

DAVID LLOYD GEORGE



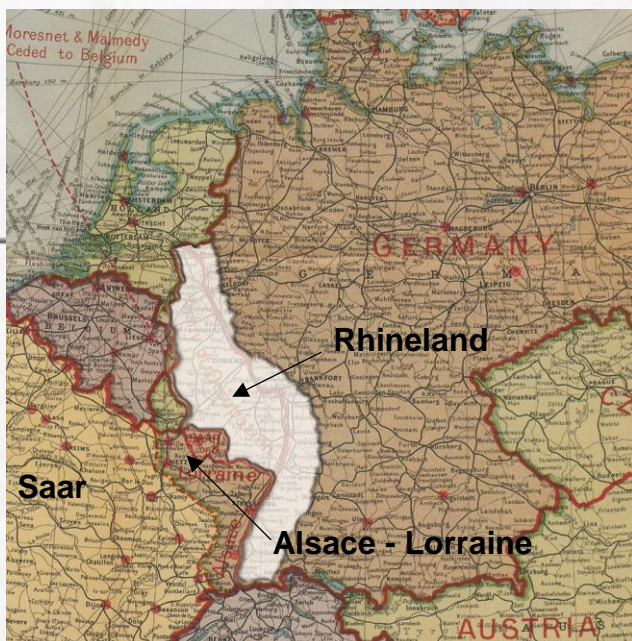
Role: You are the British Prime Minister and Britain's main representative at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919.

You have just won the General Election in December 1918 and used the slogan **Hang the Kaiser** during your campaign.

The fact that slogans such as **Make Germany pay** were popular showed that some people in Britain wanted to see Germany punished after the end of the war.

As Prime Minister you do not wish to see Germany punished too severely and wish to see a fair peace. If the terms for Germany are too harsh Germans could become resentful and this could lead to another war.

- You support the demands made by France for the return of Alsace-Lorraine so that the French will feel more secure from Germany. You believe that the Rhineland should only be demilitarised
- Britain wants to defend its large empire and formidable navy. You therefore believe that Germany's armed forces and empire has to be diminished.
- You realise that Germany has an essential role in the future in preventing the spread of communism in Europe. You believe that if the treaty is too severe it may drive Germany to communism, especially after the Russian Revolution of 1917.
- You wish to see Britain maintaining good commercial relations with her future trading partners in Europe, which will include Germany. Although you believe that Germany will have to pay compensation to the Allied countries it is important to you that the country is not left penniless and too poor to sustain itself.
- You support efforts made by people in the Balkans and eastern Europe to break free from the empires that used to control them.

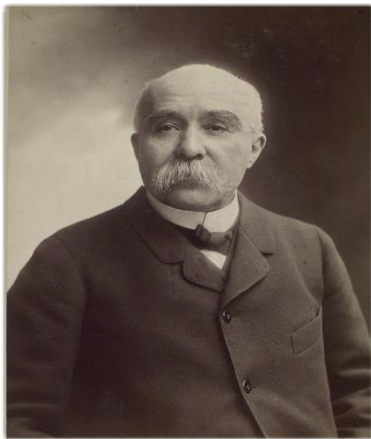


SHALL GERMANY PAY ?

Are the unspeakable Huns to be made to pay for the war? Are Labour men, led by Messrs. Ramsay MacDonald, Arthur Henderson, and Philip Snowden, likely to insist that we shall have justice?

Mr. Lloyd George has said: "The Hun must pay for his misdeeds."

GEORGES CLEMENCEAU



Role: Georges Clemenceau is the Prime Minister of France and the country's representative at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. He is also the President of the Peace Conference between January and June 1919.

France is determined to seek revenge on Germany for the widespread destruction that it caused during the war. It views the Versailles Agreement as an opportunity to seek retribution.

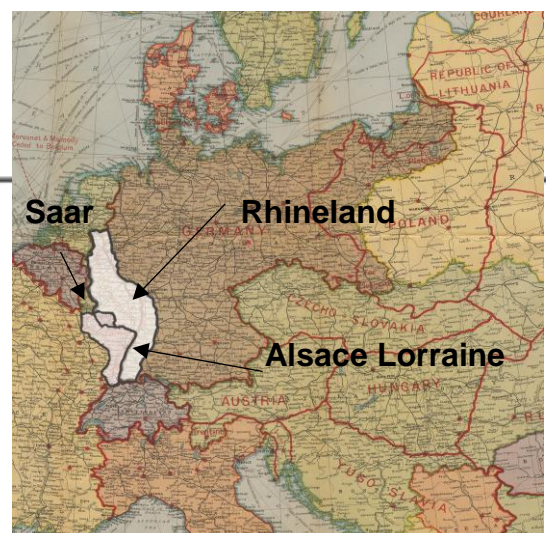
Large areas of your country were destroyed during the war, and:

- 11.5% of the French population was either killed or injured
- 250,000 buildings were destroyed
- 750,000 homes were destroyed
- 112 coal mines were destroyed
- 1.3 million of your soldiers were killed.

You are determined to ensure that Germany is punished and pays substantial compensation to France so that your country can be rebuilt.

In 1870...Bismarck set the terms for the agreement between France and Germany... a peace treaty was signed at Versailles. Under this treaty France surrendered the province of Alsace-Lorraine, losing 1,500,000 of its population, and 5,603 miles of land, and promised to pay 5,000 million francs. The money was paid but France did not give up hope of regaining Alsace Lorraine from the Germans.
Y Genedl, 8 September, 1914

- You see the Conference as an opportunity to seek revenge for what happened during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 when German soldiers invaded France and Alsace-Lorraine was lost to Germany in 1871.
- You want to ensure that Germany will never again be strong enough to threaten peace in Europe and start another war. It is important therefore that Germany is disarmed.
- You want to defend and strengthen France's frontiers with Germany, for example, the Rhineland.
- You want to rebuild your industrial power after losing so many of your coal mines, and want to ensure that Germany's industrial power is reduced. Occupying the Saar territory is central to this aim.



WOODROW WILSON



Role: Woodrow Wilson is the President of the United States of America and the country's representative at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. The U.S.A joined the war on the side of the Allies in 1917.

You see the Paris Conference as an opportunity to create a new world order after the slaughter of the First World War. This is one of the main ideas behind your programme known as **The Fourteen Points**. You want to create a safe world and give Germany fair terms in the peace agreement.

As part of the 14 points you wish to see:

- A **League of Nations** – an international organisation for countries to discuss and negotiate with each other. It could also control disputed lands that cause conflict between countries.
- An end to private agreements between countries and the promotion of open and public discussions.
- Free trade between countries
- **Disarmament** and a reduction in armaments and the sizes of armed forces around the world.
- Reducing the power of or abolishing empires that used to exist.
- Providing an opportunity for smaller countries to have **self-determination**, for example, people who used to be part of the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empires
- You want to ensure that Germany is not punished too severely to ensure that the Germans are less likely to turn to Communism.

Germany Wants an Armistice

Prince Max of Baden, immediately on his appointment as German Imperial Chancellor, telegraphed President Wilson, through the Swiss Government, asking him to open peace negotiations. The text of the telegram, translated from the German, is as follows:—

The German Government requests the President of the United States of America to take in hand the restoration of peace, acquaint all belligerent States with this request, and invite them to send plenipotentiaries for the purpose of opening negotiations.

It accepts the programme set forth by the President of the United States in his message to Congress of January 8th, 1918, and in his later pronouncements, especially his speech of September 27th, as a basis for negotiations.

With a view to avoiding further bloodshed the German Government requests the immediate conclusion of an armistice on land and water and in the air. (Signed)

MAX, Prince of Baden,
Imperial Chancellor.

CEISIO HEDDWCH.
APEL GERMANI AT WILSON.
CADOEDIAD AC YMDRAFOD.
TGANIAD GAN YR ARCHRYFEL-
WR EI HUN.

Germany tried to initiate peace negotiations on the basis of the USA's 14 Points **before** the end of the war.

GERMANY



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President Friedrich Ebert - leader of the Weimar Government which came to power after the Kaiser fled. It signed the Armistice in 1918 and the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.



Role: As the conquered country you are not invited to take part in the Peace Conference. However you are allowed to send a representative from your country to observe proceedings.

At the beginning of 1918 you still believed that Germany would defeat the Allies. This did not happen but Germany was not invaded.

Because of lack of supplies and being unable to continue to fight you were forced to sign the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

You had tried to initiate discussions before the Paris Conference. In 1918 Germany sent a message to Woodrow Wilson, President of the USA, about a possible armistice and peace negotiations based on the President's Fourteen Points.

- Wilson is one of **The Big Three** at the Peace Conference in Paris in 1919. You hope that the Fourteen Points will be central to the creation of a new government in Germany rather than the harsh terms likely to be supported by the French.
- You hope to keep the lands and armed forces that The German Empire controlled before the war. If you have to lose lands you hope that this will write off or reduce the amount of reparations paid.
- You don't believe that you should receive all of the blame for the war.
- You think that Wilson's ideas for self-determination will lend support to the cause of German Austrians who wish to join with Germany. You believe that referenda in some countries will go in your favour e.g. Posen and West Prussia.
- You hope that you will be allowed to join the proposed League of Nations.

Germany Accepts the 14 Points.

The text of the German reply to President Wilson was received by the Foreign Office on Sunday morning from the British Minister at The Hague, and is as follows:—

“The German Government has accepted the terms laid down by President Wilson in his address on January 8th, and in his subsequent addresses, on the foundation of a permanent peace of justice.

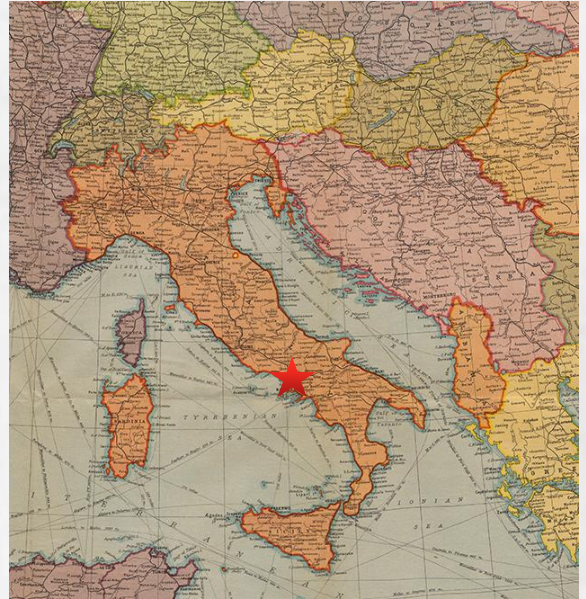
KAISER ABDICATES.
CROWN PRINCE RENOUNCES
THRONE.
FLIGHT TO HOLLAND.



Italy



Vittorio Emanuele Orlando,
the Prime Minister of Italy.



Role: As the Prime Minister of Italy, you and Sidney Sonnino, your Foreign Minister represent Italy at the Paris Peace Conference.

Despite the fact that you joined the war in May 1915 on the side of France, Britain and Russia, it was a costly war for Italy. By 1918 more than 600,000 Italians had been killed. You entered the war after signing the Treaty of London.

This secret treaty signed by Britain, France, Russia and Italy promised you control over some of the territories which would be conquered if the Allies won the war. These included lands on the border between Italy and the Austro-Hungarian Empire and some land controlled by the Ottoman Empire.

- Italy's territorial claims are discussed in April 1919. Representatives from the other main countries are unhappy with your demands, partly because of your late entry into the war and the fact that you lost important battles such as the Battle of Caporetto in 1917.
- The USA opposes your claim to the spoils of war because it is contrary to the concept of self-determination.
- You and your Foreign Minister decide to leave the Conference on April 23 and return to Rome. You are disappointed and feel betrayed by the Big Three who have reneged on their promise..
- The Italian public are up in arms. The nationalists hold anti-American protests and even threaten war if the treaty is not respected.

However, you return to Paris at the beginning of May 1919 in the hope that your attempts to enlarge Italy's empire will be fulfilled.

"SEPARATE PEACE." Reported Threat of "Conversations" with Huns.

PARIS, Thursday.
The correspondent of the United Press of America says:—
It is declared that the deadlock is worse than ever since the Orlando and Lloyd George conference last night.
The Italians are now intimating that they will start conversations with Germany, looking to a separate peace, and to obtain coal from Germany and food from the Ukraine.

"VETO ON SIGNING."

The Italian papers, according to Reuter messages, are still threatening that Italy will refuse to sign the Peace Treaty unless she gets Fiume, and they point out that by the Treaty of London the other Allies are pledged not to make a separate peace.
The "Giornale d'Italia" says that the territory conquered by the Italian Army will remain Italian, whether the Allies agree or not.

ORLANDO LEAVING TO-DAY.

Serious Crisis at Peace Conference.

Suggestive Demonstrations in Rome.