



Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

IGCSE Cambridge
International Relations since 1919



Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What were the motives & aims of the Big Three at Versailles?



Check out our youtube channel: GCSE History

- . Armistice 1918
- . Treaty of Versailles
- . Paris 1919
- . 1919: The Treaty of Versailles - C20th Almanac
- . Woodrow Wilson: The great romantic
- . Treaties of Sevres and Lausanne
- . Dissolving The Ottoman Empire - The Treaty of Sèvres



Recommended websites:

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/treaty-of-versailles>

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/versailles.htm>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/greatwar/g5/cs2/background.htm>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/treaty-of-versailles>

<https://www.historyonthenet.com/world-war-one-the-treaty-of-versailles/>

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What were the motives & aims of the Big Three at Versailles?

Paris Peace Conference

January - June 1919



World War I

Allies

France, Britain,
Russia & USA



Central Powers

Germany, Turkey,
Austria-Hungary

Areas of fighting Gallipoli

Allies attacked Turkey to force Turkey out of the war, to reopen supply routes to Russia & to attack Austria from the south. It was a disaster and the Allies had to retreat.

War at Sea

Neither the British or Germans wanted a big sea battle. After the Battle of Jutland the German ships returned to port and stayed there for the rest of the war. The German submarines (U-boats) attacked ships supplying Britain from the USA. Attacking US ships meant the US entered the war in 1917.

Western Front

German, British & French armies met in France and Belgium. Soon there was stalemate and both sides dug trenches. Millions of soldiers died fighting on the Western Front.

Conference aims:

1. to decide on the terms of the peace
2. to sign peace treaties with the central powers

Attendees: Countries who had won the war (27)

Those that were not allowed to attend: Russia - it had surrendered to the Germans in 1917

The Central Powers - Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey & Bulgaria

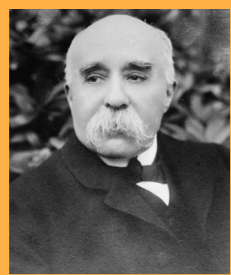
Of the 27 countries that attended the conference, three had the most power:

The Big Three:

USA: President Woodrow Wilson

France: Prime Minister George Clemenceau

Britain: Prime Minister David Lloyd George



1.3



France

Prime Minister George Clemenceau nicknamed 'The Tiger'

The French people wanted revenge. The fighting had destroyed farms, factories and towns in France, killed and wounded over 3 million

Revenge: Germany to pay for the war

Punish: humiliate Germany by taking land & blame them for the war

Britain

Prime Minister David Lloyd George

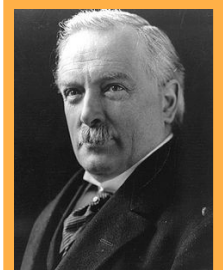
The British people wanted revenge, but Lloyd George did not want to punish too harshly or Germany might become communist or get revenge later.

Peace: less powerful army & navy for Germany

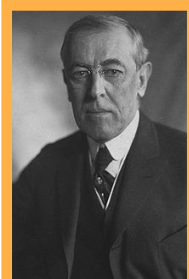
Punish: take away German colonies



1.4



1.5



USA

President Woodrow Wilson

Peace: 'Fourteen Points' including:

- . no more secret treaties . countries have less weapons & smaller armies .
- . self-determination - people choose their leaders, not ruled by other countries, including colonies . France to regain Alsace-Lorraine .

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What were the motives & aims of the Big Three at Versailles?

1a

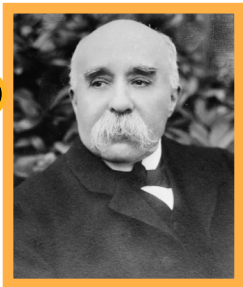
Mix & Match " Who said what? "

Name: _____

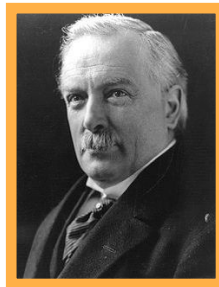
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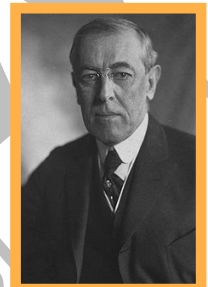
a



b



c



Draw an arrow to link the leader with his quote

"We should take away Germany's colonies."

"We need a League of Nations."

"Germany should be kept weak."

"Germany should pay for the war."

"They called me the Tiger."

"Germany should pay for the war."

"Our people want revenge."

"Germany should be humiliated."

"We believe in self-determination."

"No more secret treaties."

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1b

ANSWERS - you have the answers but what is the question?

Answer

Question

Paris Peace
Conference

Clemenceau

Central Powers

Wilson

Fourteen Points

The Big Three

Lloyd-George

Self-determination

Clemenceau

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What was the impact of the peace treaty on Germany?

Treaty of Versailles - Germany



1.6

PUNISHMENT FOR GERMANY

LAND

- Colonies taken away
- Land given to Poland
- Land given to France
- Land given to Belgium
- Saar land given to League for 15 years
- Split into two parts: Germany & East Prussia

MILITARY

- Army = 100,000 men
- No Tanks
- Navy = 6 ships
- No submarines
- No airforce
- No army in the Rhineland

MONEY

- Pay reparations (the cost of the war) of £6,600 million over 42 years

BLAME

- War Guilt - Germany had to admit that the war was their fault

ALLIANCES

- Germany not allowed to unite with Austria

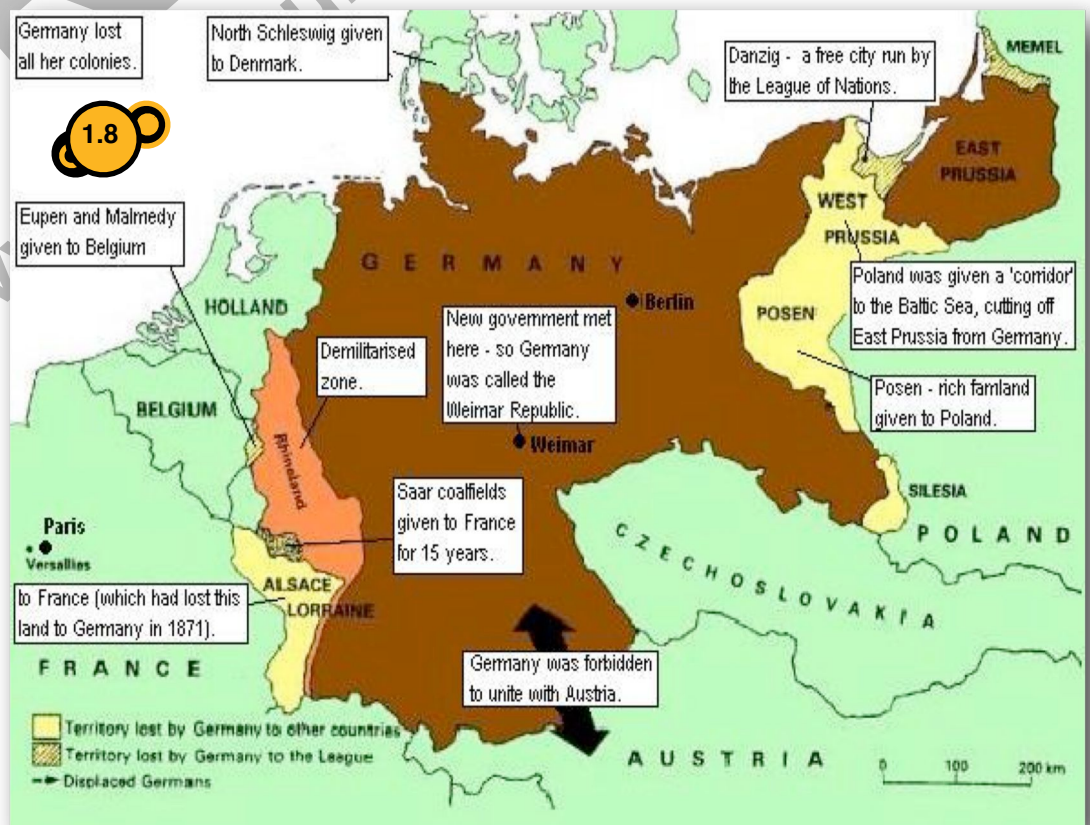
Nobody was happy with the final settlement because:

1. All the different countries had their own ideas
2. There were lots of problems to deal with
3. The German people were starving whilst the conference was meeting
4. Decisions had to be made quickly - they ran out of time



A compromise was reached but:

- France thought Germany was not punished enough
- Britain thought it was too tough on Germany
- USA wanted its ideas on world peace to be used
- Germany hated the Treaty and soon wanted revenge



Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

Impact of other Treaties

1

PUNISHMENT FOR AUSTRIA

Treaty of St. Germain

. Austria lost land to Italy,
Czechoslovakia & Serbia

MILITARY

- . Smaller army of 30,000

MONEY

- . Pay reparations (but did not pay any money)

ALLIANCES

- Austria not allowed to unite with Germany

PUNISHMENT FOR HUNGARY

Treaty of Trainon

LAND

. Hungary lost land to Czechoslovakia, Romania & Serbia

MILITARY

. Smaller army of 35,000

MONEY

. Was to pay but never did

PUNISHMENT FOR BULGARIA

Treaty of Neuilly

LAND

. Bulgaria lost land to Greece,
Romania & Serbia

MONEY

- Pay £90 million reparations

PUNISHMENT FOR TURKEY

Treaty of Sevres

LAND

- . Lost most of its land
- . Land given to France & Britain
- . League of Nations controlled its colonies

Other Treaties - Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria & Turkey

Treaty of St. Germain (Austria) 1919 & Trianon (Hungary) 1920



1.

Treaty of Sevres

Turkey

Treaty of Neuilly

Bulgaria



1.

Treaty of Sevres

Turkey



Punishment for the Central Powers

Less severe than on Germany, causing more resentment amongst the Germans, who felt that the Treaty of Versailles was unfair.

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What were the motives & aims of the Big Three at Versailles?

The Treaties: True or False

1c

	Statement	T	F
1	Germany and Austria not allowed to unite		
2	Germany's army restricted to 1,000,000 soldiers		
3	Germany split into three parts: Germany, East Prussia & West Prussia		
4	Saarland given to France for 15 years		
5	Germany blamed for causing World War One		
6	Poland was given access to the sea		
7	Everyone was happy with the final settlement		
8	Germany was allowed a small airforce		
9	Britain thought the treaty was too tough on Germany		
10	Germany hated the treaty and wanted revenge		
11	Britain got land from Germany		
12	Alsace-Lorraine stayed with Germany		
13	Germany had to pay reparations		
14	The German navy was limited to 60 ships		
15	Germany lost all its colonies		
16	France was happy with the punishment of Germany		
17	The decisions at Versailles were rushed as they ran out of time		
18	Austria did not pay any reparations		
19	Turkey kept most of its land		
20	Hungary lost a lot of its land		

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What were the motives & aims of the Big Three at Versailles?



test your knowledge

The Treaties: the report

Country	Which treaty & what happened?	How badly was the country treated? /10
Austria		
Hungary		
Bulgaria		
Turkey		

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What were the consequences of the Treaty for Germany?



Consequences - Germany



GERMAN ANGER

DIKTAT

Germans called the Treaty the 'dictated peace'. This means the Germans were told what their punishment was.

LAND

Germans were angry that their country was split into two and foreign soldiers were in the Rhineland & Saar areas.

RESOURCES

Germany was angry that 74% of its iron ore & 26% of its coal was taken away.

FAIRNESS

Germany was angry that it was punishment more harshly than others and its armed forces were made to be very weak.

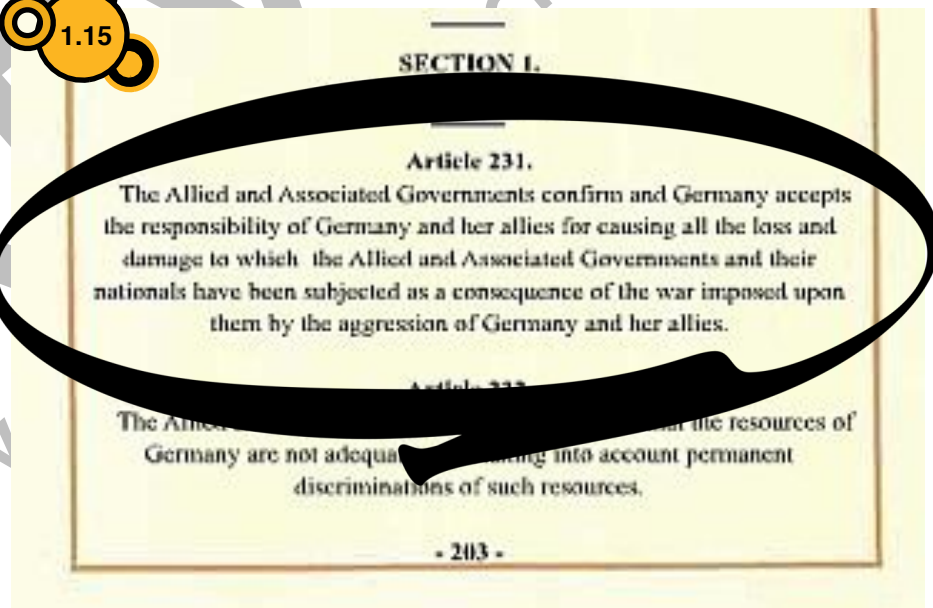
Only Germany was stopped from uniting with its own people in Austria.

1.14

FOR the Treaty

1. Keep Germany weak so it could not start another war
2. The war cost a lot of money and Germany should pay money to help other countries who borrowed money from the USA

1.15



1.16

AGAINST the Treaty

1. People in Germany will be poor and some even die
2. Germany will want revenge if punished too much
3. If Germany is weak the rest of Europe will suffer

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What was the impact of the peace treaty on Germany?

1

1.17

DAWES PLAN

France & Britain
pays USA
for WWI
loans

USA lends
Germany
money



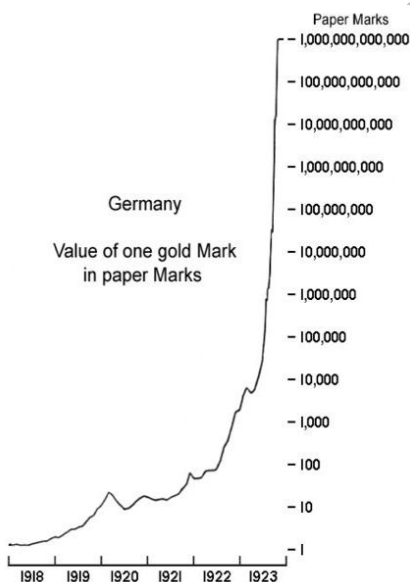
Germany pays
reparations to
France &
Britain

Germany
rebuilds
factories and
trades

1.18

HYPER-INFLATION

Hyper inflation in Germany
makes money worthless



Consequences - Germany



1.19

1922 - Payment

Germany pays a small amount of what it owes then asks to stop paying for 2 years - the Allies refuse

1.20

1924 - The Dawes Plan

1. Germany pay mainly France
2. Germany pay less so it could some of the money for its own people
3. France take soldiers out of Germany
4. USA to lend Germany money to help her rebuild its industry

1.21

1923 - Invasion of the Ruhr

1. Germany fails to pay its reparations
2. France & Belgium send troops into the Ruhr area & takes coal, iron & steel instead of money
3. Germany is very angry & its workers stop working in the Ruhr
4. German government prints extra money to pay workers who have stopped working in the Ruhr.
5. Printing extra money causes inflation - money becomes worth less. Bread cost 0.63 marks in 1919, then 201,000,000 marks in Nov. 1923
6. New Chancellor, Stresemann gets workers to go back to work & says he will start paying reparations again

1929 - The Young Plan

1. Replaced the Dawes Plan - money to be paid by Germany to be reduced & paid over 60 years

1.22

1932 - End of Reparations

1. Germany stops paying because of the 'depression'
2. The Nazis come to power & refuse to pay

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What was the impact of the peace treaty on Germany?



Consequences - Germany

test your knowledge

For each event explain the effect on Germany - positive and negative

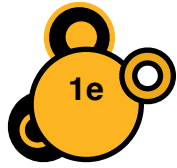
Event	Positive for Germany	Negative for Germany
Reparation payments		
Hyperinflation		
Dawes Plan		
Invasion of the Ruhr		
Young Plan		

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What was the impact of the peace treaty on Germany?

Consequences - Germany: Answers

We give you the answer, you write the question!



1e

a

Answer: The Dawes Plan

b

Answer: France & Belgium send troops into the Ruhr

c

Answer: Germany prints extra money

d

Answer: The Young Plan

e

Answer: End of Reparations

f

Answer: Hyperinflation

g

Answer: Streseman

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

Could the treaties be justified at the time?

Contemporary opinions about the treaties

1.23

a

"It was a peace of revenge. It sowed a thousand seeds from which new wars might spring. It was as though the Devil had sat beside Clemenceau and whispered madness into the ear of Wilson and grinned across the table at Lloyd George."

British historian, 1929

c

"This is not peace. It is an armistice for fifteen years."

Marshall Foch, French commander-in-chief of the Allied armies in 1917

e

The fundamental falsehood on which the Versailles Treaty is built is the theory that Germany was solely and entirely responsible for the war. No fair-minded student of the war and its causes can accept this idea; but the propaganda story of Germany's guilt has been said so often.... our people have come to regard it as the truth which justifies the provisions of the most brutal and unjust Treaty in the world's history.

USA Captain E. N. Bennett, speech at on 11th November, 1920

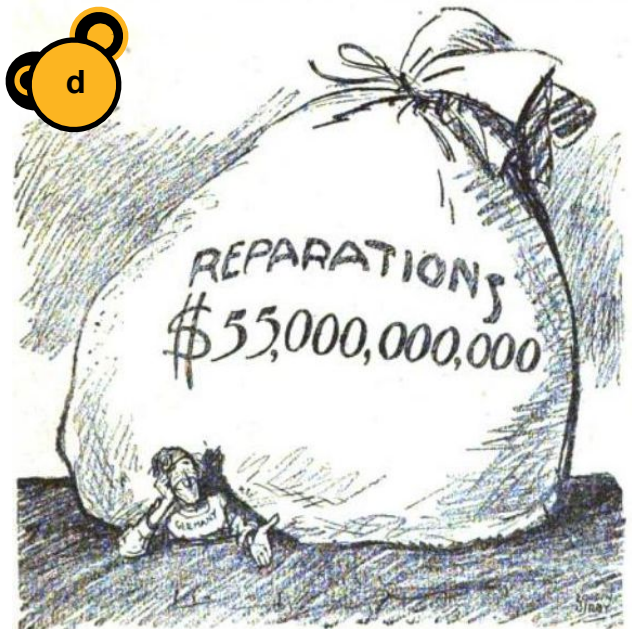
Cartoon showing the 'war guilt clause' of the Treaty of Versailles

b

Lloyd-George

"... all a great pity. We shall have the same thing all over again in 25 years time at three times the cost."

d



"Let's see you collect"

American contemporary view of unreasonable German World War I war reparations. Political cartoon 1921.

f



DER TAG!

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

Could the treaties be justified at the time?



Contemporary opinions about the treaties

test your knowledge

Explain what each source tells us and how far it supports the Treaty of Versailles

Source	What does the source tell us?	Rating for Treaty /10
a		
b		
c		
d		
e		
f		

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What was the impact of the peace treaty on Germany?



Criticism of the Treaties

Use all your knowledge to list the criticisms and rank them

Rank	Criticism	Explanation
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

Revision

Ra

Leaders at Versailles

Clemenceau (France): wanted Germany punished and made weak so it could not start a war again

Lloyd-George (Britain): Did not want to punish Germany as it feared revenge, but British people wanted to punish Germany

Wilson (USA): not want to punish Germany, wanted world peace - League of Nations & 14 points

Rb

Treaty of Versailles

Germany punished:

Blame . Blamed for the war - war guilt - diktat

Money . Pay reparations (£6,600 million)

Military . Army=100,000, no tanks,
Navy=6 ships, no air force, no submarines

Land . no colonies, Saar given to League

Land given to: Poland, France & Belgium

Germany split into two parts

Alliances . not allowed to join with Austria

Rc

Consequences of the Treaty

Germany angry because:

. Blamed for the war (diktat)

. Lost land, Germany split into two . foreign soldiers in
Germany

. Lost 74% of iron ore & 26% of coal

. Germany punished more than other countries

Reasons to punish:

. Keep Germany weak

. War cost countries a lot of money and Germany should pay

Reasons NOT to punish:

. People in Germany made poor & some even die

. Germany will want revenge

. If Germany weak all of Europe will suffer

Rd

Treaty of St Germain

Austria punished:

Money . Pay reparations - did not pay

Military . Army=30,000

Land . Land given to: Czech, Italy & Serbia

Alliances . not allowed to join with Germany

Treaty of Sevres

Turkey punished:

Land . Lost most of its land .

League controlled its colonies

Re

What happened next

1922: Germany wants to stop paying reparations - France, Britain, Belgium refused

1923: France & Belgium invaded the Ruhr and took coal, iron and steel instead of the German money

Germany angry and workers stopped work. Government printed money to pay workers.

Printing extra money caused **INFLATION**. Money became worthless.

1924: Dawes Plan: Germany pay less reparations to France and USA lend Germany money

1929: Young Plan: reparations reduced

1932: Stop paying reparations because of world depression, then Nazis refused to pay

Were the peace treaties of 1919-23 fair?

Exam style questions



4 marks:

one mark for each point + mark for detail

1. What were the effects of the Treaty of St. Germain on Austria?
2. What were the effects of the Treaty of Trianon on Hungary?
3. What were the effects of the Treaty of Sevres on Turkey?
4. What were the effects of the Treaty of Neuilly on Bulgaria?
5. What features of the Treaty of Versailles were shared by other treaties?
6. What were Clemenceau's aims at the Peace Conference?
7. What did Wilson hope to achieve at the Peace Conference?
8. What did Lloyd-George seek from the Peace Conference?



6 marks:

Level 2: description (2-3) Level 3: explains one reason (4-5) Level 4: explains two reasons (6)

1. Why did Wilson believe his 'Fourteen Points' should form the basis of the Treaty of Versailles?
2. Why was Germany punished harshly in the Treaty of Versailles?
3. Why did the Germans feel they were treated badly by the Treaty of Versailles?
4. Why did Clemenceau get his way at the Peace Conference?
5. What features of the Treaty of Versailles were shared by other treaties?



10 marks:

Level 2: gives reasons (2-3) Level 3: explains one side or one explanation of both sides (4-6)
Level 4: explains both sides (7-9) Level 5: explanation of both sides + 'how far' (10)

1. How far did the peace settlement of 1919-20 reflect the aims of Clemenceau?
Explain your answer
2. 'The Treaty of Versailles was a fair settlement.' How far do you agree with this statement?
Explain your answer.
3. Who was more satisfied with the Treaty of Versailles: Clemenceau or Lloyd George?
Explain your answer.
4. Explain the consequences for Germany of the Treaty of Versailles?
5. How fair were the Peace Treaties of 1919-23? Explain your answer

