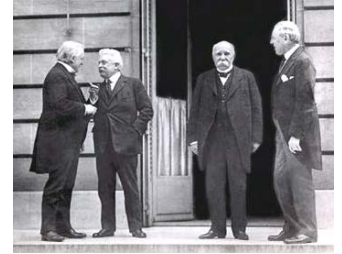


THE END OF WORLD WAR I

Up until 1917, the war had seemed as though it would go on forever. Other nations had entered the war but the trench warfare of WWI made it seem as though the war would end in a **stalemate**. It was not until the United States entered the war in 1917 (on the side of the Allies) that the balance finally tipped in favor of the Allies. One by one the Central powers began to surrender. In November of 1918, leaders from Germany and France met to sign an **armistice**, finally bringing the war to an end.



The Paris Peace Conference

In January 1919, the victorious Allies gathered at the Palace of Versailles (outside of Paris, France) to work out the terms of peace. However, each nation had different goals, which caused conflicts between them.

Read the agenda of each nation and describe their goals in your own words.

“There are only two races—the human race and the German race. The Germans must be made to realize the enormity (terrible nature) of their crime. They must be hit in their pride and property.”

-Premier Georges Clemenceau of France

Describe France’s agenda:

“Germany must surrender her colonies and pay reparations (the cost of war damages) to the allies for their part in starting the war. I am against the French position, which would ruin Germany and Europe would lose a valuable trading partner.”

Prime Minister David Lloyd George of Britain

Describe Britain’s agenda:

“Italy’s main goal is its territory. We entered the war on the Allied side in 1915 because of promises made in a secret treaty that Italy would be given territory on our side of the Alps (mountains) that Austria-Hungary controlled.”

-Premier Vittorio Orlando of Italy

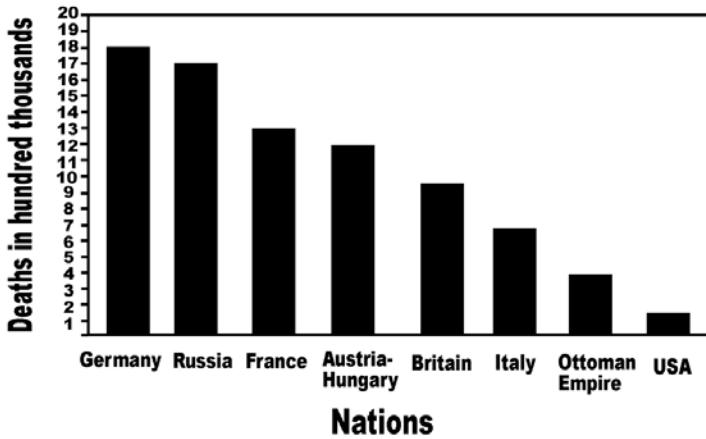
Describe Italy’s agenda:

“Peace must be based on the Fourteen Points which stand for peace with justice. I believe a just peace requires open diplomacy (peaceful international relations), freedom of the seas, reduction of weapons among nations, readjustment of colonial claims on a fair basis, and the creation of a League of Nations to guarantee world peace.”

-President Woodrow Wilson of the USA

Describe the US agenda:

Battlefield Deaths in WWI



Compare the goals of France and the U.S. How does the information in this chart relate to the goals that these two nations have?

The results of the Paris Peace conference became known as the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. **Read the terms of the treaty and answer the questions below.**

Treaty of Versailles

- Germany must accept the entire blame for the war.
- Germany must return all territories they took from France.
- Germany must give areas of Eastern Germany to Poland (even though 40% of the people who lived there were German)
- Germany must give up all of their overseas territory and possessions to the Allies
- Germany cannot have a military larger than 100,000 soldiers
- Germany must pay \$33 Billion dollars in damages to the Allies
- A League of Nations is created to settle international disputes peacefully

Are the terms of the treaty fair for all nations? Explain.

Use the video to answer the following questions:

1. Explain how the nations of Europe changed as a result of WWI.

2. Why did the leaders decide to blame Germany for the war?

3. What did the famous economist John Maynard Keynes warn about the treaty?

DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP: How might this treaty lead to future problems in Europe?