

Consequences of the WWI:

Key words:

1. Paris Peace Conference, 2. Successor states, 3. Collapse of old empires, 4. Self-determination + Breakdown of democracy, 5. Nationalism, 6. Democracy, 7. Territorial quarrels, 8. Ethnic problems, 9. Communism, 10.

The roots of future problems:

0. Right after the WWI: Much of Europe was **in chaos**. Millions of people were **unemployed**; returning soldiers could not find work, and others lost their jobs when factories stopped making weapons. **Industry and trade were in decline**. In some countries, money lost its value, so buying and selling was difficult. Most goods were moved by rail, but much of the European railway system was **in ruins**. Production of vital supplies such as grain and coal was **low**, and people were already **starving** in Germany and Austria. Then, in 1919 an influenza virus hit Europe. Hungry people have little resistance to germs, and the „Spanish flu“ spread rapidly. **27 million people died** in the epidemic.

1. Paris Peace Settlement:

| <i>Paris Peace Settlement</i> | | | |
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| Country | Name of the Treaty | Year when the treaty was signed | The most important results of the treaties |
| Germany | Treaty of Versailles | 28 June 1919* * Symbolic date: what happened on 28 June 1914? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany did not take part in the discussions of the Peace Conference • the “war-guilt” clause: Germany alone totally responsible for causing the war • Loss of territories in Europe: to newly-recreated Poland: West Prussia, Posen and part of Upper Silesia, to Belgium, Denmark, France: Alsace and Lorraine. The Saar under control of the League of Nations, Rhineland: 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,... • Loss of colonies • Army reduced to only 100 000 and conscription forbidden. No tanks, heavy artillery or submarines allowed. • 6 600 million pounds payable in the next 42 years as the reparations • resentment at the Treaty in Germany |
| Austria | Treaty of Saint-Germain | 10 September 1919 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union with Germany forbidden • Loss of territories: to Italy (Istria, South Tyrol), to Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, • Reduction of Austria to a small state with only 6 mil. people • Army limited to only 30 000 people |
| Hungary | Treaty of Trianon | 4 June 1920 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of about 70 % of its territory and of about 60 % of its population, loss of direct access to the sea. Lost territories to Czechoslovakia, Romania, Yugoslavia and Austria too (Burgenland) • Army reduced to 35 000 |
| | Treaty of Sèvres, | Sèvres: 10 August | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treaty of Sèvres: gave most of Turkey’s land in Europe to Greece (Eastern Thrace and Smyrna + Straits into the Black Sea under control of International Commission) while its provinces in the Middle East were shared out between Britain and France as mandates, despite earlier promises to Arab leaders that they would |

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| Ottoman Empire | <i>subsequently revised by the Treaty of Lausanne</i> | 1920 <i>Lausanne: 24 July 1923</i> | <p>gain independence if they fought on the Allies'side.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Mandate of Iraq, Palestine, Transjordan • French Mandate of Lebanon and Syria <p>• Turkey was made to pay compensation</p> <p>This Treaty made people in Turkey angry, and a nationalist general, Mustafa Kemal (<i>Ataturk = The Father of the Turks</i>) led a successful rebellion against the Sultan who signed the Treaty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treaty of Lausanne: returned most of the land previously given to Greece (Turkey regained Eastern Thrace and Smyrna + Straits into the Black Sea under Turkey's control), and cancelled the payment reparations |
| Bulgaria | Treaty of Neuilly | 27 November 1919 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost some land to Greece, Yugoslavia and Romania • Army reduced to 20 000 |



2. Successor states:
Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland:

This was the term used to describe the new nations which appeared in Central and Eastern Europe after the First World War and the various peace treaties. In the main, they arose out of what had been the Austro-Hungarian Empire – thus they were the „successors“ to this collapsed empire. Two states are completely new – **Czechoslovakia** and **Yugoslavia** while **Poland** which had been carved up between Austria, Prussia and Russia at the end of the 18th century was recreated.

3. Collapse of old empires: Austria-Hungary, the Czarist Empire of Russia, Ottoman Empire

These empires disintegrated before WWI was over. Their subject peoples had seized their opportunity and set up their own governments and proclaimed new, independent states like: **Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia.**

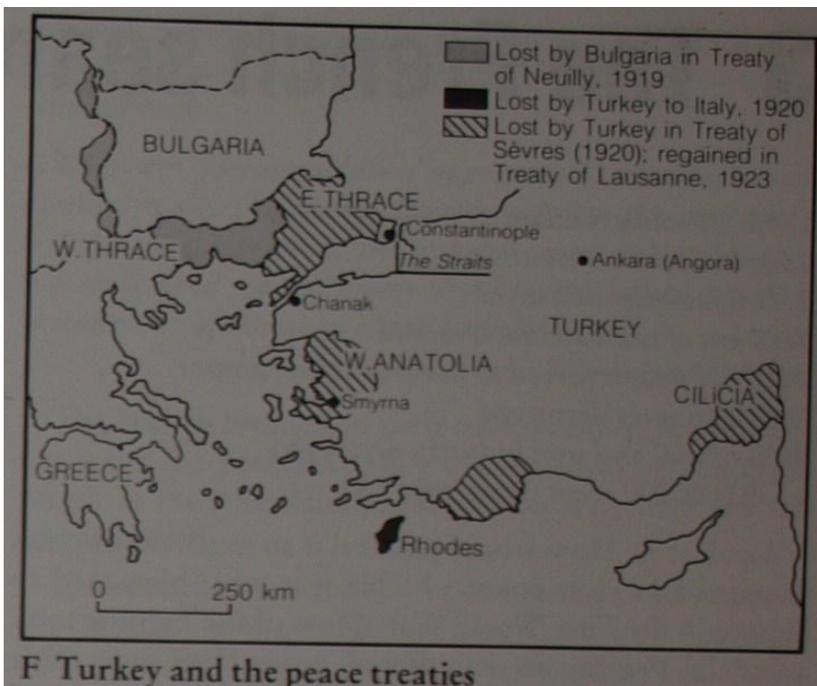
Ottoman Empire dissolved into Turkey and several mandates: **British Mandate of Iraq, Palestine, Transjordan** and **French Mandate of Lebanon and Syria**

4. Self-determination: The Allied leaders saw their victory over Central Powers in 1918 as a triumph for **democracy** and **individual liberty**, twin ideals which they hoped both these new nations and the defeated enemy would learn to cherish. They sympathized with the principle of **self-determination in Europe – the right of all peoples to set up their own forms of government within the security of their own national frontiers**. So an important and very difficult task faced the peacemakers: they had to draw the new frontiers as carefully as possible around the different European areas. Of course, other factors had to be in mind. They created Poland as a “buffer state” between Germany and Russia.

5. Nationalism:

Turkey: The Turkish War of Independence (May 1919 – October 1923) was a **successful** war of independence led by **Turkish Nationalists against the Allies**, after the country was partitioned by the Allies in the Treaty of Sèvres. People were angry at the Treaty and overthrew Sultan in 1921. The rebellion against the

Sultan was led by a nationalist general, **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk**, who set up a rival government in **Ankara**. He warned Sultan’s followers: *“The Sultan and his government are prisoners in the hands of the Allies. We are about to lose our country. I have come to seek your help and save the situation ... We are fighting with your backs to the wall, but we will fight to the end. We demand the right of every sovereign state to be free within our own boundaries. We ask nothing more nothing less.”* After the military campaigns against offensives of Greece (**Greco-Turkish War: 1919-1922**), and of the Turkish-Armenian and Franco-Turkish War, the Turkish revolutionaries forced the Allies to



abandon the Treaty of Sèvres and negotiate the **Treaty of Lausanne in July 1923**, leaving Anatolia and Eastern Thrace to form the Republic of Turkey in October 1923 (Treaty from Lausanne restored most of its European lands). The establishment of the Turkish national movement with the Atatürk's reforms created Turkey as a **modern, secular nation-state**.

6. Democracy:

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| Before WWI: USA, Great Britain, France | X | Before WWI: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey |
| Parliamentary Democracies | | Authoritative monarchisms |

Turkey and its reforms: **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk** was a Turkish army officer, revolutionary statesman, writer, and **founder** of the Republic of Turkey, as well as the **first Turkish President**. **Atatürk's Reforms** were a series of **political, legal, cultural, social and economic reforms** that were designed to **modernize** the new Republic of Turkey into a **democratic and secular nation-state**. They were implemented

under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in accordance with **Kemalist ideology**. The reform movement began with the modernization of the constitution, including enacting the **new Constitution** of 1924, and the **adaptation of European laws and jurisprudence** to the needs of the new republic. This was followed by a thorough **secularization and modernization of the administration**, with particular focus on the education system. The government asserted the **equality of religions and free worship rights** of all Turkish citizens in their own private space to the protection of the Republic. The state protected freedom of worship while itself standing aloof of any form of religious influence. Kemalist ideology targeted political Islam, but it posed a threat to the independence of the state and its ability to govern with equal concern for all.

7. Fighting for the territories continues after the WWI:

Poland: Poland was not satisfied with its borders and in 1920-1921, it fought wars against Czechoslovakia, Lithuania and Russia in order to gain more territory. There was **The Poland–Czechoslovakia war**, also known mostly in Czech sources as the **Seven-day war** which was a military confrontation between Czechoslovakia and Poland over the territory of **Cieszyn Silesia in 1919**. **Both countries claimed the area of Cieszyn Silesia area in Silesia**. A final line was set up at the Spa Conference in Belgium - on July 28, 1920, the western part of the disputed territory was given to Czechoslovakia while Poland received the eastern part, in other words **Czechoslovakia got the coalmines and the railway station and Poland kept the city of Cieszyn**.

8. Ethnic tensions:

Czechoslovakia: Czechoslovakia was a multi-ethnic state. The population consisted of **Czechs (51%), Slovaks (16%), Germans (22%),** Hungarians (5%) and Rusyns (4%). ... **The problem of Sudeten Germans:** These were German-speakers who had been part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. There were **over 3 million** of them, and they mostly lived in the border known as the Sudetenland, next to Czech frontier with Austria and Germany. Although, like all Austrians, they spoke German, they had not been part of Germany. There was no plebiscite to allow them to decide which country they wanted to be transferred to.



The state nonetheless proclaimed the official ideology that there are no Czechs and Slovaks, but **only one nation of Czechoslovaks** (see **Czechoslovakism**), to the disagreement of Slovaks and other ethnic groups. **Czechoslovakism** is a term for the **political and cultural conception of a unified Czechoslovak nation** and disapproval of differentiating separate nations of Czechs and Slovaks to

warrant their common majority in the newly created Czechoslovakia (where there were more Germans than Slovaks).

| Nationalities of Czechoslovakia in 1921 | | |
|---|------------|---------|
| Total Population | 16,607,385 | |
| Czechoslovaks | 8,759.701 | 64.37 % |
| Germans | 3,123.305 | 22.95 % |
| Hungarians | 744.621 | 5.47 % |
| Ruthenians | 461.449 | 3.39 % |
| Jews | 180.534 | 1.33 % |
| Poles | 75.852 | 0.56 % |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------|
| Others | 23.139 | 0.17 % |
| Foreigners | 238.784 | 1.75 % |

9. Communism: Hungary, Russia, Germany

Hungary: The **Hungarian Soviet Republic** or **Soviet Republic of Hungary** (from 21 March until 6 August 1919) was a short-lived Communist regime established in Hungary in the aftermath of World War I. This republic, led by **Béla Kun**, collapsed when Romanian forces occupied Budapest during the Hungarian-Romanian War. **It was the first Communist government to be formed in Europe after the October Revolution in Russia brought the Bolsheviks to power in that country.**

In late May 1919, after the Entente military representative demanded more territorial concessions from Hungary, **Kun attempted to fulfill his promise to restore Hungary's borders.** In June the Hungarian Red Army invaded the eastern part of the newly-forming Czechoslovak state (today's Slovakia), then controlled by Czechoslovak forces and declared a **Slovak Soviet Republic in Prešov on 16 June 1919.** **The Slovak Soviet Republic** comprised a very short-lived communist state in south and eastern Slovakia **from 16 June to 7 July 1919, with its capital in Prešov,** and headed by the Czech journalist Antonín Janoušek. Following a **brief war between Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Romania,** Slovakia was fully restored into Czechoslovakia and the Hungarian Soviet Republic was wholly occupied by Romania.

The Allies delayed signing any treaty with Hungary until after communist revolution had been crushed. Eventually, a **new right-wing dictatorship** was set up under **Admiral Horthy** who, in March 1920, was forced to sign the **Treaty of Trianon.**

Russia: October Revolution, Lenin, Bolsheviks

Germany: The **German Revolution** was the politically-driven civil conflict in Germany at the end of World War I. The period lasted from November 1918 until the formal establishment of the **Weimar Republic** in August 1919 (Weimar republic: from 1919 to the ascent of the NSDAP and Adolf Hitler in 1933).

The revolutionaries, inspired by communist ideas, failed to take control as the Bolsheviks had in Russia, as the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) leadership refused to work with those who supported the Bolsheviks. Furthermore, fearing an all-out civil war in Germany between the communists and the reactionary conservatives, the SPD did not plan to completely strip the old imperial elites of their power and instead sought to integrate them into the new social democratic system. In this endeavour, SPD leftists sought an alliance with the Supreme Command. The army and Freikorps (nationalist militias) suppressed the so-called Spartacist uprising by force. **The political fragmentation among the left-wing** was a significant factor in the failure of the left to seize power. ... The revolution ended officially on August 11, 1919, when the **Weimar Constitution** was adopted.

The **Bavarian Soviet Republic**, also known as the **Munich Soviet Republic** (German: *Bayerische Räterepublik* or *Münchner Räterepublik*) was, as part of the German Revolution of 1918-19, the short-lived attempt to establish a socialist state in form of a council republic in the Free State of Bavaria. It sought independence from the also recently proclaimed Weimar Republic. Its capital was Munich.

11. The roots of future problems:

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.***"

In 1920 the British economist **John Maynard Keynes** warned that the treaties would prevent the European economy recovering from damage the war had done: "*The Treaties include nothing to make the defeated Central Empires – Germany and Austria – into good neighbors, nothing to stabilize the new States of Europe, nothing to reclaim Russia ... no arrangement for restoring the disordered finances of France and Italy ... The danger facing us, therefore, is the drop of the standard of life of European population to a point which will mean actual starvation for some.*"

