

Ch 19 Section 4 Wilson Fights for Peace

Wilson Presents His Plan

Fourteen Points

- Wilson's plan for world peace known as **Fourteen Points**
- Points 1–5 propose measures to prevent another war
- 6–13 address how ethnic groups can form own nations or join others
- 14 calls for international organization or **League of Nations**
- League to enable nations to discuss, settle problems without war

The Allies Reject Wilson's Plan

- Wilson fails to grasp anger of Allied leaders against Germany
- French premier **Georges Clemenceau** wants to prevent German invasion
- British Prime Minister **David Lloyd George** wants to “Make Germany Pay”
- Italian Vittorio Orlando wants Austrian-held territory
- Conference excludes Central Powers, Russia, small Allied nations
- Wilson gives up most of his points in return for League of Nations

Debating the Treaty of Versailles

Provisions of the Treaty

- **Treaty of Versailles** creates 9 new nations, British, French mandates
- Places various conditions on Germany:
 - cannot have an army since militarism was a major cause of the war
 - Alsace-Lorraine returned to France
 - pay **reparations**, or war damages

The Treaty's Weaknesses

- **War-guilt clause**—Germany must accept sole responsibility for war
- Germany cannot pay \$33 billion in reparations that Allies want
- Russia loses more land than Germany; territorial claims ignored
- Colonized people's claims for self-determination ignored

Opposition to the Treaty

- Strong opposition to treaty in U.S.
- Some say the treaty overlooked the importance of treating all nations justly, including the loser of the war
- Some, like Hoover, think treaty too harsh, fear economic effects
- Some feel treaty exchanged one group of colonial rulers for another
- Some ethnic groups not satisfied with new national borders

Debate over the League of Nations

- Some think League threatens U.S. foreign policy of isolation, it would drag U.S. into European conflicts
- Senators like **Henry Cabot Lodge** mistrust provision for joint action

Wilson Refuses to Compromise

- Wilson ignores Republicans in Senate when choosing U. S. delegation
- Goes on speaking tour to convince nation to support League
 - has stroke, is temporarily disabled
- November 1919, Lodge introduces amendments to treaty
 - amendments, treaty rejected
- Wilson refuses to compromise
- March 1920, 2nd vote: neither amendments nor treaty approved

- U.S., Germany sign separate treaty; U.S. never joins League

The Legacy of the War

Consequences of the War

- In U.S., war strengthens military, increases power of government
- Accelerates social change for African Americans, women
- Fears, antagonisms provoked by propaganda remain
- In Europe, destruction, loss of life damage social, political systems
 - Communist, fascist governments form
- Treaty of Versailles does not settle conflicts in Europe