

World War I – The End of the War

The end of the War

- **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk**
 - o March 3rd, 1918
 - o Russian Revolution causes problems at home
 - Russians forced out of war
 - o 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
 - o final gamble: offensive in the west
 - o 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
 - o 2,000,000 Americans land and drive towards Germany
 - General Ludendorff tells German high command it is over
 - 9/29/18
 - o Allies refuse to make peace with autocratic Imperial government
 - Reforms to make a liberal constitutional government
 - o **November Revolution**
 - Kiel Naval units mutiny
 - Councils of civilians and soldiers form all over Northern Germany
 - o Like the Russian Soviets
 - *Kaiser flees to Holland*
 - Socialists under Friedrich Ebert announces a republic
- Armistice
 - o **November 11th, 1918**
 - o Temporary ceasefire to negotiate peace



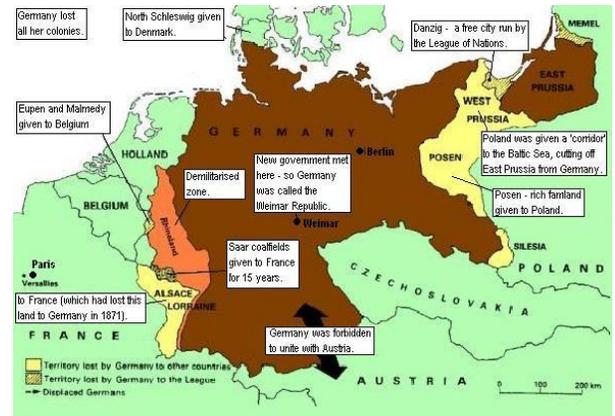
German Republic

- Socialists
 - o Socialists had split during the war
 - 1916
 - o Social Democrats
 - Led by **Friedrich Ebert**
 - Wanted a gradual approach to socialism parliamentary democracy
 - o Minority of Independent Social Democratic Party
 - Wanted and immediate social revolution to be carried out by workers, sailors, and soldiers
 - o Independent Social Democratic Party
 - Led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg



- **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



- 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

