

THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES JANUARY, 1919

In Attendance:

- United States: President Woodrow Wilson (US 1) and Ambassador (US 2)
- France: Prime Minister Clemenceau (Fr 1) and Ambassador (FR 2)
- Great Britain: Prime Minister Lloyd George (GB)
- Italy: Premier Orlando (IT)

US 1	We are meeting here to discuss the terms of the Treaty of Versailles on the defeated Germany and her allies, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. I think the most important thing we accomplish here is creating an international organization that can preserve the peace and avoid future wars.
FR 1	The only way to avoid future wars is to destroy Germany as we know it! The German people have shown they are evil—killers of nuns, rapists of our wives, and killers of our babies! Aggressors such as never seen before! They must be punished severely for their actions!
GB	Please, Prime Minister, control your anger, we must be careful what we do here. I agree Germany must be punished, but we must be careful.
FR 1	Careful? The French people want security! Security at any cost! We must break up Germany into several separate states—return to the way it was prior to 1870!
US 2	We Americans will not allow that Prime Minister.
US 1	It will only be the cause of future wars.
GB	I agree, Great Britain will not agree with the break up of Germany either. Taking some land away, yes, but breaking it up totally, no way.
IT	<i>(Butting in—ignoring the conversation)</i> Italy wants what it was promised in 1915: We want land from the Austrian-Hungary Empire.
FR 2	<i>(ignoring Italy)</i> President Wilson you must understand the feelings of the

	French people. Germany must never again be able to do to us what it has done in 1870 and 1914! Germany must be destroyed!
US 1	I do understand your position, but breaking up Germany is out of the question. Let us consider other options, shall we?
FR 1	How do you propose keeping France safe then?
US 1	We will create a "League of Nations" that will help to preserve peace through negotiation. We will create a democracy in all the conquered lands and allow the voice of the people to be heard. Democracy means peace.
FR 2	Will this "League of Nations" have an army—something to enforce its decisions?
GB	I don't think the people of Great Britain would want to have its own sons dying for an International Organization.
US 2	Certainly the United States Senate would not approve the treaty either if its sons had to die for such an organization.
IT	<i>(Butting in—ignoring the conversation)</i> What about the land we were promised?
FR 1	I agree about the League, but it must have an army of its own!
US 1	Sorry, Prime Minister, we cannot agree to that.
GB	Neither can Great Britain.
FR 2	We had 73% of our soldiers killed or injured by those German pigs! We MUST have security!
GB	I have a solution: Let us not allow Germany to have a large army. Only one large enough for police work.
US 1	Great idea! We concur.
FR 1	That certainly will help.
GB	We can also make Germany weaker by taking some of its land away. A smaller population will be less of a threat.

US 2	We can take land from eastern Germany and create Poland. A portion of that land is Prussia, but we'll move those Germans into a large Poland—they will be a minority among the Polish. Cannot cause much trouble then!
FR 1	Agreed, Poland is a great idea, but France wants Alsace-Lorraine back! It was wrongly taken from us in 1870 by that pig, Bismarck, in the Franco-Prussian War.
GB	No problem, its yours.
US 1	Of course, Alsace-Lorraine is yours.
IT	On the topic of land, how about what you guys promised us in 1915? You said if we joined the Triple Entente and left the Triple Alliance, you would make sure we got lots of land!
FR 2	I propose we take more land from Germany in the east and a chunk of Austria and create a new state, Czechoslovakia.
US 1	Yes, yes, the Czechs and Slovaks deserve to have their own country.
GB	Do you think it will cause any problem putting a few million Germans in Czechoslovakia?
FR 1	Why would that matter? If they are a minority, they can't get control of the government. They won't cause any more death, rape, and destruction. They are so good at that!
GB	Okay, Great Britain will agree, we create Czechoslovakia from German and Austrian land.
US 2	If the Polish and Czechs and Slovaks get their own country, what about the Hungarians?
FR 2	Well, they should have their own country too. That will leave Austria as just a small country, south of Germany.
US 1	Perfect.
GB	Yes, that takes care of land issues in Europe. Germany is smaller. The Austria-Hungary Empire no longer exists.

FR 1	We are satisfied with this.
IT	We are not satisfied! How much land do we get from Austria? We had 650,000 men killed in this war! Italy wants the land it was promised when we left the German side! It is time to pay up!
US 2	Allowing all these groups to have their own country is a great idea.
FR 1	Great, we have helped secure France somewhat, but that still doesn't fix all the destruction that France has suffered! Remember, most of the war was fought on French soil! Germany must pay for this!
US 1	I do agree Germany must pay for its wrong deeds.
GB	What do you have in mind, Prime Minister Clemenceau.
FR 1	Germany should pay for all the costs of the war! It should pay reparations to repair the damage it caused! It must be forced to pay all the costs of the war, including paying the pensions of all the widows and children who lost husbands and fathers!
US 2	That is too harsh.
FR 2	Too harsh? The blood thirsty Germans killed 1.3 million sons of France. Too harsh? It wounded another 4 million French soldiers. No, sir! It is not too harsh! Germany should pay us back for each French person they killed. It would only be fair!
GB	Maybe it would be better just to make them pay for the damaged buildings and ships they sunk using submarines.
FR 1	That is too light!
US 1	The United States agrees with Great Britain.
FR 1	President Wilson, your country only sacrificed 100,000 lives in this great struggle, if you were French, you would see our point! Those rotten Germans must pay a high price!
US 1	I assure you Prime Minister, we see your point, but we cannot destroy Germany's future completely.
US 2	I can see this is a point that won't be decided now. We all agree though, that Germany will pay reparations, war damages, of some amount.

GB	Yes.
US 1	Yes.
IT	Look I am getting tired of this. We want to get paid back in land. Plain and simple. Are we going to get it or not?
GB	What are we going to do about the land taken from the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East?
FR 1	France wants to keep what we took.
GB	So do we.
US 2	The United States believes each area should be organized into states and allowed to have self-rule and democracy.
FR 2	We want to keep the area we took as colonies. It is only right after the Turks joined with those nun-raping Germans!
GB	Great Britain agrees. We already have Egypt as a colony. It would make perfect sense for us to keep Palestine and Jordan as well.
US 1	The United States will not sign this Treaty if former Ottoman land is simply transferred as colonies to European powers. We believe in self-rule!
FR 2	President Wilson, perhaps this is a good time for your "League of Nations" to come into play. We can give the land to the League to watch over until these areas are ready for self-rule.
US 2	But the League is just an International Assembly, it won't have the resources to govern these areas.
FR 2	No problem. The League can simply allow Great Britain and France to govern these areas as "mandates," territories administered by other countries in the name of the League of Nations.
GB	What a splendid idea! Great Britain will take Jordan and Palestine as mandates from the League of Nations!
US 1	I do suppose that sounds like a good idea. That would solve this problem.

FR 1	France will take Lebanon and Syria as mandates in the Middle East!
GB	The same can be done with Germany's colonies in Africa and Asia. They can be split between France and Great Britain!
FR 2	Yes!
IT	Wait! What about Italy? We were promised land in Europe when we joined your side in the Great War and we have yet to get it! How about giving us some "mandates?"
US 1	Could we get sum up what we have agreed upon here?
GB	One, we are going to create the League of Nations, an international organization that will promote peace by working out differences through negotiation.
FR 2	Two, to enhance French security, Germany is not allowed to rebuild its military.
IT	That is it! Italy is leaving this idiotic meeting! We have been wronged! <i>(Premier Orlando—go take your seat)</i>
US 2	Three, Germany will have land taken away to create new countries.
FR 1	Four, Germany will pay reparations in order to pay for the damage it has caused all of us, especially France.
GB	Five, former colonies of the Ottoman Empire, now called Turkey, and Germany shall be given to France and Great Britain as "mandates" from the League of Nations. Turkey, the former Ottoman Empire, will be now limited to Asia Minor.
US 1	Excellent, I think our work is done gentlemen!

The Treaty of Versailles: France, 1919

1. What did Wilson believe was the most important thing to accomplish at Versailles?	
2. What was France's chief goal at the conference?	
3. How does Wilson propose to keep peace?	
4. What does France want the League of Nations to have?	
5. What two solutions does Great Britain have for keeping France safe?	
6. What new countries are created from German land?	
7. What new countries are created from Austrian land?	
8. What land does France get from Germany? If it was taken in 1870, what war was that?	
9. What does France want Germany to pay for? How do they justify this?	
10. What are reparations?	
11. What does the U.S. believe should happen to the Ottoman Empire's land?	
12. What are "mandates?" Who supposedly has ultimate authority?	

control over mandates?	
13. Which mandates are taken by Great Britain? By France?	
14. What happens to Germany's colonies in Asia and Africa?	

Wrap up Questions

1. What was Germany's role in the Peace Conference? Why might this cause future problems?	
2. Why will the League of Nations become an ineffective organization at keeping the peace?	
3. What conditions were forced upon Germany by the Treaty of Versailles?	
4. What was Italy's main goal at the conference? Why might they be angry with the Allies in the future?	
5. Which Empires have been destroyed by World War I?	