



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

US History and Government
Regents Review

Treaty of Versailles

THE SEARCH FOR PEACE AND ARMS CONTROL

World War I ended in November 1918 with an Allied victory. The United States, particularly President Wilson, played a major role in the peacemaking process.

The Fourteen Points

Wilson had first suggested his own peace proposals in January 1918. His **Fourteen Points** included the following:

- Open, not secret, diplomacy
- Freedom of the seas
- Removal of trade barriers
- Arms reduction
- **Self-determination** of peoples—that is, letting various national groups make their own political decisions
- An “association of nations” to guarantee political independence and territorial integrity

Wilson and the Treaty of Versailles

The Fourteen Points became the basis for the peace negotiations held at Versailles, France, beginning in January 1919. Wilson led the American delegation, thus becoming the first President of the United States to leave American soil while in office. Other Allied leaders included Georges Clemenceau of France, David Lloyd George of Britain, and Vittorio Orlando of Italy.

European nations, who had suffered far more than the United States, were cool to Wilson’s plans. They wanted to be repaid for some of their losses, and some had made secret wartime deals involving territorial changes and money settlements that contradicted provisions of the Fourteen Points.

The most important agreement reached at Versailles was the treaty with Germany, the **Treaty of Versailles**. According to its provisions, Germany had to do the following:

- Accept complete responsibility for causing the war
 - Pay huge reparations to the Allies
 - Give up its military forces
 - Cede lands to the new nations of Poland and Czechoslovakia
 - Give up its overseas colonies
- Wilson opposed many of the settlements of the Versailles Treaty and treaties with the other Central Powers. However, he was willing to

compromise because the treaties provided for a new world organization, the League of Nations. The League, Wilson believed, would correct any problems caused by the peace treaties.

The League of Nations

The United States Senate had to approve the Versailles Treaty, and there Wilson ran into a great deal of opposition. Wilson had angered Republicans by excluding them from the American delegation to the Versailles Conference. Yet Republicans had a majority of seats in the Senate. The chairman of its foreign relations committee, Henry Cabot Lodge, distrusted and disliked Wilson. The feeling was mutual.

Some features of the League of Nations worried Americans. They feared, for instance, that the United States might be obligated to furnish troops to defend member nations.

Wilson stubbornly refused to allow any but the most minor changes in the Treaty of Versailles. He became increasingly moralistic and uncompromising.

When Wilson went on a speaking tour to gain popular support for the treaty, he collapsed and then suffered a stroke. His illness thereafter prevented him from playing an active role in the treaty debate.

The Senate voted several times on the Treaty of Versailles, but always defeated it. The United States made a separate peace with Germany, and never did join the League. Fundamentally, the nation had voted to retain its traditional foreign policy of preferring nonintervention and of acting alone when it did choose to play a role.

Name: _____

- 1) The *main* objective of President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points was to
 - 1) encourage open immigration in industrial nations
 - 2) provide for a just and lasting peace
 - 3) establish a military alliance with European nations
 - 4) punish Germany for causing World War I
- 2) President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points were proposals that he believed would bring about
 - 1) a just and lasting peace
 - 2) the containment of fascism
 - 3) a reestablishment of the prewar political situation in Europe
 - 4) a reduction in United States involvement in world affairs
- 3) "We are to be an instrument in the hands of God to see that liberty is made secure for mankind."
—President Woodrow Wilson

President Wilson tried to carry out the idea expressed in this quotation by
 - 1) urging the Allies to adopt the Fourteen Points
 - 2) proposing a program of civil rights for minorities in American society
 - 3) taking control of territories conquered in World War I
 - 4) protesting the sinking of the Lusitania
- 4) President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points were based on the belief that
 - 1) the principle of self-determination should be applied to people of all nations
 - 2) isolationism should guide international relations
 - 3) industrial nations should have equal access to colonial possessions
 - 4) military strength is a nation's best path to world peace
- 5) The demand for German war reparations by the European Allies helps to explain the failure of the peace settlement following
 - 1) World War II
 - 2) the Vietnam War
 - 3) the Korean War
 - 4) World War I
- 6) Why did the Senate reject the Versailles Treaty (1919)?
 - 1) to express opposition to the harsh sanctions imposed on Germany
 - 2) to keep the United States free from foreign entanglements
 - 3) to avoid the dues for membership in the League of Nations
 - 4) to reduce United States military forces in Europe
- 7) After World War I, the opposition of some Members of Congress to the Versailles Treaty was based largely on the idea that the Treaty
 - 1) did not give the United States an important role in world affairs
 - 2) would require the United States to assume the cost of rebuilding the war-torn European economies
 - 3) would require the United States to join the League of Nations and might result in a loss of United States sovereignty
 - 4) did not punish the Central Powers harshly enough

- 8) The United States Senate rejected United States membership in the League of Nations after World War I mainly because its Senate opponents
- 1) feared that membership would infringe upon United States national sovereignty
 - 2) were more concerned about the domestic problems created by the Great Depression
 - 3) believed that membership would end United States participation in military alliances
 - 4) did not wish to give financial aid to an international organization
- 9) Evidence that the United States generally followed a policy of isolationism during the period 1919-1939 is that the United States
- 1) participated in disarmament conferences
 - 2) condemned Fascist aggression
 - 3) refused to join the League of Nations
 - 4) rejected the policy of appeasement
- 10) "The chief opponents of the Versailles Treaty were dead men: Washington, Jefferson, and Madison."

This statement suggests that opposition in the United States to the Versailles treaty was based on the

- 1) rejection of Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points
- 2) belief that the treaty was too harsh on the Central Powers
- 3) fear that the treaty would violate the tradition of noninvolvement
- 4) unhappiness of citizens with United States participation in World War I

Questions 11 and 12 refer to the following:



McCutcheon, Chicago Tribune, New York News Syndicate, Inc

- 11) According to the cartoon, the United States should follow a foreign policy of
- 1) noninvolvement
 - 2) collective security
 - 3) imperialism
 - 4) detente
- 12) The *main* purpose of the cartoon is to express opposition to which Presidential action?
- 1) Franklin Roosevelt's announcement of the Good Neighbor Policy
 - 2) Ronald Reagan's 1985 summit meeting with Chairman Gorbachev of the former Soviet Union
 - 3) Woodrow Wilson's support of the Treaty of Versailles
 - 4) Harry Truman's decision to send aid to Europe after World War II

13) Which statement about the League of Nations is an opinion?

- 1) President Wilson traveled widely to gather support for United States entry into the League.
- 2) The Senate refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles, which would have included United States entry into the League.
- 3) Senator Lodge was a leader in the fight to keep the United States out of the League.
- 4) President Wilson's unwillingness to compromise kept the United States from joining the League.