Wilson’s 14 Points and the Treaty of Versailles

Learning Goal 2: Explain the impact of Wilson’s Fourteen Points and describe the political and economic impact of the Treaty of Versailles.
The US Enters WWI

- 1917
  - US neutral up until this point
  - Zimmerman Telegram
    - Germany asks Mexico to invade US
    - Message intercepted by British intelligence – US citizens outraged
  - U-boat attacks forces the United States into the war.
  - By 1918, five million American troops are in France.
The End of WWI

- The Central Powers (Austria-Hungary, Germany & The Ottoman Empire) are worn out
  - Spring 1918, The Ludendorff Offensive
    - The last German offensive of the war fails
  - German navy and factory workers rebel
  - Kaiser Wilhelm abdicates (gives up throne)
  - Austria-Hungary surrenders
The Armistice

- Germany signs an armistice (agreement to stop fighting) on November 11, 1918.
Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points

- Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points were first outlined in a speech Wilson gave to the American Congress in January 1918.
- Read the Handout of Fourteen Points.
- Analyze why this list was created.

Wilson's Fourteen Points became the basis for a peace program and it was on the back of the Fourteen Points that Germany and her allies agreed to an armistice in November 1918.
Wilson’s 14 points

- Wilson’s plan for lasting peace in Europe were laid out in 14 Points.
Wilson’s Foreign Policy Goals

- Spread Democracy (Self-determination)
- Open Markets (No tariffs)
- International Organization dedicated to keeping peace
- Active Global role for the United States
Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points

- Introduced the idea of a League of Nations - an international body of nations working to avoid future wars

- Argued that territorial/boundary changes should be based on “self-determination” of the group living within the territory

- Influence the future diplomatic relations between nations
  - Freedom of the seas, free trade, decolonization, arms reduction
“The Way to Peace”
Wilson with his 14 points choosing between competing claims. Babies represent claims of the English, French, Italians, Polish, Russians, and enemy.
Wilson’s 14 points in action

- He had to give up some of his 14 Points in order to gain acceptance for the creation of a League of Nations.
- The US would not join due to lack of Congressional support.
Treaty of Versailles

Paris Peace Conference
- Allied leaders meet to work out a peace treaty
- 32 countries represented.

The Big Four:
- Georges Clemenceau: France
- David Lloyd George: Great Britain
- Vittorio Orlando: Italy
- Woodrow Wilson: United States

Germany was not allowed a representative
What did the leaders want out of the Treaty?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Woodrow Wilson</th>
<th>Georges Clemenceau (France) and David Lloyd George (Italy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To create lasting peace among nations. (14 Points)</td>
<td>To punish Germany</td>
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</table>
Treaty of Versailles

- Treaty signed by WWI countries that ended the war.
- Directions ➔ As a group create a list you believe a victorious country would make a defeated country to agree to after the war.
- After the list is created, read the Treaty of Versailles and discuss the punishments placed on Germany.
- What sort of political and economic impact will occur?
Treaty of Versailles

- Terms of the Treaty: (add underlined to handout)
  1) Germany pays reparations ($33 billion)
  2) Demilitarization of Germany
     a) Keep 100,000 men and 6 battleships
     b) No submarines, tanks, poison gas, aircraft, and heavy artillery
  3) Germany gives Alsace-Lorraine to France
  4) Germany signs a war guilt clause
  5) Former German colonies divided among the allies
  6) Ban Germany and Austria from uniting (Anschluss)
  7) Demilitarize the Rhineland
  8) Trials for the Kaiser and other German leaders
  9) Several new nations were created and many borders were changed
  10) Create the League of Nations
Political Impact of the Treaty of Versailles

- Germany was forced to accept blame for the war by signing the war guilt clause.
- Demilitarization & loss of territory designed to humiliate Germany.
- Wilson conceded on his Fourteen Points to gain reluctant acceptance of the League of Nations by the European Powers.
- Lacking Congressional support of the treaty the United States never entered the League of Nations.
Economic Impact of Treaty of Versailles

- Britain and France wanted to economically cripple the Germans.
- Severe sanctions on Germany
  - Germany was forced to accept blame for the war by signing the war guilt clause → Had to pay for war

"Let's see you collect it."
—New York World.
Effects of WWI

- Weakened the power of Europe and began the rise of United States’ role as a world power
- Fragmented the Middle East and spread nationalism
- Ended the Austrian Hungarian Empire
- New political boundaries were drawn in Eastern Europe
- Economic disruption, war debt and economic depression in the USA led to economic depression in Europe
- Women Suffrage movement intensified
The Terms of the Treaty of Versailles 1919

**War Guilt Clause**
Germany had to accept blame for starting WW1

**Germany’s Military Forces Reduced**
- Army restricted to 100,000 men.
- No modern weapons such as tanks, military air force.
- Navy could not have battle ships over 10,000 tons and no U-Boats.

**No Union with Austria**

**Reparations**
Germany forced to pay massive fine for war damages - 1,000,000,000 Marks (6.6bn pounds).

**German Overseas Territories**
Germany lost Chinese ports [Amoy and Tsingtao], Pacific Islands, and African colonies [Tanganika and German SW Africa].

**German National Territory**
- Germany lost national territory which was given to Belgium and Denmark, most went to Poland.

**Rhineland to be De-militarised**

The Treaty was designed to cripple Germany militarily, territorially and economically.
Use the handout to compare & contrast President Wilson’s 14 Points to the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles
Compare/Contrast

- Use the handout to compare & contrast President Wilson’s 14 Points to the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles

**Fourteen Points**
- No secret treaties
- Self-determination for colonies
- Remove trade barriers
- Nothing about punishing Germany

**Treaty of Versailles**
- Freedom of seas/no blockades
- League of Nations
- Poland created
- Reduce armaments
- Ind. For Turkey & others
- Germany must accept guilt for the war
- Germany loses its colonies
- Germany must pay reparations
- International court created
League of Nations Created

- End to secret alliances
- Freedom of the seas
- Reduce economic barriers and tariffs to promote open trade
- Reduce armaments—stop the desire to have largest armies
- Self determination for all countries and people—colonies allowed to rule themselves

*United States didn’t join the League of Nations because wanted to return to isolationism

- Germany forced to accept blame for war and required to pay for the total cost of WWI
- Germany had to reduce size of its army
- Germany’s colonies divided amongst the allies
- Austria Hungary divided into four independent countries