

The End of World War I and the Consequences

1. Death.	Russia	1.9 million dead; 9.5 m dead/wounded/missing (76% of its soldiers.)
	France	1.4 million dead; 6.2 m dead/wounded/missing (73%)
	Britain	.9 million dead; 3.2 m dead/wounded/missing (36%)
	Germany	1.8 million dead; 7.2 m dead/wounded/missing (65%)
	Austria	1.2 million dead; 7 m dead/wounded/missing (90%)
	USA	.1 million dead; .4 m dead/wounded/missing (8%)

2. Versailles Peace Conference.

- The leaders of the most powerful allied nations meet near Paris to write a peace treaty.
- Leaders of France Britain, Italy and the US control the conference.
- Russia is not invited because it now has a communist government, and Germany is also not allowed to participate in the conference.
- President Wilson of the US hoped to make a permanent peace using his “Fourteen Points”; this does not happen completely.
- France, Britain, and Italy are angry with Germany and want revenge and punishment.
- Germany must sign the following agreement or be invaded:
 - Germany loses land to Poland, Czechoslovakia, France and Denmark.
 - Germany loses all of its colonies to Britain, France, and Japan.
 - Germany may not have an army on its border with France.
 - Germany must agree that it alone was guilty of starting a war.
 - Germany may not have an army of more than 100,000 men.
 - Germany may not have an air force or a navy.
 - Germany must pay reparations to France, Britain, Belgium, and the US (money which will repair damage caused by the war)
 - Germany may not be a member of the League of Nations
- The war left Germany very poor and the treaty slows down economic recovery.
- The new democratic government of Germany looks weak to the German people when the government agrees to accept this treaty.
- Many Germans promise to get revenge for this unfair treaty.

3. Only parts of President Woodrow **Wilson’s Fourteen Points**, a plan for a permanent world peace, is used by the Allies.

1. No alliances. Especially no secret agreements between countries.
2. The ships of neutral nations must not ever be attacked.
3. No tariffs on imports.
4. Smaller armies, no bigger than police forces.
5. Colonies fairly distributed; rights of the peoples in colonies respected.
6. Russia must decide its own future (no one should interfere in its revolution)
7. Belgium must be neutral.
8. All French territory must be returned to France.
9. All Italians should live in Italy.
10. The peoples of the Austrian Empire should decide their own future.
11. The borders of the new countries in Central Europe should fit each nationality/
12. The peoples of the Turkish Empire would decide their own futures.
13. Poland should be independent.
14. A League of Nations should be formed to keep peace in the world.

4. **Revolutions**

- The empires in Russia, Austria, and Turkey are broken up, and several new countries are formed from their territory.
- The empire in Germany is reduced in size and territory is taken from it and given to France, Denmark, Poland, and Lithuania.

5. Many new **Democratic Republics** are founded in Europe. Most of these governments are weak, inexperienced, faced with serious problems, and most don't survive. By the 1930s most countries in Europe are ruled by dictators who allow few political freedoms: especially Spain, Poland, Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia, and Hungary.

6. **Communism and Socialism** become popular political ideas. These ideas attracted people who were tired of governments controlled by rich men, governments which did not seem to care about the needs of the majority of citizens. People were attracted to socialism and communism because they wanted more equality of wealth.

- Russia ruled by the Communist party from 1917-1991.
- Socialist parties became powerful in Austria, Germany, Italy, France, and Britain.
- Anti-communist, and anti-socialist parties become powerful as well.

7. **National Independence Movements.** As old empires were defeated, different nationality groups who wanted their own governments declared independence.

- Some were successful and got their own countries. (Latvians, Estonians, Lithuanians, Finns, Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Hungarians, and Slavs.)
- Others were denied independence and were bitter. (Arabs, Jews, Indians, Armenians, Ukrainians, many Africans, and many Asians were denied the right to create independent countries.)

8. **Weapons Innovation Continues.** The success of planes, tanks, submarines, machine guns, huge cannons, and rockets in World War I cause military leaders to improve these weapons very rapidly.

9. **International Peace Organizations.** A League of Nations is set-up to keep peace in the world. Many countries involved agree to limit the number of weapons they have. Many countries agree never to attack each other. However, the hatreds of World War I have not been solved. Most of these efforts at permanent peace are forgotten in the 1930s.

10. **Anger with the Peace of 1919.** Germany is bitter and feels humiliated. Italy does not feel that it was rewarded enough for its efforts in the war. Communist Russia wants to reclaim its lost empire.)

Name _____

Consequences of World War One

INSTRUCTIONS: Read *"The End of World War I and the Consequences"* and then answer the following questions.

1. a. Compared to the other countries, how do American casualties in the war compare?
b. What country lost the most men in the war?

2. a. What country is blamed for the war and must face severe consequences?
b. What two countries are not allowed to join in the peace talks?
c. What are the effects of the treaty?

3. Tell which of Wilson's Fourteen Points you think were implemented "fully", "somewhat" or "not at all."

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4. Draw a picture that you think describes the patterns described in consequence number four.

