

Year 9 Simulation

The Treaty of Versailles

By Mr McDonald

www.SchoolHistory.co.uk



From left to right: Lloyd George (UK), Italian Foreign Minister Giorgio Sonnino,
Georges Clemenceau (France) & Woodrow Wilson (USA)
The Great Powers at the Treaty of Versailles

War over - Peace declared !!!

Scenario

- 11th November 1918, 1100hrs - the war to end all wars have ended!
- 7,849,000 soldiers lay dead in the fields of Europe - a generation wiped out by bomb, bullet and gas.
- The Allied powers meet to decide on the key points surrounding the First World War. They were to decide who caused the war, who is to pay and what is to become of Germany, Austria and indeed Europe as a whole.

This simulation is to see what your responses would have been if you had been at the treaty.

The Rules

1. There is to be no shouting or raised voices of any kind - a diplomat does not raise their voice to answer a question or attack an opinion.
2. Remain seated.
3. No conferring with other tables as to their responses and answers.
4. If you need to speak to the Teacher then raise your hand - do not call out.
5. You must remain in your character during the simulation - only follow what your character would have done – not what you think you should do.
6. Be careful to make sure everyone has his or her say and no one is left out.

Character 1

The United States and Woodrow Wilson

- Wilson was born in 1856.
- He entered politics in 1910 and by 1912 was President.
- In 1916 he was re-elected under a pledge to remain out of the war but in 1917 he declared war on Germany.

He was an idealist and reformer who saw the war as a means to end wars forever by creating a 'League of Nations' that binds all nations together in a mutual alliance - much different from the alliances that were present before the war started (see point 14 below).

Major issues to take to the treaty

He had 14 points which he saw as a way of bringing peace

1. There should be no secret treaties; all international agreements should be open.
2. The seas were to be free to all countries at all times.
3. Customs barriers between countries should be removed.
4. Armaments should be reduced.
5. The wishes of the peoples in colonies should be taken into account when settling colonial claims.
6. German forces should leave Russia.
7. Belgium should be independent.
8. Alsace-Lorraine should be returned to France.
9. Italy's frontier with Austria should be adjusted to avoid confrontation with Austria.
10. There should be self determination for the peoples of Eastern Europe.
This allows different nationalities the right to govern themselves as independent nations.

11. Serbia should be given a coastline.
 12. There should be self-determination for the people of the Turkish empire.
 13. Poland should be independent and given a coastline.
 14. An International organisation should be set up to deal with international incidents and disputes (therefore avoiding war) - League of Nations.
- Wilson wanted a Europe that was saved from war but also available to trade with the United States. The U.S. had done well economically out of the war and saw trade as a key part of any peace deal (There are at least 4 points that deal with trade - can you spot them?).
 - Wilson had no national interests or claims to colonies - he wanted the league to look after them or for them to be self-governed.
 - However Wilson was prepared to compromise issues and points to get the League of Nations agreed to.

Character 2

France and Clemenceau

- Born in 1841 he was 77 when the talks began in 1919.
- He entered politics in 1871 and was Prime Minister from 1906 to 1909.
- During the war he was critical of the French war leaders.
- In 1917 he was elected again as leader.

Clemenceau was an old man who had seen his nation be invaded by the Germans in 1870 and again in 1914. France had suffered greatly. The youth of the nation had been lost to war and the nation ravaged by its effects.

Clemenceau was a hard uncompromising man (nicknamed 'the tiger') and therefore he wanted Germany to pay for what it had done to his nation and in doing so make sure that it never would be allowed to threaten France again.

Main issues to take to the Treaty

- Clemenceau wanted French troops on the Rhineland guarding against any future German attack.
- Clemenceau wanted Alsace-Lorraine back from Germany - they captured it in the war of 1870.
- Clemenceau wanted Germany to pay for everything that the war cost - this would cripple Germany and make France more powerful in Europe.

Character 3

Britain and Lloyd George

- Lloyd George was born in 1863.
- He entered politics in 1890.
- He became Prime Minister in 1916 - during the war.

Lloyd George was in a difficult situation. On one hand he was a realist and saw the need to compromise and make sure that Germany was not punished too much as that would cause more problems than it would solve. However, Lloyd George had just won an election promising to squeeze the pips out of Germany and the people in Great Britain wanted to see the German Head of State (the Kaiser) hang for starting the war.

Main issues to take to the treaty

- He disagreed with point two of Wilson's fourteen points as Britain who had always had a strong navy felt Britain and her Empire needed to have some control of the seas.
- Lloyd George felt that the British should be given Germany's colonies and the Turkish territories it had captured
- Lloyd George did want to see Germany weakened in some way through it's forces

Area of concern	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Blame – who is to blame for the war	Germany	No one nation can be blamed	
Cost of the War	£2,000,000,000	£6,600,000,000	£24,000,000,000
Germany must pay - but how much			
Germany military	Reduced to 100,000 men. German Navy reduced to 36 ships. No conscription allowed. No tanks, submarines or aircraft to be built. All wartime weapons to be melted down.	Reduced to 250,000 men. German Navy reduced to 50 ships. No conscription allowed. Allowed to keep all tanks, submarines and air force.	No further conscription, though forces to remain as before the war. All armed services to be at pre war levels.
Colonies These were mainly in Africa such as Togoland and Tanganyika, plus lands captured from the Turks.	The colonies are to be allowed to govern themselves as independent nations	France and Great Britain split the colonies and territories captured from Germany and Turkey.	The colonies are put under the control of the league of Nations until further decisions are made as to who is to run them.
Rhineland The area that lies on the German side of the border with France.	The Allies take control of the area not allowing the German military to have a presence in the area	The League of Nations occupies the area so no one nation has it under control	Allow the Germans some control of the area with Allied supervision under the control of the League of Nations.
Alsace-Lorraine	Returned to France	Germany allowed to keep it	Placed under the control of the league of Nations until a decision is made
Once part of France, it was taken by the Germans in 1870.			
Saar	Give to France for 15 years. The French need the coal mines to re build after war. Following this time the people of Saar vote to see if they want to be French or German.	Remain in Germany - the rich coalfields are needed to build the German economy after war.	Let Germany keep it - but half of any profit from the field must be given to the allies as war damages.
An area of Germany with excellent coal fields.			

Poland	Let it remain in German hands	Make it a protectorate under the League of Nations until a vote can see who should govern it.	Become an independent nation - this will cut off east Prussia (Germany) from the rest of Germany. It will have a port to trade with.
Danzig	Let the Germans keep it	Let the Polish have it	Make a free city.
A city of both German and Polish people.			
Finland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.	To become independent nations	Place under international control until the consequence can be viewed.	N/A
These were formerly part of Russia			
Czechoslovakia	Place under international control until the consequence can be viewed.	Make an independent nation	N/A
Formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire - the empire broke up.			

Year 9 Treaty of Versailles - Answer sheet

Area of concern	Result - please write in your result (also include any comments on your decision)	
	Option	Reason
Blame – who is to blame for the war?		
Cost of the War – How much should Germany pay?		
Germany military		
Colonies These were mainly in Africa such as Togoland and Tanganyika, plus lands captured from the Turks.		
Rhineland The area that lies on the German side of the border with France.		
Alsace-Lorraine Once part of France, it was taken by the Germans in 1870.		
Saar An area of Germany with excellent coal fields.		
Poland		
Danzig A city of both German and Polish people.		
Finland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. These were formerly part of Russia		
Czechoslovakia Formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire - the empire broke up.		

Signed: