

SSWH17: DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF LONG-TERM CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I AND ITS GLOBAL IMPACT





Element C: Explain the major decisions made in the Versailles Treaty, include: German reparations and the Mandate System that replaced Ottoman control.

Paris Peace Conference


- When the war ended in 1919 the defeated Central Powers believed that all of Europe was equally to blame for the conflict and expected the peace terms to reflect this.
 - When negotiations began at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 it quickly became clear that the victors felt differently.
- The Allied negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference were dominated by the United States, Britain, France and Italy.
 - Woodrow Wilson of the United States arrived at the conference with a plan, called the Fourteen Points, that was designed to make World War I the war to end all wars.
 - The representatives of Britain, France, and Italy were less concerned with this idealistic goal and more concerned with punishing the Central Powers for causing the war.
- In the end the treaties that emerged from the conference included some of the idealism of Wilson's Fourteen Points and a great deal of the punishment planned by the European representatives.
 - While five treaties were actually negotiated and executed at the Paris Peace conference (one for each of the defeated nations), the treaty imposed on Germany, the Versailles Treaty, proved the most consequential.





Versailles Treaty (1919) & Mandate System

- Several of the ideas in Wilson's Fourteen Points were realized by the Versailles Treaty.
 - The League of Nations, an international body designed to prevent war by creating a forum for conflict resolution was established.
 - Wilson's beliefs about national self-determination were largely realized with the creation of the countries of Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Austria, and Hungary out of lands once controlled by the German, Russian, and Austro-Hungarian Empires.
- In theory, Wilson's calls for decolonization were heard with the creation of the Mandate System.
 - According to the treaty, the overseas colonies of Germany and the non-Turkish speaking lands of the Ottoman Empire were to become temporary mandates of the League of Nations.
 - As a mandate, each of these territories would be temporarily assigned to one of the Allied powers, mostly Britain and France.
 - The mandate holder was supposed to administer the territory temporarily while preparations were made for independence.
 - In practice most of the mandates simply proved to be new colonies for the mandate holder.
 - In the long-term, the mandates in the Middle East proved the most consequential.
 - In the British mandate of Palestine, Britain promised in the Balfour Declaration to create a Jewish State, over time this created conflict with the Palestinian Arabs already living in the region.





OTHER PROVISIONS AND TREATY'S FAILURES

- ❑ Other provisions of the Treaty of Versailles reflected the strong belief by the British, French and Italian representatives that Germany should be punished for the war. These provisions included:
 - The war-guilt clause that forced Germany to accept blame for the war.
 - The loss of 13% of Germany's total land area including Alsace and Lorraine.
 - Disarmament which only allowed Germany to maintain a token army of 100,000 troops.
 - \$32 billion in reparations to be paid by Germany to Britain, France and Belgium.
- ❑ These provisions designed to punish Germany humiliated the German people and laid the foundation for the rise of Hitler in the 1930s.
 - Further they aggravated the United States Senate who refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles.
 - Without ratification, the United States never joined the League of Nations.
- ❑ Without the United States as a member, the League of Nations was severely weakened and failed to maintain peace in the years leading to up to World War II.



SSWH17: DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF LONG-TERM CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I AND ITS GLOBAL IMPACT



Element D: Analyze the destabilization of Europe in the collapse of the great empires.

Collapse of Great European Empires' Dynasties

- ❑ With the Allied victory in the First World War, four great European empires came to an end.
- ❑ The German Reich under the Hohenzollern dynasty ended and was replaced by the Weimar Republic.
 - The Weimar government was generally weak and ineffective because of a lack of public confidence and political infighting among the multitude of political parties.
- ❑ The Habsburg dynasty of Austria-Hungary fell as this empire was split into several successor states.
 - Austria became a republic.
 - Hungary went through a period of political instability during which it had succession of governments.
- ❑ In Russia, three hundred years of Romanov rule ended with the Bolshevik Revolution, replacing the tsars with communist party rule.
- ❑ In the territory lost by these empires several new nation-states were created, including Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.
 - Political, social and economic insecurity dominated in these new states in the years after the war.
 - To the south, the Ottoman Empire ended in 1922 when the Ottoman sultan was replaced by the Turkish Republic.