

THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES



GERMANY WAS GUILTY

NORTHERN SCHLESWIG TO DENMARK

LAND TO POLAND

ALL COLONIES TAKEN AWAY

ALSACE AND LORRAINE TO FRANCE

REPARATIONS FOR DAMAGE (£6600 MILLIONS)

MAXIMUM ARMY - 100,000 MEN. ONLY 6 BATTLESHIPS. NO AEROPLANES.

Source 7:



Germany was stripped of its armed forces and land.

Source 8: Scott



A German cartoon published in 1919. The German mother is saying to starving child: 'When we have paid one hundred billion marks then I can give something to e...'

Source 11:

PEACE AND FUTURE CANNON FODDER

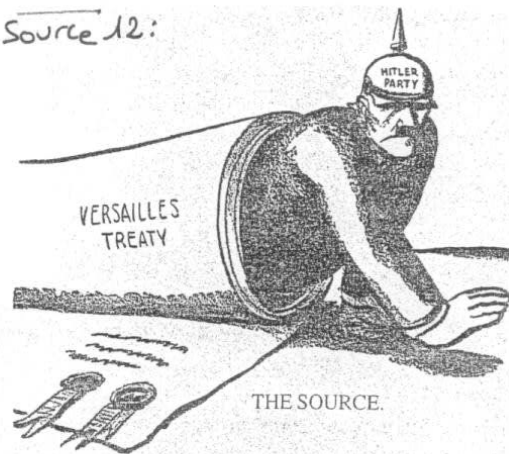


A British cartoon of 1920. The 'class of 1940' who are weeping are the children of the 1920s who might die in a future war.

Source 9: Friedrich Ebert, Socialist President of Germany

We shall never forget those who are to be severed from us. They will be torn from the Reich, but they will not be torn from our hearts.

Source 12:



US cartoon from 1930

Source 10:

Severe as the Treaty seemed to many Germans, it should be remembered that Germany might easily have fared much worse. If Clemenceau had had his way... the Rhineland would have become an independent state, the Saar would have been annexed [joined] to France and Danzig would have become a part of Poland...

... a fair judgment upon the settlement, a simple explanation of how it arose, cannot leave the authors of the new map of Europe under serious reproach. To an overwhelming extent the wishes of the various populations prevailed.

Winston Churchill, speaking in 1919. He had been a member of the government and a serving officer during the war.

- The Treaty of Versailles -

Sources

Source 1: Marshal Foch of France
1919 July

This is not a peace. It is an armistice for twenty-one years.

Source 2:
Georges Clemenceau
(Prime Minister of France)



- ★ **Background**
 - Born 1841 (aged 77 when the Paris Conference began).
 - First entered French politics in 1871.
 - Was Prime Minister from 1906 to 1909. From 1914 to 1917 he was very critical of the French war leaders. In November 1917 he was himself elected to lead France through the last years of the war.

★ **Character**
A hard, tough politician with a reputation for being uncompromising. He had seen his country invaded twice by the Germans, in 1870 and in 1914. He was determined not to allow such devastation ever again.

Source 3:

David Lloyd George
(Prime Minister of Britain)



- ★ **Background**
 - Born 1863.
 - First entered politics in 1890. A very able politician who became Prime Minister in 1916 and remained in power until 1922.
- ★ **Character**
Lloyd George was a realist. As an experienced politician he knew there would have to be compromise. He could be seen as the 'halfway point' between the views of Wilson and those of Clemenceau.

Source 5:

Woodrow Wilson
(President of the USA)



- ★ **Background**
 - Born 1856.
 - Became a university professor.
 - First entered politics in 1910.
 - Became President in 1912 and was re-elected in 1916.
- ★ **Character**
Wilson was an idealist, and a reformer. As President he had campaigned against corruption in politics and business. He concentrated on keeping the USA out of the war. Once the USA had joined the war he drew up the Fourteen Points as the basis for ending the war fairly, so that future wars would be avoided.

Source 4:

If I am elected Germany is going to pay... I have personally no doubt we will get everything that you can squeeze out of a lemon, and a bit more. I propose that every bit of [German-owned] property, movable and immovable, in Allied and neutral countries, whether State property or private property, should be surrendered by the Germans.

Sir Eric Geddes, a government minister, speaking to a rally in the general election campaign of December 1918.

Source 6:

THE FOURTEEN POINTS

- 1 No secret treaties.
- 2 Free access to the seas in peacetime or wartime.
- 3 Free trade between countries.
- 4 All countries to work towards disarmament.
- 5 Colonies to have a say in their own future.
- 6 German troops to leave Russia.
- 7 Independence for Belgium.
- 8 France to regain Alsace-Lorraine.
- 9 Frontier between Austria and Italy to be adjusted.
- 10 Self-determination for the peoples of eastern Europe (they should rule themselves).
- 11 Serbia to have access to the sea.
- 12 Self-determination for the people in the Turkish Empire.
- 13 Poland to become an independent state with access to the sea.
- 14 League of Nations to be set up.