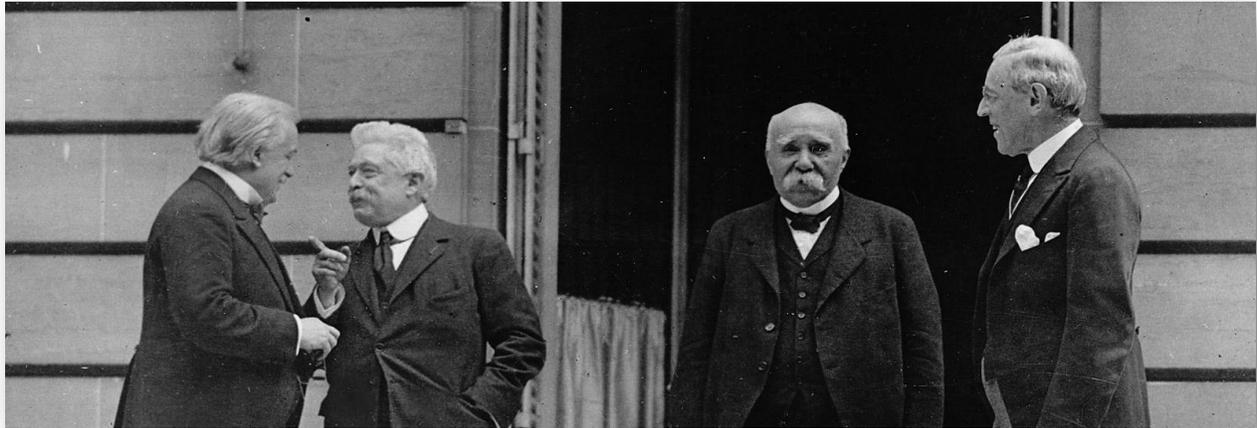


# Treaty of Versailles - Webquest

**Directions:** Complete the following questions using the link listed below.

[http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/treaty\\_of\\_versailles.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/treaty_of_versailles.htm)



1. Where was the Treaty of Versailles signed? Why was it signed there?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Briefly explain how World War One (WWI) affected Europe in terms of the death toll and the destruction it caused. Why was this important to the creators of the Treaty of Versailles?



7. The terms of the Treaty of Versailles were divided into a number of sections. In the space below, provide a few brief notes for each section of the treaty.

a. Territorial:

b. Military:

c. Financial:

d. General

8. Explain how the people of Germany felt about the Treaty of Versailles.

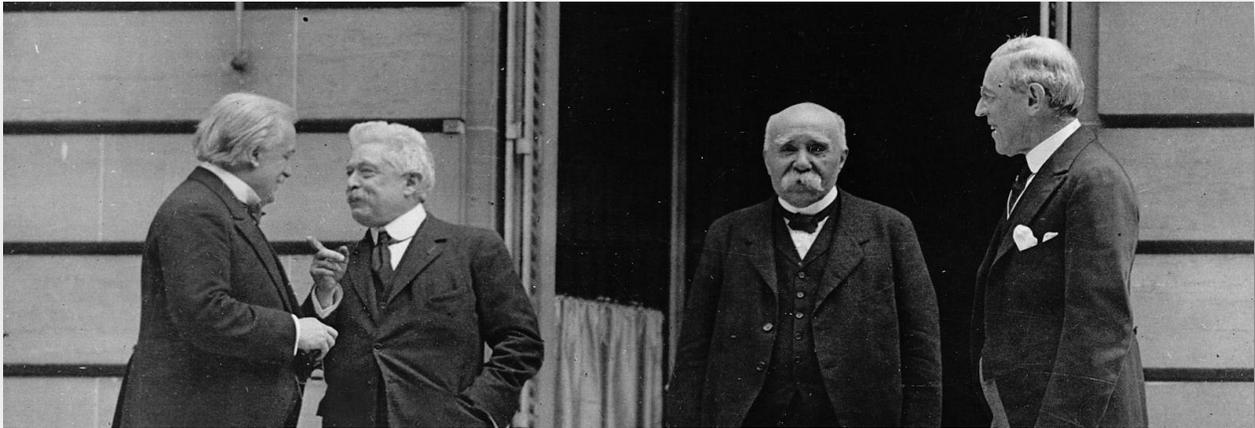
9. What occurred when Germany could not make the reparation payments in 1922?

10. What was the effect of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany?

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1. Where was the Treaty of Versailles signed? Why was it signed there?

The treaty was signed at the vast Versailles Palace near Paris - hence its title - between Germany and the Allies. The Versailles Palace was considered the most appropriate venue simply because of its size - many hundreds of people were involved in the process.

2. Briefly explain how World War One (WWI) affected Europe in terms of the death toll and the destruction it caused. Why was this important to the creators of the Treaty of Versailles?

WWI led to the death of 8.5 million and millions more were wounded. 750,000 French people had their homes destroyed. The victors from World War One were in no mood to be charitable to the defeated nations and Germany in particular was held responsible for the war and its consequences.

3. Who were the "Big Three"?

The "Big Three" were David Lloyd George of Britain, Clemenceau of France and Woodrow Wilson of America.

4. What did each of the "Big Three" think should happen to Germany at the end of WWI? Explain.

David Lloyd George of Great Britain had two views on how Germany should be treated. As a politician he knew he needed the support of the British citizens and if he had come across as being soft on Germany, he would have been speedily voted out of office. The British public was after revenge and Lloyd George's public image reflected this mood. However, in private Lloyd George was also very concerned with the rise of communism and believed that a rebuilt Germany could better withstand the spread of communism.

Georges Clemenceau of France had one very simple belief - Germany should be brought to its knees so that she could never start a war again.

Woodrow Wilson of America had been genuinely stunned by the savagery of the Great War. He could not understand how an advanced civilisation could have reduced itself so that it had created so much devastation. Therefore, he developed his "Fourteen Points" on how peace could be achieved.

5. Why was Italy often left on the sidelines when the important negotiations took place, in regards to the Treaty of Versailles?

At the start of the war in 1914, Italy should have fought with Germany and Austria as she had signed the Triple Alliance which dictated that if one of the three was attacked, the other two would go to that country's aid. Italy did not join in on Germany's side but waited until 1915 and joined the side of Britain and France. Also Italy had not played an overwhelming part in the war.

6. What was the role or purpose of creating the League of Nations?

First suggested by Woodrow Wilson of the USA, the purpose of the League of Nations was to prevent further conflicts from developing into similar results of WWI.

7. The terms of the Treaty of Versailles were divided into a number of sections. In the space below, provide a few brief notes for each section of the treaty.

a. Territorial:

Germany lost territories in Europe, such as: Alsace-Lorraine and West Prussia. As well, Germany lost all of its colonies.

b. Military:

The German army was to be limited to 100,000 soldiers, and the army was not allowed tanks. As well, Germany was not allowed to have an air force and the Rhineland needed to be demilitarized.

c. Financial:

The loss of vital industrial territory would be a severe blow to any attempts by Germany to rebuild her economy. Coal from the Saar and Upper Silesia in particular was a vital economic loss. Combined with the financial penalties linked to reparations, it seemed clear to Germany that the Allies wanted nothing else but to bankrupt her.

d. General

Germany was to accept guilt for the war as part of the "war guilt clause", and to pay reparations for the damages created by the war. As well, the League of Nations was to be created.

8. Explain how the people of Germany felt about the Treaty of Versailles.

The Treaty of Versailles left a mood of anger throughout Germany as it was felt that as a nation Germany had been unfairly treated. Above all else, Germany hated the war guilt clause blaming and the resultant financial penalties the treaty was bound to impose on Germany. Many German citizens felt that they were being punished for the mistakes of the German government in August 1914 as it was the government that had declared war, not the people.

9. What occurred when Germany could not make the reparation payments in 1922?

Germany did try and pay reparations when she could do so. She did not refuse to pay in 1922. She simply could not produce what was needed that year and this led to the French invasion of the Ruhr. In the 1920's it was the Allies who took the decision to reduce reparations and eased Germany's plight in so doing. The first instance of refusal to pay reparations came in 1933 when Hitler announced that Germany would not pay - and the Allies did nothing.

10. What was the effect of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany?

Germany was economically devastated by the Treaty of Versailles with the imposed reparations and loss of vital territory. As well, Germany was humiliated from the limiting of its armed forces and the forced "war guilt clause".