

Paris Peace Conference 1919-1920: Results

Key words: Treaty of Versailles, Treaty of Saint-Germain, Treaty of Neuilly, Treaty of Trianon, Treaty of Sèvres, Treaty of Lausanne

Paris Peace Settlement		
Country	Name of the Treaty	Year when the treaty was signed
Germany	Treaty of Versailles	28 June 1919
Austria	Treaty of Saint-Germain	10 September 1919
Bulgaria	Treaty of Neuilly	27 November 1919
Hungary	Treaty of Trianon	4 June 1920
Ottoman Empire	Treaty of Sèvres, subsequently revised by the Treaty of Lausanne	Sèvres: 10 August 1920 Lausanne: 24 July 1923

Work for you to do: Get divided into three delegations: **American, British and French**. Each delegation should use the ideas from the class before to work out their proposed decision on each of the ideas and questions below. Remember to argue from the point of view of each country. Once each delegation has worked out its proposals, the whole class should discuss each issue and then vote on it. Important issues and types of questions to do: Will you make Germany guilty of starting the war? Will you limit German armed forces? Should Germany pay for the war? If so, how much? Should Germany lose some of its territories in Europe? What would you do with the German colonies? Would you promote establishing the League of Nations? Would you promote “self-determination policy” ask for dissolution of Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Empire?

1. The Treaty of Versailles: ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers. It was signed on 28 June 1919, **exactly** five years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. The other Central Powers on the German side of World War I signed separate treaties.

Contents of the Treaty of Versailles:

1.1. War Guilt Clause: Of the many provisions in the treaty, one of the most important and controversial required Germany to **accept sole responsibility for causing the war** and, under the terms of articles 231–248 (later known as the War Guilt clauses): Article 231 (the "**War Guilt Clause**") lays **sole responsibility** for the war **on Germany and her allies**, which is to be accountable for all damage to civilian populations of the Allies.

1.2. Military restrictions:

- German armed forces will number no more than 100,000 troops, and conscription will be abolished.
- German naval forces will be limited to 15,000 men, 6 battleships (no more than 10,000 tons displacement each), 6 cruisers (no more than 6,000 tons displacement each), 12 destroyers (no more than 800 tons displacement each) and 12 torpedo boats (no more than 200 tons displacement each). No submarines are to be included.
- The import and export of weapons is prohibited.
- Poison gas, armed aircraft, tanks and armoured cars are prohibited.
- Blockades on ships are prohibited.
- Restrictions on the manufacture of machine guns (e.g. the Maxim machine gun) and rifles (e.g. Gewehr 98 rifles).

1.3. Make Germany pay:

The total cost of these reparations was assessed at **132 billion Marks** (then \$31.4 billion, £6,600 million) in 1921 which is roughly **equivalent to US\$ 382 billion in 2010**, a sum that many economists at the time deemed to be excessive because it would have taken Germany until 1988 to pay.

Winston Churchill's opinion was: *"The economic clauses were malignant and silly to an extent made them futile. Germany was condemned to pay reparations on a fabulous scale. People failed to understand that no defeated country can pay a tribute on a scale which would meet the cost of modern war."*

1.4. Loss of territories:



1. **Alsace-Lorraine:** given to France

2. **Saarland:** was to be under the control of the League of Nations for 15 years, after which a plebiscite between France and Germany, was to decide to which country it would belong. During this time, coal would be sent to France.

3. **Eupen/Malmedy:** given to Belgium

4. **The Rhineland:** Germany to retain, but as a de-militarized zone. the area west of the Rhine for 15 years occupied by the Allied troops, and a 50-mile strip east of the Rhine would be demilitarized – no German troops or fortresses would be allowed there,...

5. **Schleswig:** returned to Denmark

6. **West Prussia:** Most of the Prussian provinces of Province of Posen (now Poznan) and of West Prussia which Prussia had annexed in the Partitions of Poland (1772–1795) were ceded to Poland.

7. **Danzig** (in Slovak Gdańsk): The strategically important port of Danzig with the delta of the Vistula River on the Baltic Sea was separated from Germany as the Freie Stadt Danzig (**Free City of Danzig**).

8, 9. **Eastern Prussia:** The northern part of East Prussia was later annexed by Lithuania. The rest for Poland.

10. **Silesia:** The Hultschin (in Slovak Hlučín) area of Upper Silesia was transferred to Czechoslovakia (area of 49,000 inhabitants) without a plebiscite.

11. Austria was forbidden from merging with Germany.

12. Germany lost all its colonies

The treaty was fair:	The treaty was too harsh:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The war has caused so much death and damage• Germany had to be stopped from doing it again• People in France and Britain wanted revenge – politicians listened to them so that they could stay in power	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the treaty was unfair to Germany – the punishment was too severe• The Germans were left weak and resentful – this could lead to anger and cause future trouble, like another war• the treaty wouldn't rebuild European trade and wealth – Germany could not afford the reparations, and many of the new countries were poor.• the men who negotiated peace faced the problems and pressure from the people at home.

1.5. The Germans resented the treaty: As a defeated power, **Germany had no option but to accept the terms of the treaty and to sign a document admitting guilt for starting the war.** Discontent with what the Germans regarded as an unfair treaty helps to explain why so many Germans were **ready to follow Hitler in later years.**

Germany could not afford the reparations, lost industrial areas and could not rebuild, lost its pride, was without armed forces, saw other countries weren't disarming, did not accept guilt for starting the war, suffered economic crisis, lost colonies, many Germans now lived under foreign rule in new countries.

The roots of future problems:

1. Europe could not recover properly while countries like Germany remained poor.

2. **Self-determination** (people ruling themselves, e.g. Hungarians being ruled by Hungarians rather than by the Austrian Emperor)¹ would be difficult in new countries like Poland and Czechoslovakia where many people from different nationalities had been thrown together as an artificial country. Without Germany, Russia, or the USA in the League of Nations, it would be hard to keep the peace.

French Field Marshal Ferdinand Foch, who felt the restrictions on Germany were too lenient, declared (quite accurately), "***This is not Peace. It is an Armistice for twenty years.***"

President Wilson was most disappointed by the treaty. When he went back to the USA, he found that the American Congress refused to accept the peace treaty and the League of Nations. In despair, he toured the states. He failed to win over the American people, and the League of Nations was seriously weakened because the USA did not join. Wilson said: "*If America does not join the League I can predict with absolute certainty that within a generation there will be another war.*"

¹ The **right of nations to self-determination**, in short form **self determination**, is the principle in international law, that **nations have the right to freely choose their sovereignty and international political status with no external compulsion or external interference.**

2. The Treaty of Trianon: was the peace agreement signed in June 1920 between the Allies of World War I and Hungary (a successor state to Austria-Hungary).



The treaty dramatically redefined and reduced Hungary's borders. From its borders before World War I, it **lost 72% of its territory**. It also **lost 64% of its total population**, which was reduced from 20.9 million to 7.6 million, and **31% (3.3 out of 10.7 million) of its ethnic Hungarians, who suddenly found themselves living outside the newly defined borders of Hungary**. Hungary lost five of its ten most populous cities and was **deprived of direct access to the sea** and of some of its most valuable natural resources. The military establishment of the country was reduced to an army of 35,000.

The principal beneficiaries of territorial adjustment were **Romania, Czechoslovakia, and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes**.

Changes in borders:

1. **The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes** was established.
2. **Part of Transylvania** south of the Mureş river and east of the Someş river came under the control of **Romania**.
3. **Upper Hungary, which became part of Czechoslovakia as Slovakia**
4. **Carpathian Ruthenia (in Slovak Podkarpatská Rus)**, which became part of Czechoslovakia, pursuant to the Treaty of Saint-Germain in 1919;
5. **The city of Fiume (Rijeka)** was occupied by the Italian Army. Its affiliation was a matter of international dispute between the Kingdom of Italy and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

6. most of Burgenland became part of Austria

7. Međimurje and the 2/3 of the Slovene March (in Slovak *Slovinská krajina*), which became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

3. The Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye: (10 September 1919) signed by the victorious Allies of World War I on the one hand and by the new Republic of Austria on the other. Like the Treaty of Versailles with Germany, it contained the Covenant of the League of Nations and as a result was not ratified by the United States.

Territorial losses: The treaty declared that the Austro-Hungarian Empire was to be dissolved. The new Republic of Austria, consisting of most of the German-speaking Alpine part of the former Austrian Empire, but not the German-speaking Sudetenland, nor South Tyrol, **recognized the independence of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs**. Austria was reduced not only by the loss of crownlands incorporated into the newly created states of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia (the “successor states”) but by the cession of Trentino, South Tyrol, Trieste, Istria and several Dalmatian islands to Italy and the cession of Bukovina to Romania. **In total, it lost land to Czechoslovakia, State of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Poland, Romania, and Italy.**

On the other hand, Burgenland, then a part of Hungary, was awarded to Austria.

The treaty included 'war reparations' of large sums of money, directed towards the allies, to pay for the costs of the war.

4. The Treaty of Neuilly (November 1919): Bulgaria lost some land and access to the sea. The treaty made Bulgaria disarm.

5. The Treaty of Sèvres (August 1920): was the peace treaty between the Ottoman Empire and Allies at the end of World War I.

The League of Nations declared some countries to be „mandates“, and handed them over to „caretaker“ countries. **Turkey lost lands to Britain and France**, and also to Greece. Turks, led by Gallipoli veteran **Mustapha Kemal Atatürk** (*Ataturk = The Father of the Turks*), objected to this and overthrew their leader, the Sultan. The Treaty of Sèvres was annulled in the course of the **Turkish War of Independence** led by Atatürk and the parties signed and ratified the superseding **Treaty of Lausanne in 1923**: The treaty was the consequence of the **Turkish War of Independence** between the Allies of World War I and the Ankara-based Grand National Assembly of Turkey (Turkish national movement) led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The treaty also led to the international recognition of the sovereignty of the new Republic of Turkey as the successor state of the defunct Ottoman Empire. This treaty settled the Anatolian and East Thracian parts of the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire (= this treaty regained Turkey some land they lost in 1920 as a result of Treaty of Sèvres)

Key results of all the treaties:

1. all the defeated countries lost land, and had to disarm on some level
2. they were all punished - economically, morally, ...
3. Countries lost its valuable industrial territories



