World War I – The End of the War

The end of the War
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
  - March 3rd, 1918
  - Russian Revolution causes problems at home
    - Russians forced out of war
  - Very unfavorable to Russians
    - Lost Riga, Lithuania, Livonia, Estonia and some of White Russia
      - Germans allowed to exploit areas for war effort
      - Best farmland in Russian Empire
- Germany was encouraged by the withdrawal of Russia
  - final gamble: offensive in the west
  - March-July attack brought the Germans to the Marne river
    - 35 mi from Paris
    - 2nd battle of the Marne
    - French General Foch + 140,000 Americans won
      - Allies drive towards Germany
- Drive to the end
  - 2,000,000 Americans land and drive towards Germany
    - General Ludendorff tells German high command it is over
      - 9/29/18
  - Allies refuse to make peace with autocratic Imperial government
    - Reforms to make a liberal constitutional government
- November Revolution
  - Kiel Naval units mutiny
    - Councils of civilians and soldiers form all over Northern Germany
      - Like the Russian Soviets
    - Kaiser flees to Holland
      - Socialists under Friedrich Ebert announces a republic
- Armistice
  - November 11th, 1918
  - Temporary ceasefire to negotiate peace

German Republic
- Socialists
  - Socialists had split during the war
    - 1916
  - Social Democrats
    - Led by Friedrich Ebert
    - Wanted a gradual approach to socialism parliamentary democracy
  - Minority of Independent Social Democratic Party
    - Wanted and immediate social revolution to be carried out by workers, sailors, and soldiers
  - Independent Social Democratic Party
    - Led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg
- Changed the name to the German Communist Party
  - 1918
  - Organization
    - Two parallel governments in Germany
      - Parliamentary republic
        - Majority of Social Democrats
      - Revolutionary socialist republic
    - Radicals did not win
      - Unlike in Russia
- Moderates ended the war
  - Ebert elected President
    - German Social Democratic Party
  - Removed a major source of dissatisfaction
  - Communists tried to seize power in “Second Revolution”
    - January 1919
    - Ebert used socialists, regular army, and free corps to suppress the Communists
      - In Berlin and Munich
      - Liebknecht and Luxemburg were murdered
    - Uprising
      - Deep fear of communism among German middle class
        - Hitler will use this in the future

Austria-Hungary
- Nationalist forces
  - Broke up the empire
    - Austria
    - Hungary
    - Czechoslovakia
    - Yugoslavia
      - Large Slavic monarchy
  - Resulting rivalries weakened Eastern Europe for 80 years
  - Ethnic pride more important than class issues
    - Bela Kun attempted a communist government in Hungary
      - Lasted 5 months

Treaty of Versailles
- Paris Peace Conference
  - January 1919
  - Separate treaties with each defeated nation
- Big 4
  - United States President Woodrow Wilson
  - French Prime Minister George Clemenceau
  - British Prime Minister David Lloyd George
  - Italian Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando
  - Germany not invited
  - Russia too busy with revolution
- Goals
  - Main hope is eternal peace
    - “The war to end all wars
  - Wanted to make it virtually impossible for future wars
- Problems
  - Reconciling conflicting claims and expectation
Idealistic Fourteen points of Wilson

- Versus French desire to punish Germans
- Germans hoped that they would be the basis of the peace
  - Allies accepted most of the reluctantly
  - “Open covenants, openly arrived at”
    - No more secret treaties or negotiations
  - “Self determination of peoples”
    - European peoples should be allowed to decide whether they want to be independent or not
      - Wilson did not, however believe Asians, Africans, etc, were capable of determining their independence
  - “Impartial adjustment of colonial claims”
    - Taking into account ‘interests of the populations involved and ‘equitable claims of the government’
- Reductions in national armaments
  - Washington Naval Treaty 1919
- Freedom of the seas
- Removal “as far as possible” of trade barriers
- Creation of a league of nations
  - Wilson believed the League of Nations would solve any problems in the future that were not solved now
- Wilson’s list basically gave everyone a better life!
  - United States and Britain both wanted this very badly
  - Rest were very reluctant to accept

- Secret Treaty of London
  - Italy was promised territory
    - Austrian Tyrol
    - Yugoslavia
    - Near East
    - Treaty only became public after the war

- Post-War Demands
  - French
    - Harsher approach to Germany
    - Guarantee of French borders
    - Create a demilitarized Germany
      - Use the Rhineland as a buffer state
    - Demilitarize Germany
    - Make Germany PAY for the costs of the war
      - Germany ruined the French country
      - Making the Germans pay will make it hard for them to rearm in the future
  - British
    - George was a “moderate”
      - English mood different
        - “make the Germans pay”
        - “hang the Kaiser”
  - Italy
    - Wanted Irredenta
      - All lands that spoke Italian to be part of Italy

- Question over boundaries
  - Wilson called for self determination
  - Experts would be used to determine boundaries based on ethnicity
Fear of the spread of Bolshevism
  - Enlarging and strengthening Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania
    - At the expense of Germany and Russia

Terms of Treaty of Versailles with Germany
  - **Signed June 28, 1919**
  - **Germany lost territory**
    - France got Alsace Lorraine
    - Denmark got part of Schleswig
    - Poland got West Prussia and Posen for a Polish Corridor to the sea
    - Saar River basin under the control of the League for 15 years
      - France got to mine the coal and keep the profits
    - Germany must recognize the independence of Poland and Czechoslovakia
    - Japan got German rights in China
    - Germany and Austria must never merge
  - **Limits on German military**
    - General staff dissolved
    - Long enlistments
    - Max 100,000 men
    - Abolished the German air force
    - Rhineland demilitarized
  - **War guilt clause**
    - War was Germany and Austria’s fault
    - Commission to decide on reparations Germany had to pay
    - Its covenant is part of the treaty

Results of the treaty
  - Germans were very bitter
    - Especially about “war guilt”
    - Germany had not really been defeated but was “stabbed in the back”
      - Blamed socialists, democrats, and pacifists
        - Hitler throws in Jews as well later
  - Idealists disappointed
    - Clemenceau gave up his hope for an independent Rhineland
      - In exchange for a defensive alliance with the United States and Britain
        - Help if France were to be attacked by Germany
    - United States Senate refused to ratify the alliance treaty
      - Britain also withdrew
      - France was left alone
        - France was left to take strong actions against Germany
    - “Le bon Dieu n’avait que dix”
      - “God only had 10”
      - Clemenceau’s response to 14 Points of Peace
  - Positives in the treaty

![Map of Europe showing the influence of Germany and the new borders after the Treaty of Versailles](image)
- Minorities were freed from foreign control
- League of Nations
  - United States refused to join
- Other results
  - Russia lost territory
  - Austrian Empire disappeared
  - New nations were created
    - Finland
    - Latvia
    - Estonia
    - Lithuania
    - Poland
    - Czechoslovakia
    - Austria
    - Hungary
    - Yugoslavia
  - Other minority problems
    - Still had mixes
      - “Germans in Poland, and Poles in Czechoslovakia…”
  - Ottoman Empire was reduced to Turkey
    - Lost land to mandates
      - Lebanon and Syria went to France
      - Iraq and Palestine went to England