

US History World War I

Learning Target:

I can analyze why Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points were not included in the Treaty of Versailles.

10. Peace Is Reached

Wilson's Fourteen Points –

- Wilson understood that the armistice was only the first step towards peace
- Had invited scholars to advise him on potential solutions for a peace treaty
- Wilson's proposal to the allies for a lasting peace in Europe & the World

January 8, 1918 –

- Wilson presented his Fourteen Points to Congress before leaving for Europe
- Wilson's proposal to the allies for a lasting peace in Europe & the World

The Fourteen Points –

- Nine of the 14 points dealt with self-determination of people
 - Believed strongly in people's right to govern themselves
- Some points focused on modern warfare causes
 - Secret diplomacy, arms race, trade barriers, violations of sea
- Final point –
 - League of Nations – International body to prevent offensive wars

The Paris Peace Conference (January 18, 1918) –

The Big Four –

- USA – Woodrow Wilson
 - Great Britain – David Lloyd George
 - France – Georges Clemenceau
 - Italy – Vittorio Orlando
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- All of the Big Four but Wilson supported huge war reparations for Germany
 - Violated many aspects of Wilson's Fourteen Points peace plan

The Signing of the Treaty of Versailles –

- June 28, 1918 – Treaty of Versailles signed
- Secretary of State Robert Lansing – “The terms of peace appear immeasurably harsh and humiliating.”

Results of the Treaty of Versailles –

- Established nine new nations (Poland, Czechoslovakia, & Yugoslavia)
- Parts of Ottoman Empire given to France and Great Britain until new nations could be established
- France re-claimed Alsace-Lorraine from Germany
- Germany disarmed, admitted responsibility, and charged billions in reparations
- League of Nations created – Wilson hoped this may remedy some of the injustices in the treaty to prevent further war.

The Treaty Goes To The Senate –

- Wilson knew Democrats would support the treaty, needed Republican support

Woodrow Wilson –

- Went out on a speaking tour to gain support for the treaty
- Sept. 25, 1919 – Wilson complained of a headache in Pueblo, CO
- Few days later collapsed from a near fatal stroke in D.C.

The Fate of the Treaty –

- Treaty of Versailles would never pass through the Senate
- US did not join the League of Nations
- Wilson finished his term in office in seclusion in the White House refusing to compromise

The Impact of World War I –

Statistical Losses –

- Over 8.5 million people died in battle
- 21 million soldiers were wounded
- Much of Europe including Northern France left in complete ruin

Impact on US –

- Strengthened the military & the power of the government
- Accelerated social change for minorities & women

Impact on Europe –

- Caused political instability across much of Europe
- Communism came to Russia
- Fascism came to Germany, Italy, & Spain

War To End All Wars?

“It cannot be that two million (Germans) should have fallen in vain . . . No, we do not pardon, we demand – vengeance!” – Adolf Hitler after WWI