



Lloyd George, Clemenceau, and Wilson (left to right) at the Paris Peace Conference. Above right, a medal sold to raise funds for wounded soldiers.



### WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

#### Worth the Cost?

Vera Brittain, a British nurse, lost her brother Edward and her fiancé Roland on the battlefield.

“Although they would no doubt have welcomed the idea of a League of Nations, Roland and Edward certainly had not died in order that Clemenceau should outwit Lloyd George, and both of them bamboozle President Wilson, and all three combine to make the beaten, blockaded enemy pay the cost of the War.”

—Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*

**Focus Question** What factors influenced the peace treaties that ended World War I, and how did people react to the treaties?

## Making the Peace

### Objectives

- Analyze the costs of World War I.
- Describe the issues faced by the delegates to the Paris Peace Conference.
- Explain why many people were dissatisfied with the Treaty of Versailles and other peace settlements.



Just weeks after the war ended, President Wilson boarded a steamship bound for France. He had decided to go in person to Paris, where Allied leaders would make the peace. Wilson was certain that he could solve the problems of old Europe. “Tell me what is right,” Wilson urged his advisors, “and I’ll fight for it.” Sadly, it would not be that easy. Europe was a shattered continent. Its problems, and those of the world, would not be solved at the Paris Peace Conference, or for many years afterward.

### Terms, People, and Places

|             |                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| pandemic    | radicals                    |
| reparations | collective security mandate |

### Note Taking

**Reading Skill: Summarize** As you read, summarize the main points of the text under the heading “The Costs of War” in a concept web like the one below.



### The Costs of War

The human and material costs of the war were staggering. Millions of soldiers were dead, and even more wounded. The devastation was made even worse in 1918 by a deadly **pandemic** of influenza. A pandemic is the spread of a disease across a large area—in this case, the whole world. In just a few months, the flu killed more than 20 million people worldwide.

**The Financial Toll** In battle zones from France to Russia, homes, farms, factories, roads, and churches had been shelled into rubble. People had fled these areas as refugees. Now they had to return and start to rebuild. The costs of reconstruction and paying off huge war debts would burden an already battered world.

Shaken and disillusioned, people everywhere felt bitter about the war. The Allies blamed the conflict on their defeated foes and insisted that the losers make **reparations**, or payments for war damage. The stunned Central Powers, who had viewed the armistice as a cease-fire



rather than a surrender, looked for scapegoats on whom they could blame their defeat.

**Political Turmoil** Under the stress of war, governments had collapsed in Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman empire. Political **radicals**, or people who wanted to make extreme changes, dreamed of building a new social order from the chaos. Conservatives warned against the spread of bolshevism, or communism, as it was soon called.

Unrest also swept through Europe's colonial empires. African and Asian soldiers had discovered that the imperial powers were not as invincible as they seemed. Colonial troops returned home with a more cynical view of Europeans and renewed hopes for independence.

**✓ Checkpoint** What were some of the human, economic, and political costs of the war?



SOURCE: *The Harper Encyclopedia of Military History*, R. Ernest Dupuy and Trevor N. Dupuy  
\* Includes war expenditures, property losses, and shipping losses

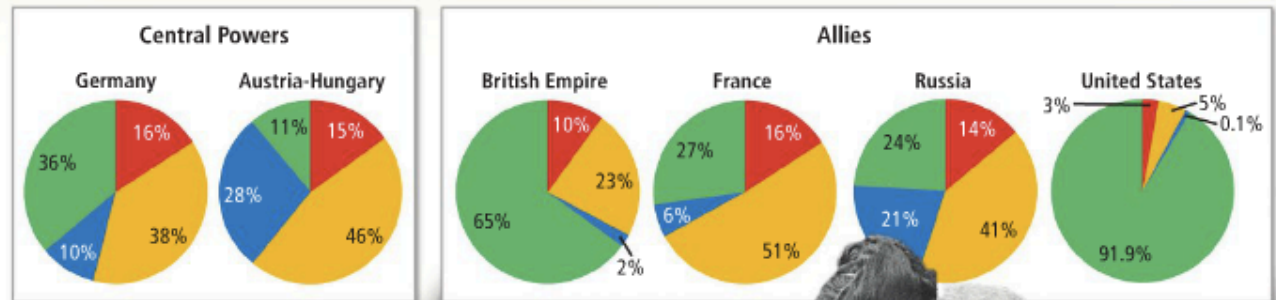
## ● INFOGRAPHIC

# The Costs of World War I

The war ended in 1918, but its effects would be felt for decades to come. More than 8.5 million men had died in battle. Twice that number had been wounded, many of them disabled for life. Historians estimate that from 6 to 13 million civilians also lost their lives as a result of the war. Many of the combatant nations had thrown all of their resources into the fight, leaving them little with which to rebuild. Below an American nurse tends to soldiers in France in 1918.

### Casualties of Mobilized Soldiers

■ Died ■ Taken prisoner  
■ Wounded and missing ■ Unharmd



SOURCE: *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 2004

## Thinking Critically

- 1. Draw Conclusions** Which two nations suffered the highest proportion of soldier deaths? Why were American casualties relatively low?
- 2. Predict Consequences** What long-term impact might the number of casualties have on a country like France?

## Note Taking



## The Paris Peace Conference

**Reading Skill: Categorize** One way to summarize information is to divide it into categories. In the table below, the left-hand column lists issues the world faced after World War I. As you read, categorize the information in the text in one of the second two columns.

| Issue                                       | Treaty Settlement | Problems |
|---|-------------------|----------|
| War Debt                                    |                   |          |
| Fear of German Strength                     |                   |          |
| Nationalism                                 |                   |          |
| Colonies and Other Non-European Territories |                   |          |
| League of Nations                           |                   |          |

The victorious Allies met at the Paris Peace Conference to discuss the fate of Europe, the former Ottoman empire, and various colonies around the world. The Central Powers and Russia were not allowed to take part in the negotiations.

**Conflicting Goals** Wilson was one of three strong leaders who dominated the Paris Peace Conference. He was a dedicated reformer and at times was so stubbornly convinced that he was right that he could be hard to work with. Wilson urged for “peace without victory” based on the Fourteen Points.

Two other Allied leaders at the peace conference had different aims. British prime minister David Lloyd George had promised to build a post-war Britain “fit for heroes”—a goal that would cost money. The chief goal of the French leader, Georges Clemenceau (KLEM un soh), was to weaken Germany so that it could never again threaten France. “Mr. Wilson bores me with his Fourteen Points,” complained Clemenceau. “Why, God Almighty has only ten!”

**Problems With the Peace** Crowds of other representatives circled around the “Big Three” with their own demands and interests. The Italian prime minister, Vittorio Orlando (awr LAN doh), insisted that the Allies honor their secret agreement to give former Austro-Hungarian lands to Italy. Such secret agreements violated the principle of self-determination.

Self-determination posed other problems. Many people who had been ruled by Russia, Austria-Hungary, or the Ottoman empire now demanded national states of their own. The territories claimed by these peoples often overlapped, so it was impossible to satisfy them all. Some ethnic groups became unwanted minorities in newly created states.

Wilson had to compromise on his Fourteen Points. However, he stood firm on his goal of creating an international League of Nations. The League would be based on the idea of **collective security**, a system in which a group of nations acts as one to preserve the peace of all. Wilson felt sure that the League could correct any mistakes made in Paris.

**Checkpoint** How did the goals of the Big Three leaders conflict at the Paris Peace Conference?

## The Treaty of Versailles

In June 1919, the Allies ordered representatives of the new German Republic to sign the treaty they had drawn up at the palace of Versailles (vur SY) outside Paris. The German delegates were horrified. The treaty forced Germany to assume full blame for causing the war. It also imposed huge reparations that would burden an already damaged German economy. The reparations covered not only the destruction caused by the war, but also pensions for millions of Allied soldiers or their widows and families. The total cost of German reparations would later be calculated at \$30 billion (the equivalent of about \$2.7 trillion today).

Other parts of the treaty were aimed at weakening Germany. The treaty severely limited the size of the once-feared German military. It returned Alsace and Lorraine to France, removed hundreds of square miles of territory from western and eastern Germany, and stripped Germany of its overseas colonies. The treaty compelled many Germans to





**Geography Interactive**  
 For: Audio guided tour  
 Web Code: nap-2641



leave the homes they had made in Russia, Poland, Alsace-Lorraine, and the German colonies to return to Germany or Austria.

The Germans signed because they had no choice. However, German resentment of the Treaty of Versailles would poison the international climate for 20 years. It would help spark an even deadlier world war in the years to come.

**Checkpoint** Why were the German delegates surprised when they read the treaty?

## Outcome of the Peace Settlements

The Allies drew up separate treaties with the other Central Powers. Like the Treaty of Versailles, these treaties left widespread dissatisfaction. Discontented nations waited for a chance to revise the peace settlements in their favor.

**Self-Determination in Eastern Europe** Where the German, Austrian, and Russian empires had once ruled, a band of new nations emerged. Poland became an independent nation after more than 100 years of foreign rule. The Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia fought for and achieved independence.

Three new republics—Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Hungary—rose in the old Hapsburg heartland. In the Balkans, the peacemakers created a new South Slav state, Yugoslavia, dominated by Serbia.

**The Mandate System** European colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific had looked to the Paris Peace Conference with high hopes. Colonial leaders expected that the peace would bring new respect and an end to imperial rule. However, the leaders at Paris applied self-determination only to parts of Europe. Outside Europe, the victorious Allies added to

**Map Skills** The peace treaties that ended World War I redrew the map of Europe.

- Locate** (a) Lithuania (b) Czechoslovakia (c) Yugoslavia (c) Poland (d) Danzig
- Regions** Which countries lost territory in Eastern Europe?
- Draw Conclusions** Why might the distribution of territory after World War I leave behind widespread dissatisfaction?

### Vocabulary Builder

widespread—(wyd SPRED) *adj.* occurring in many places



### Analyzing Political Cartoons

This cartoon portrays one view of the peace treaties that ended World War I.

- A** The turkey symbolizes Germany.
- B** Britain holds a carving knife and fork, ready to carve the turkey.
- C** Other Allies await the feast.

1. What does carving up the turkey symbolize?
2. What attitude do you think that the cartoonist has towards the treaties?

their overseas empires. The treaties created a system of **mandates**, territories administered by Western powers. Britain and France gained mandates over German colonies in Africa. Japan and Australia were given mandates over some Pacific islands. The treaties handled lands that used to be part of the Ottoman empire as if they were colonies, too.

In theory, mandates were to be held until they were able to stand alone. In practice, they became European colonies. From Africa to the Middle East and across Asia, people felt betrayed by the peacemakers.

**The League of Nations Offers Hope** The Paris Peace Conference did offer one beacon of hope with the establishment of the League of Nations. More than 40 nations joined the League. They agreed to negotiate disputes rather than resort to war and to take common action against any aggressor state.

Wilson's dream had become a reality, or so he thought. On his return from Paris, Wilson faced resistance from his own Senate. Some Republican senators, led by Henry Cabot Lodge, wanted to restrict the treaty so that the United States would not be obligated to fight in future wars. Lodge's reservations echoed the feelings of many Americans. Wilson would not accept Lodge's compromises. In the end, the Senate refused to ratify the treaty, and the United States never joined the League.

The loss of the United States weakened the League's power. In addition, the League had no power outside of its member states. As time soon revealed, the League could not prevent war. Still, it was a first step toward something genuinely new—an international organization dedicated to maintaining peace and advancing the interests of all peoples.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** Why did the League of Nations fail to accomplish Wilson's dreams?

## SECTION 4 Assessment

### Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice  
Web Code: naa-2641

#### Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

#### Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Summarize** Use your completed concept web and table to answer the Focus Question: What factors influenced the peace treaties that ended World War I, and how did people react to the treaties?

#### Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Make Generalizations** Describe conditions in Europe after World War I.
4. **Draw Conclusions** How did the peace treaties both follow and violate the principle of self-determination?
5. **Draw Inferences** Wilson's closest advisor wrote of the Paris Peace Conference, "there is much to approve and much to regret." What do you think he might have approved? What might he have regretted?

#### Writing About History

**Quick Write: Choose an Organization** Use an organizational strategy that suits the topic of your essay. For instance, if you are writing about one event with many causes, you might write one paragraph about each cause, followed by a paragraph that sums up the effects. If you are writing about a series of events, you might order your paragraphs chronologically.

Choose two topics from this section, one that suits the first type of organization and one that suits the second. Then write a brief outline for an essay about each.