

PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE OF 1919

I. Conference opens on January 18, 1919:

- A. French and English are the official languages.
 - 1. This is the first time that English is an official language at a major conference.
 - 2. Any country that had declared war on *Germany* before the armistice may attend.

II. Major Countries that Attend:

- A. **Woodrow Wilson** is for the U.S.
 - 1. Taken to Europe on the **U.S.S. George Washington**.
 - 2. Wants the peace settlement to be based on the **14 points**.
- B. **David Lloyd George** is for Great Britain.
 - 1. Wanted to have the size of the German Navy reduced because he felt that it threatened the British Navy.
 - 2. Known as the Cow Puncher.
 - 3. Comes to the conference all dressed in black as if he is attending a funeral.
- C. **Clemenceau** is for France.
 - 1. France has been invaded by Germany twice in the past fifty years (wants security at any price).
 - 2. He is called the Tiger.
- D. **Orlando** is for Italy.
 - 1. He wants all of the territory promised to him by the **Secret Treaty of London**.
 - 2. He is called the Spaghetti Prime Minister.
- E. The defeated nations show up at the conference but are told to go home.
 - 1. They are told that when the treaties are finished that they will be invited back.
 - 2. The defeated nations have no say in the peace agreements.

III. Five individual Treaties are made:

- A. Each treaty is named for districts around Paris.
- B. Germany = **Versailles**
- C. Austria = **St. Germain**
- D. Hungary = **Trianon**
- E. Bulgaria = **Neuilly**
- F. Ottoman Empire = **Sevres**

IV. Treaty of Versailles:

- A. It is presented to the Germans on May 7, 1919, by Clemenceau.
- B. At first the Germans hesitated to sign because the treaty was so harsh. But the Allies threatened to resume the war so the Germans signed.
- C. It was signed in the **Hall of Mirrors**. The same place where the German nation had been created.
- D. It has 15 major parts and 440 clauses.
- E. The economic provisions of the treaty are the following:
 - 1. Germany must pay all of her past debts.
 - 2. Germany must pay the entire Belgian war debt.
 - 3. **Reparations:**
 - (a). No figure was given until 1920.
 - (b). \$33 Billion to be paid over the next 60 years; interest was to be applied to the unpaid balance (55% was to go to France).
- F. Military Provisions of the treaty:
 - 1. Maximum of a 100,000 man army.
 - (a). 4,000 officers must serve at least 25 years.
 - (b). 96,000 enlisted men must serve at least 12 years.
 - 2. No air force for Germany.
 - 3. Limited Navy:
- G. Territorial Provisions:
 - 1. Area of the Sudeten Mountains is given to Czechoslovakia.
 - 2. The cities of Eupen and Malmedy are given to Belgium.
 - 3. West Prussia is lost by Germany.
 - (a). This creates the country of **Poland**.
 - (b). 3-5 million German people are lost, and overnight they become Polish.
 - 4. Germany loses all of her colonies.
 - (a). The colonies in Africa are given to the British and French.
 - (b). The colonies in the Pacific are given to Japan.

5. The **Saar** is lost for fifteen years.
 - (a). A **plebiscite** is held on March 1, 1935, and it votes to return to Germany.
6. The city of **Danzig** is given to the League of Nations.
7. **Anschluss** with Austria is forbidden.

H. Important Articles of the treaty:

1. **Article 231** = the War Guilt Clause.
 - (a). Germany believes that she did not start the war.
 - (b). After the war, Germany is in political turmoil. From 1919-1922, a significant political assassination takes place in Germany every three days.
2. Article 227 = Accuses the Kaiser of **War Crimes**.
(Nothing is done but a precedent is set for the future.)
3. Article 228 = Anybody else accused of war crimes may also be put on trial.

V. Advantages of the Paris Peace Conference of 1919:

- A. Legally Ends World War I.
(Becomes known as the War to end all wars.)
- B. Most prisoners of war are released in 1919.
- C. Many new nations were created and now many nationalities have their own country, but not all.
- D. Eastern Europe becomes a **Cordone Sanitaire**. Communism wouldn't be able to spread to Western Europe.
- E. League of Nations is created.

VI. Disadvantages to the Paris Peace Conference of 1919:

- A. Germany becomes a revisionist power.
- B. The Soviet Union was bitter because they were excluded.
- C. Economic Disruption (Mostly from Versailles Treaty):
 1. Millions of ex-soldiers are put into unemployment lines because of rapid **demobilization**.
 2. Wartime contracts are canceled too quickly.
 3. No plan on how to return to normalcy is ever considered.
- D. Destruction of Austro-Hungarian Empire:
(All of the nations of Central and Eastern Europe are small and weak. There is no longer a force to stabilize this area.)
- E. Many nations have minorities, and now a plan is made to deal with them.
- F. U.S. (Senate) turns down the Treaty, and the U.S. becomes isolated.

G. Italy is bitter that they did not get the port city of **Fiume**; therefore,

Italy becomes anti-American, anti-British, and anti-French.

VII. Lessons:

- A. Don't make peace immediately after the end of hostilities. Allow all sides to have a cooling-off period.
- B. Enforce your treaties.

VIII. Commentary by some of the people who were there:

- A. Colonel House, Wilson's advisor: "I should have preferred a different peace."
- B. Lloyd George: "A stern but just peace."
- C. Clemenceau: "It's okay."
- D. Marshall Foch: "This isn't a peace; it's an armistice for twenty years."

RUBRIC: *VERSAILLES PAPER*

	1	2	3	4
Create an introduction and conclusion.	Introduction and conclusion were not attempted.	Introduction and conclusion were both vague and need to be refined.	Either introduction or conclusion is clearly stated; however, the other is somewhat vague.	Introduction and conclusion are clearly stated and easy to distinguish.
Student states his/her opinion on how to fix the Versailles Treaty and supports it with at least three facts from class.	Student doesn't state his/her opinion on how to fix the Versailles Treaty or doesn't use at least one fact from class to support his/her opinion.	Student states his/her opinion on how to fix the Versailles Treaty and supports it with only one fact from the class.	Student states his/her opinion on how to fix the Versailles Treaty and supports it with at least two facts from class.	Student states his/her opinion on how to fix the Versailles Treaty and supports it with at least three facts from class.
Student lists and explains at least one goal for each of the five participants	Student states but fails to clearly explain at least one goal for four of the participants.	Student states at and explains at least one goal for only four participants.	Student states but fails to clearly explain at least one goal for each of the five participants.	Student states and explains least one goal for each of the five participant
Student defines the words hindsight and retrospect in their paper. These concepts are also used to explain why the people acted as they did in 1919.	Student fails to define the words hindsight and retrospect and makes no attempt to explain why people acted as they did in 1919.	Student fails to define the words hindsight and/or retrospect. Student uses these concepts to explain why people acted as they did in 1919.	Student defines the words hindsight and retrospect. Student attempts to explain these concepts why people acted as they did in 1919.	Student defines the words hindsight and retrospect. Student uses these concepts to explain why people acted as they did in 1919.