



# Shaping the Peace

## Objectives

1. Examine Woodrow Wilson's plan for a lasting and just peace.
2. Understand how the Treaty of Versailles punished Germany.
3. Explain why many Americans opposed membership in the League of Nations.

## Prepare to Read

### Reading Skill

**Connect Main Ideas to Current Events** Events and ideas from history often connect to events and issues of importance today. Finding these connections will bring history to life for you, as well as increase your understanding of current events. Look for these connections as you read this section.

## Vocabulary Builder

### High-Use Words

eliminate, p. 723

clause, p. 724

### Key Terms and People

self-determination, p. 723

reparations, p. 724

Henry Cabot Lodge, p. 725

deport, p. 727

★ **Background Knowledge** With the end of the war, the struggle began to determine the shape of peace. Wilson's ideas for the postwar world found opponents both abroad and at home.

## The Fourteen Points

Even before the war ended, President Wilson had presented his peace plan, known as the Fourteen Points, to Congress. He framed his plan in idealistic terms, saying he hoped to prevent future wars.

The first five points dealt with the factors that had led to the war. Wilson wanted to eliminate secret international agreements. He called for freedom of the seas, free trade among nations, and a sharp reduction in the world's military forces. He also favored settlement of colonial claims, balancing the interests of native populations and colonizing powers.

Points 6 through 13 dealt with specific territorial issues arising from the war. One of these issues involved self-rule for national minority groups in Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. Later, Wilson turned this point into a call for self-determination. **Self-determination** is the right of a group to decide its own form of government. Wilson knew that one of the causes of World War I was the struggle of Bosnians, Serbs, and other peoples to rule themselves.

For Wilson, Point 14 was the most important. It called for setting up an international organization, or association of nations, to guarantee world peace. Underlying his plan, Wilson said, was "the principle of justice to all peoples and nationalities . . . whether they be strong or weak."

## Main Idea

Woodrow Wilson proposed a peace plan that he hoped would prevent future wars.

## Vocabulary Builder

eliminate (ee LIHM ih nayt) v. to remove; to get rid of

**Checkpoint** What was the goal of the Fourteen Points?

## Main Idea

Despite Wilson's efforts, the Allies created a peace treaty that treated Germany harshly.

## Vocabulary Builder

**clause** (klawz) *n.* part of a law, treaty, or other written agreement

Lloyd George, Clemenceau, and Wilson (left to right) at the peace talks



## Peace Conference in Paris

The victorious powers organized a peace conference in Paris. Although American Presidents had seldom gone abroad, Wilson decided that he himself would lead the American delegation.

The Fourteen Points had thrilled Europe's war-weary population. Two million people turned out to cheer Wilson when he arrived in Paris in January 1919. One newspaper likened him to Moses.

**The Big Four** At the conference, major decisions were made by the "Big Four." They were Wilson and the prime ministers of the three top European Allies: Georges Clemenceau of France, David Lloyd George of Britain, and Vittorio Orlando of Italy.

The other Allies did not share Wilson's idealistic goal of "peace without victory." They were determined to punish Germany and to ensure that Germany would not threaten its neighbors again. Also, during the war, several Allies had signed secret treaties for dividing up the territories and colonies of the Central powers.

**The Treaty of Versailles** After difficult negotiations, the Allies came to an agreement. The Treaty of Versailles (ver si) dealt severely with Germany. Various **clauses** took away territory on Germany's borders and stripped Germany of colonies. The treaty forced Germany to accept full responsibility for the war and to pay the Allies huge **reparations**, or payments to cover war damages. It also placed limits on the size and nature of Germany's military.

Wilson disagreed with these harsh demands. However, he had agreed in order to win his cherished peacekeeping organization. The Treaty of Versailles also called for the creation of an international organization to be called the League of Nations. It would provide a place for countries to meet, settle disputes peacefully, and punish any nation that broke the peace.

On June 28, 1919, German delegates reluctantly signed the treaty. However, German anger at the Treaty of Versailles would later set the stage for another world war.

**Other Treaties** Negotiators arranged separate treaties with the other Central powers. The treaties applied the principle of self-determination to the peoples of Eastern Europe.

Some changes had already taken place. Austria-Hungary had collapsed. From its ruins arose the separate states of Austria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. In addition, the Serbs of Serbia had joined with other Balkan peoples to form Yugoslavia. Poland had declared independence. The peace treaties recognized all these changes, making adjustments to the new borders.

# Europe After World War I

## MAP MASTER®

### Skills Activity

In 1918, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk transferred large tracts of Russian territory to Germany. The following year, the peace treaties ending World War I further redrew the map of Europe.

- Interpret a Map** Which nations lost territory as a result of World War I?
- Compare** Compare this map to the map in Section 1. Identify one nation that disappeared completely. What country did it become part of?

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**KEY**

Territories lost by:

- Austria-Hungary
- Bulgaria
- Germany
- Russia

However, the peacemakers at Paris did not apply the principle of self-determination to non-Europeans. Britain and France divided Germany's African colonies, as well as the Middle Eastern lands of the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire itself was disbanded, replaced by the new republic of Turkey. Many people living in Europe's African and Asian colonies felt betrayed by the peace settlements.

**Checkpoint** How did the Treaty of Versailles punish Germany?

## Battle Over the League

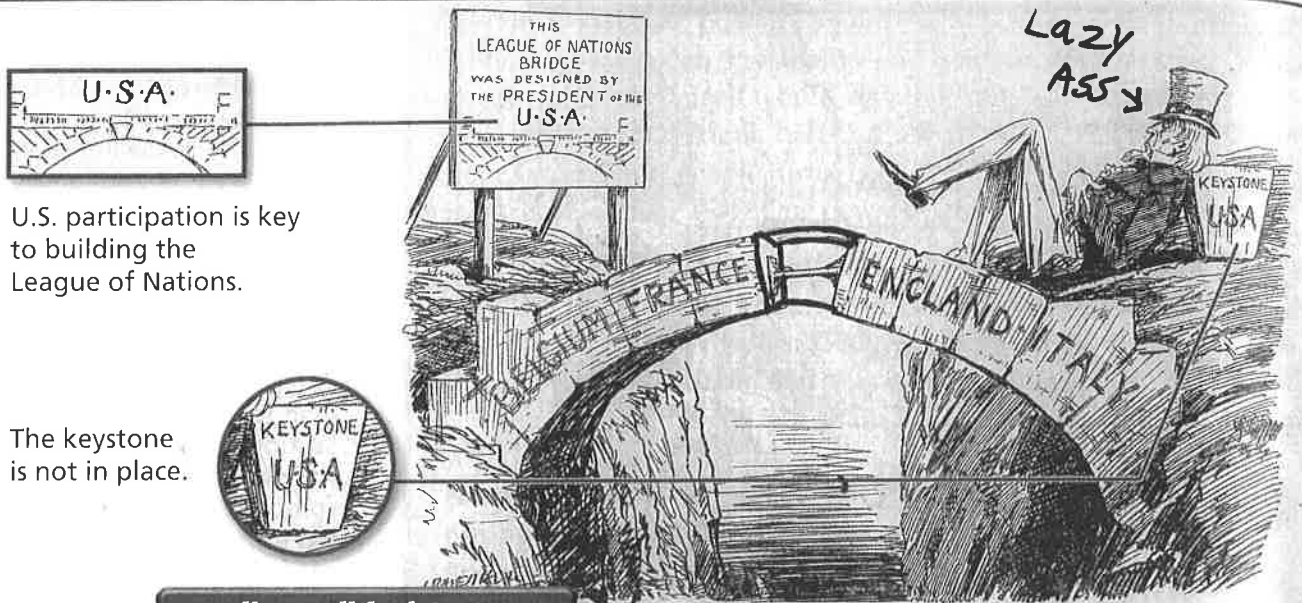
Returning to the United States, Wilson urged the Senate to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. Wilson forcefully backed the treaty's most controversial element, the League of Nations. The United States, he declared, must accept its "destiny" to lead the world on a new path.

**Lodge Opposes** Many Senators opposed the treaty. Leading the opposition was Henry Cabot Lodge, a powerful Republican from Massachusetts. Lodge's chief objection was to the proposal that the United States join the League of Nations.

## Main Idea

Wilson's plan for a League of Nations met sharp opposition in the Senate.

## America Rejects the League of Nations



U.S. participation is key to building the League of Nations.

The keystone is not in place.

### Reading Political Cartoons

#### Skills Activity

In 1919, the United States Senate voted to reject the Treaty of Versailles and keep the United States out of the League of Nations. This cartoon presents one reaction to the Senate's decision.

- (a) **Interpret Cartoons** What does the gap in the bridge represent?
- (b) **Detect Points of View** How do you think this cartoonist may have felt about the Senate's decision? What does he convey is likely to happen as a result?

Lodge argued that membership in the League would restrict the right of the United States to act independently in its own interest:

“The United States is the world's best hope, but if you [chain] her in the interests and quarrels of other nations, if you tangle her in the intrigues of Europe, you will destroy her power for good and endanger her very existence.”

—Henry Cabot Lodge, speech, August 1919

Lodge asked for major changes that would reduce the United States ties to the League. But Wilson refused to compromise.

**Wilson's Last Battle** In early September, Wilson set out on a nationwide tour to stir public support for his position. Traveling 8,000 miles by train in three weeks, he gave 40 speeches.

On October 2, Wilson suffered a massive stroke that paralyzed his left side. His wife and his physician kept secret the severity of his illness. From his White House sickbed, Wilson continued to reject all compromise on the treaty.

In November 1919, the Senate voted to reject the treaty. The absence of the United States crippled the League's ability to stem the crises that shook the world in the 1930s.

**Checkpoint** Why did Lodge oppose the League of Nations?



#### Connect Main Ideas to Current Events

Connect the role of the United States in the League of Nations with the role of the United States in world affairs today.



## Postwar Troubles

The United States did not easily adjust to the return of peace. The postwar years brought a variety of troubles.

**Influenza Epidemic** Toward the end of the war, troop movements contributed to a worldwide influenza epidemic. In the United States alone, the disease took more than 500,000 lives in 1918 and 1919. Worldwide, the epidemic killed more people than had died in four years of war.

**Labor Unrest** During the war, unions and businesses had cooperated to meet production goals. But peacetime brought high unemployment, as soldiers came home to seek jobs. With prices rising, unions' demands for higher wages met stiff resistance from management. In 1919, four million laborers—20 percent of the American industrial work force—went on strike.

**Red Scare** Many Americans feared that Communists, or "Reds," were behind the labor unrest. After all, in Russia, Lenin had called for a worldwide workers' revolution. From 1919 into 1920 a "Red Scare," or fear of Communist revolution, gripped the nation.

Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer ordered immigrants suspected of radical views to be rounded up and deported, or returned to their home countries. These Palmer Raids reached their height on January 2, 1920, when authorities arrested more than 4,000 people in 33 cities. But public opinion soon turned against Palmer. In time, the panic cooled.

**Checkpoint** What problems affected the postwar United States?

★ **Looking Back and Ahead** After World War I, many Americans longed for a return to peace and prosperity. In the next chapter, you will see how these goals were met in the 1920s.

## Main Idea

After the war, the United States faces a period of unrest at home.



This policeman is wearing a mask to avoid catching influenza.

## Section 4 Check Your Progress

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### Comprehension and Critical Thinking

- (a) Describe** What were Woodrow Wilson's goals for peace?

**(b) Evaluate Information** How well did the Treaty of Versailles meet Wilson's goals?
- (a) Recall** Why did Wilson refuse to compromise with critics of the League of Nations?

**(b) Support a Point of View** Do you think Wilson was right? Why or why not?

### Reading Skill

- 3. Connect Main Ideas to Current Events** Reread the text under the heading "Battle Over the League." Connect Wilson's actions to those of current political leaders when seeking support for their policies.

### Vocabulary Builder

Answer the following questions in complete sentences that show your understanding of the key terms.

4. What was the principle behind the idea of self-determination?
5. What happened to immigrants who were deported?
6. What did the reparations clause require Germany to do?

### Writing

7. Write the opening paragraph to an essay taking a stand about whether or not Congress should have ratified the Treaty of Versailles. End the paragraph with a thesis statement expressing your main idea.