

Name:

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### WWI: The Treaty of Versailles

Objective: What was the impact of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany?

In U.S. President Woodrow Wilson’s 1917 “Peace without Victory” speech, he warned against “peace forced upon the loser” of the war:

“Victory would mean **peace forced upon the loser**, a victor's terms imposed upon the vanquished. It would be **accepted in humiliation**, under duress, at an intolerable sacrifice, and would **leave a sting, a resentment**, a bitter memory upon which terms of **peace would rest, not permanently, but only as upon quicksand.**”

Source: [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/wilson/filmmore/fm\\_victory.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/wilson/filmmore/fm_victory.html)

<b>According to Wilson, how does “peace forced upon the loser” of a war affect the losing country?</b>	<b>What is the difference between a permanent peace and one built “upon quicksand?”</b>

### Examining the Treaty of Versailles

**Directions:** Read the excerpt below and respond to the questions.

The Treaty of Versailles was one of the peace treaties at the end of World War I and it officially ended the war between Germany and the Allied Powers. The terms of the Treaty of Versailles were announced in June 1919. Even though German politicians were not consulted about the terms of the Treaty, they were shown the draft terms in May 1919. They complained bitterly, but the Allies did not take any notice of their complaints. Germany had very little choice but to sign the Treaty.

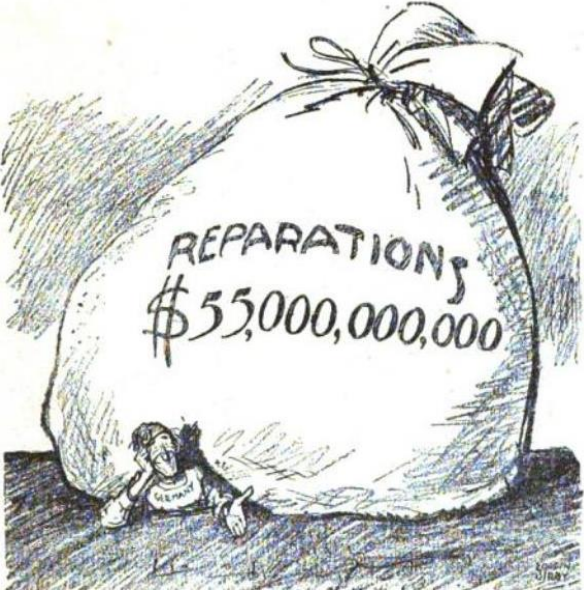
Source: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/greatwar/g5/cs2/background.htm>

<b>Treaty of Versailles Text</b>	<b>What is Germany required to do?</b>	<b>How might this impact Germany?</b>	<b>How do you think this made Germans feel? Why?</b>
<p><b>Article 159</b> The German military forces shall be demobilized and reduced as prescribed hereinafter.</p> <p><b>Article 160</b> (1) By a date which must not be later than March 31, 1920, the German Army must not comprise more than seven divisions of infantry and three divisions of cavalry. <small>Source: <a href="http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/versailles.htm">http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/versailles.htm</a></small></p>			
<p><b>Article 231</b> The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss</p>			

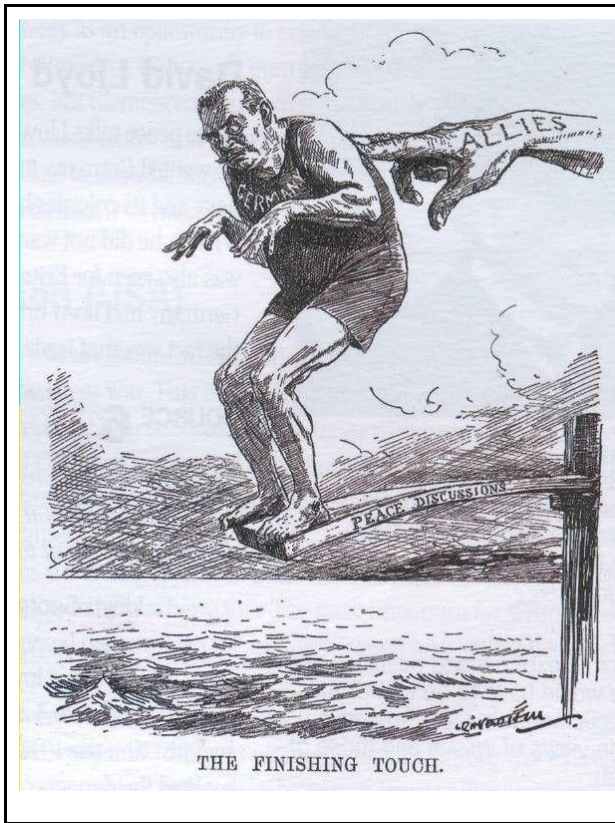
<p>and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/versailles231-247.htm">http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/versailles231-247.htm</a></p>			
<p><b>Article 232</b>  The Allied and Associated Governments, however, require, and Germany undertakes, that she will make compensation [payment]* for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property during the period of the belligerency of each as an Allied or Associated Power against Germany ...</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/versailles231-247.htm">http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/versailles231-247.htm</a></p> <p>*132 billion German marks (roughly \$400 billion in today's dollars)</p>			

## Image Analysis

**Directions:** Examine the images below and respond to the questions.

<p><b>Image 1</b></p>  <p>American contemporary view of German World War I reparations. Political cartoon 1921.</p> <p><small><a href="#">Image</a> is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is in the public domain</small></p>	<p><b>Observations</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Inferences</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>What does this political cartoon reveal about the impact of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany's economy?</b></p>
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<p><b>Image 3</b></p>	<p><b>Observations</b></p>
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## Inferences

What does this political cartoon reveal about Germany's attitude toward signing the Treaty of Versailles?

### Treaty of Versailles Synthesis:

1. Based upon your examination of the excerpts of the Treaty of Versailles, did the peace treaty heed Wilson's warning about "peace forced upon the loser?" Explain.
2. Did the Treaty of Versailles create a permanent peace or one built "upon quicksand?" Explain.
3. How might the Treaty of Versailles have impacted Germany's relationship with other countries after the war?
4. How might the Treaty of Versailles have impacted Germany's perception of itself?
5. In 1939, World War II began. The Treaty of Versailles was supposed to create peace between all nations, however, only 20 years later another war broke out. Why do you think the Treaty of Versailles was unable to prevent another war?