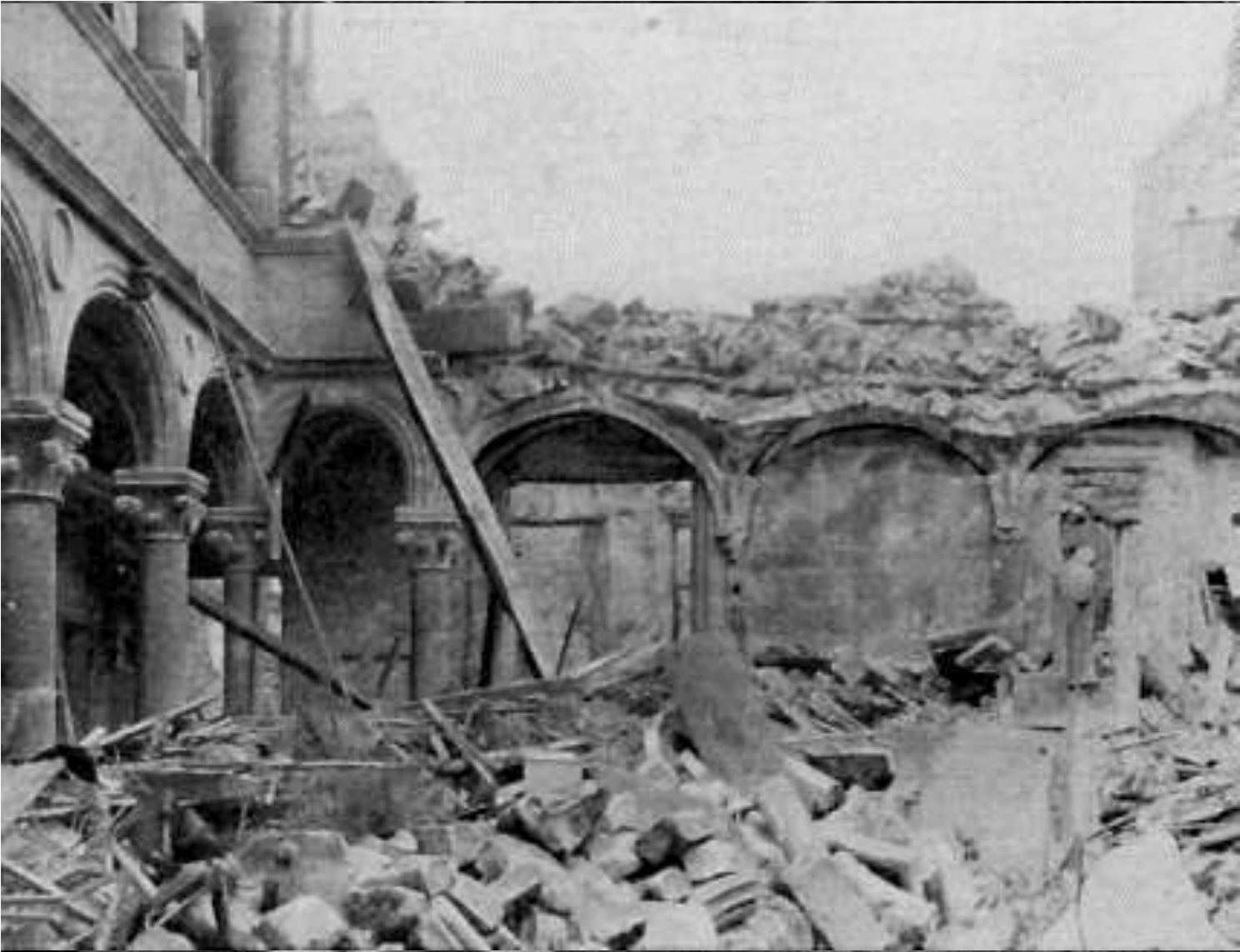


European cities, towns, and farms were destroyed



After the War: Village of Esnes

European cities, towns, and farms were destroyed



After the War: Hotel de la Princerie, Verdun

The war cost an estimated \$338 billion and massive funds were needed to rebuild Europe

Ypres, Belgium



When World War I ended, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson believed that America should take a lead in shaping the peace process

Near the end of the war, Wilson developed a peace plan called the Fourteen Points

His peace plan was based on eliminating the reasons for WWI (militarism, imperialism)

Wilson hoped to avoid all future wars by creating an international organization to discuss and arbitrate problems

### *Five Minute Activity*

Working with a partner, examine Wilson's 14 Points:

Using the chart in your notes, write in your own words what each section of Wilson's peace plan means

Be prepared to share your answers





# Wilson's Fourteen Points contained 3 main themes

Points 1-5 focused on creating new international rules that would eliminate future wars

No more secret treaties or alliances

Reduction of militaries

Freedom of the seas and free trade

International control over colonies to end imperialism

## THE FOURTEEN POINTS

These were defined by President Wilson in an address to Congress on January 8, 1918. Summarized they are:

1. "Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at."
2. Freedom of the seas, in peace and war.
3. Equality of trade conditions.
4. Reduction of armaments.
5. Adjustment of colonial claims with reference to the wishes of the governed population.
6. Evacuation of all Russian territory.
7. Evacuation and restoration of Belgium.
8. Evacuation of French territory, restoration of Alsace-Lorraine.
9. Readjustment of Italy's frontiers along lines of nationality.
10. Autonomous development for the peoples of Austria-Hungary.
11. Independence of Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro.
12. Relinquishment of Turkish control over non-Turkish populations.
13. Erection of an independent Polish state, with free and secure access to the sea.
14. A League of Nations to guarantee independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.

# Wilson's Fourteen Points contained 3 main themes

Points 6-13 focused on dividing weak empires like Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Empire into new nations based on self-determination

Wilson believed that new nations should have borders drawn with consideration to ethnic and national identities

He wanted new nations to be free to choose their own governments

## THE FOURTEEN POINTS

These were defined by President Wilson in an address to Congress on January 8, 1918. Summarized they are:

1. "Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at."
2. Freedom of the seas, in peace and war.
3. Equality of trade conditions.
4. Reduction of armaments.
5. Adjustment of colonial claims with reference to the wishes of the governed population.
6. Evacuation of all Russian territory.
7. Evacuation and restoration of Belgium.
8. Evacuation of French territory, restoration of Alsace-Lorraine.
9. Readjustment of Italy's frontiers along lines of nationality.
10. Autonomous development for the peoples of Austria-Hungary.
11. Independence of Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro.
12. Relinquishment of Turkish control over non-Turkish populations.
13. Erection of an independent Polish state, with free and secure access to the sea.
14. A League of Nations to guarantee independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.

# Wilson's Fourteen Points contained 3 main themes

Point 14 focused on creating a League of Nations to settle all future international problems by diplomacy rather than by war



## THE FOURTEEN POINTS

These were defined by President Wilson in an address to Congress on January 8, 1918. Summarized they are:

1. "Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at."
2. Freedom of the seas, in peace and war.
3. Equality of trade conditions.
4. Reduction of armaments.
5. Adjustment of colonial claims with reference to the wishes of the governed population.
6. Evacuation of all Russian territory.
7. Evacuation and restoration of Belgium.
8. Evacuation of French territory, restoration of Alsace-Lorraine.
9. Readjustment of Italy's frontiers along lines of nationality.
10. Autonomous development for the peoples of Austria-Hungary.
11. Independence of Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro.
12. Relinquishment of Turkish control over non-Turkish populations.
13. Erection of an independent Polish state, with free and secure access to the sea.
14. A League of Nations to guarantee independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.

President Wilson traveled to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 to help create the Treaty of Versailles

Wilson hoped his Fourteen Points would become the framework for the peace treaty

**“The Big Four”**



**British Prime Minister David Lloyd George**

**Italian Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando**

**French Premier George Clemenceau**

**U.S. President Woodrow Wilson**

But, Wilson quickly learned that European leaders wanted to punish Germany and did not share his vision for a “peace without victory”

“The Big Four”



British Prime Minister David Lloyd George

Italian Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando

French Premier George Clemenceau

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson

During the peace process, Wilson had to compromise some of his Fourteen Points

On June 28, 1919 the delegates agreed to the Treaty of Versailles



# Delegates at the Paris Peace Conference agreed to create a League of Nations

The League was made up of a General Assembly of 27 nations

Member nations agreed to use diplomacy (not war) to settle conflicts

Member nations agreed to work together to stop future acts of aggression

The

## League of Nations

- International peace organization; enemy and neutral nations initially excluded
- Germany and Russia excluded



- Germany surrenders all of its overseas colonies in Africa and the Pacific

- Germany forbidden to build or buy submarines or have an air force

- Germany forced to pay the Allies \$33 billion in reparations over 30 years

# The Treaty of Versailles redrew the map of Europe and the Middle East

Central Europe was redrawn to reduce the power of Austria-Hungary

German territories were used to create Poland; Germany's border with France was demilitarized to prevent a future invasion





# The Treaty of Versailles redrew the map of Europe and the Middle East

The Ottoman Empire was divided; Britain and France gained mandates in the Middle East

New nations were created from territory taken from Russia (who left WWI early after the Russian Revolution)



Europe and Middle East Before and After World War I

# The Treaty of Versailles severely punished Germany for its role in World War I

Germany was forced to surrender all of its overseas colonies

Germany's military was reduced and forbidden from building weapons

Germany had to accept full responsibility for the war and pay \$33 billion in war reparations

## The Treaty of Versailles: Major Provisions

### League of Nations

- International peace organization; enemy and neutral nations initially excluded
- Germany and Russia excluded

### Territorial Losses

- Germany returns Alsace-Lorraine to France; French border extended to west bank of Rhine River
- Germany surrenders all of its overseas colonies in Africa and the Pacific

### Military Restrictions

- Limits set on the size of the German army
- Germany prohibited from importing or manufacturing weapons or war material
- Germany forbidden to build or buy submarines or have an air force

### War Guilt

- Sole responsibility for the war placed on Germany's shoulders
- Germany forced to pay the Allies \$33 billion in reparations over 30 years

# The Treaty of Versailles did not address important issues that caused World War I

The treaty did not require any of the Allied nations to demilitarize or give up imperial colonies

The treaty did not address secret alliances or guarantee free trade

The treaty was so severe that it kept Germany from rebuilding

## The Treaty of Versailles: Major Provisions

### League of Nations

- International peace organization; enemy and neutral nations initially excluded
- Germany and Russia excluded

### Territorial Losses

- Germany returns Alsace-Lorraine to France; French border extended to west bank of Rhine River
- Germany surrenders all of its overseas colonies in Africa and the Pacific

### Military Restrictions

- Limits set on the size of the German army
- Germany prohibited from importing or manufacturing weapons or war material
- Germany forbidden to build or buy submarines or have an air force

### War Guilt

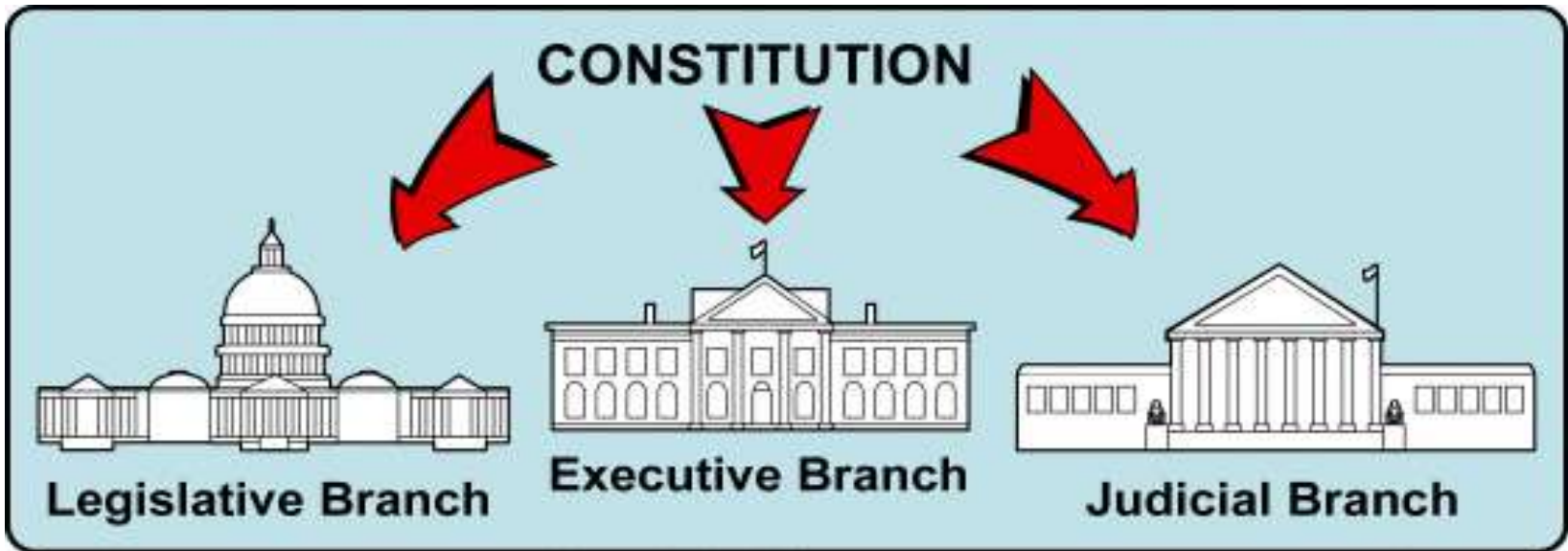
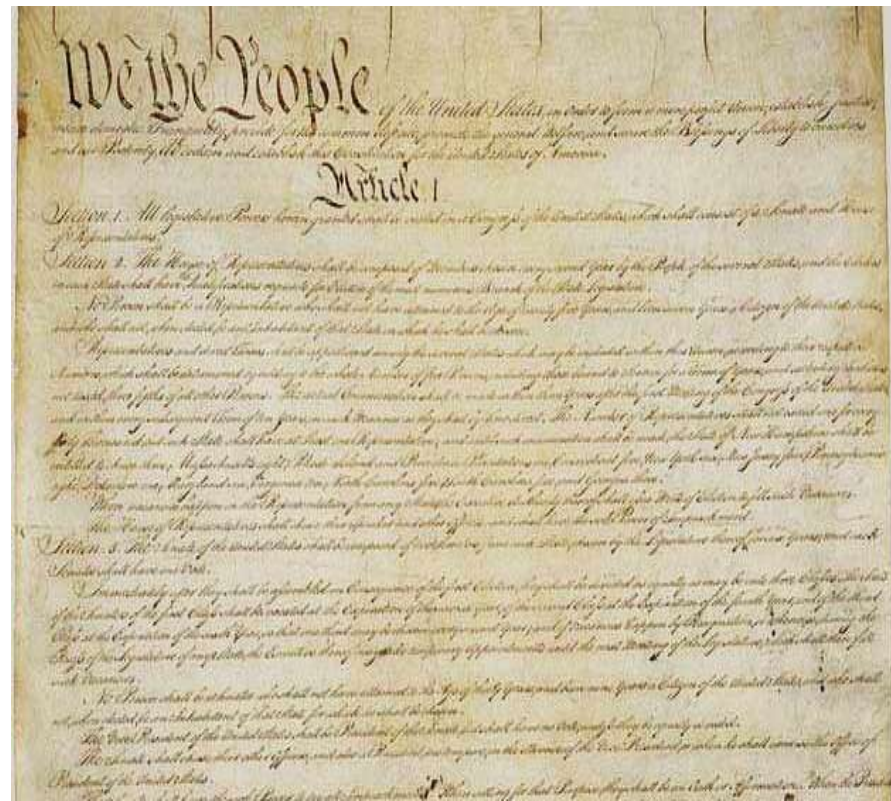
- Sole responsibility for the war placed on Germany's shoulders
- Germany forced to pay the Allies \$33 billion in reparations over 30 years

Even though the major Allied and Central Powers signed the Treaty of Versailles ...



...U.S. President Wilson could not sign the treaty because the Constitution gives the Senate the power to approve treaties

A  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote in the Senate was needed to ratify the treaty and join the League



Many Senators did not like the treaty because signing it meant joining the League of Nations



THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.

Many Senators did not like the treaty because signing it meant joining the League of Nations

Article 10 of the League Covenant:

*The Members of the League undertake to respect and preserve as against aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all Members of the League. In case of any such aggression or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression the Council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled*

Senators known as the Strong Reservationists demanded changes to the League covenant that required members to work together to stop aggression

Senators known as the Irreconcilables wanted the USA to return to isolationism and refused to sign the treaty or commit to the League of Nations

# The Irreconcilables and Strong Reservationists attacked the treaty and the League of Nations

President Wilson supported America's membership in the League of Nations and refused to compromise with the Senate

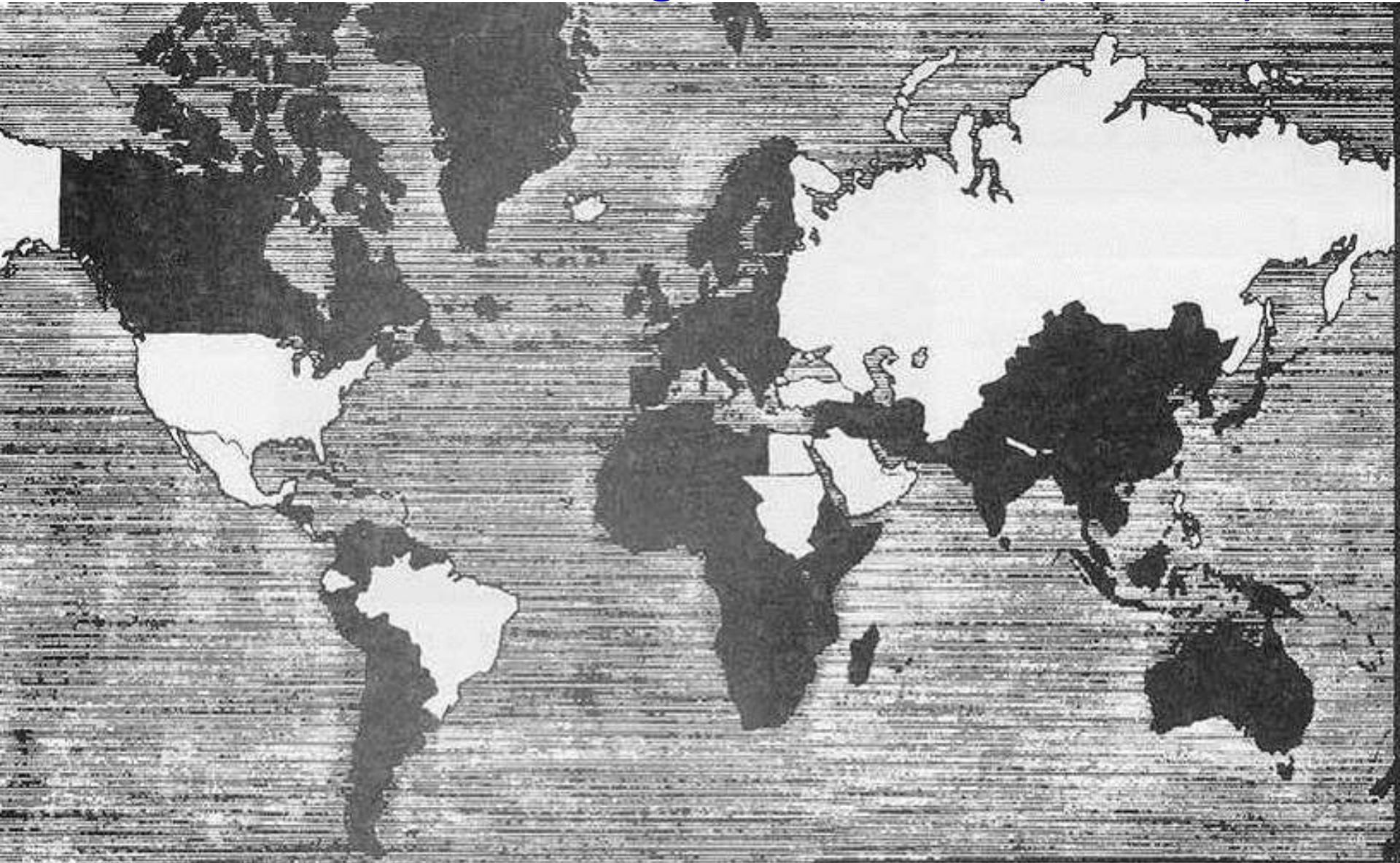
Wilson toured the United States to gain public support for the treaty, but he had a stroke during the tour







# Members of the League of Nations (in black)



The U.S. never joined the League and signed its own peace treaty with Germany in 1921



## WORLD WAR I

### Immediate Effects

- A generation of Europeans is killed or wounded.
- Dynasties fall in Germany, Austria, Hungary.



The United States began the 20<sup>th</sup> century as an imperial power and reluctantly entered WWI to protect free trade

Involvement in the war led to changes for women and African Americans and an economic boom

The United States played a major role in the peace process, but refusal to join the League weakened the ability of world leaders to stop World War II

#30

**US**



US HISTORY

**CRASH COURSE**



**History**

# Closure Activity: Hitler's Response to the Treaty

Speech on the Treaty of Versailles (April 17, 1923)

Adolf Hitler

With the armistice begins the humiliation of Germany. If the Republic on the day of its foundation had appealed to the country: Germans, stand together! Up and resist the foe! The Fatherland, the Republic expects of you that you fight to your last breath, then millions who are now enemies of the Republic would be fanatical Republicans. Today they are the foes of the Republic not because it is a Republic but because this Republic was founded at the moment when Germany was humiliated, because it so discredited the new flag that men's eyes must turn regretfully toward the old flag.

So long as this Treaty stands there can be no resurrection of the German people; no social reform of any kind is possible! The Treaty was made in order to bring 20 million Germans to their deaths and to ruin the German nation. But those who made the Treaty cannot set it aside. As its foundation our Movement formulated three demands:

1. Setting aside of the Peace Treaty.
2. Unification of all Germans.
3. Land and soil to feed our nation.

Our movement could formulate these demands, since it was not our Movement which caused the War, it has not made the Republic, it did not sign the Peace Treaty. There is thus one thing which is the first task of this Movement: it desires to make the German once more National, that his Fatherland shall stand for him above everything else. It desires to teach our people to understand afresh the truth of the old saying: He who will not be a hammer must be an anvil. An anvil we are today, and that anvil will be beaten until out of the anvil we fashion once more a hammer, a German sword!

1. What criticisms does Hitler have of the treaty?

2. What does he say needs to be done to save Germany?

3. Why do you think historians say the Treaty of Versailles led to WWII?