

The Treaty of Versailles

June 1919

Opinions were different of how harshly to treat Germany:

FRANCE Georges Clemenceau	GREAT BRITAIN Lloyd George	AMERICA Woodrow Wilson
Make Germany pay! Germany has to be stopped from invading again. <u>Revenge</u> .	Similar to French but <u>worried</u> that too harsh a treaty might cause more hostility in future	Put forward the use of 'the 14 points' designed to establish a lasting <u>peace</u> in Europe

At the treaty of Versailles, Germany agreed to:

1. Accept the new map of Europe
2. Accept the decisions made by the new League of Nations
3. Limit the size of its army and navy
4. To give up its Empire
5. To accept blame for the war and to pay **reparations** to countries that suffered damage during the war

The treaty was a **compromise** between all the victorious nations. Germany was weakened a great deal, and many Germans were angry at their treatment. Many historians argue that mistakes made at this treaty – by treating Germany too harshly – caused the Second World War. The size of the **reparations** threatened to make every German poor.

The 'War guilt clause' blamed the war entirely on Germany. In 1921 Germany was given the bill of £6600 million to repair the damage. Yet the British and French had probably done as much damage as the Germans.

Found at www.SchoolHistory.co.uk

Tasks

COMPLETE IN FULL

1. Copy the table showing what the different leaders wanted. [1]
2. Explain why each of the leaders had different aims at Versailles:
 - *Look back to your work on the consequences of war
 - *Think about the geographical position of each country
 - *How badly affected has each country been? [3]
3. List the terms of the treaty for Germany [1]
4. How is it best to describe the treaty – was there agreement between everyone? [2]
5. What are reparations? [1]
6. How did Germany react to the treaty? [2]
7. a) Why could it have been a mistake to treat Germany too harshly?
b) Which leader saw the danger? [2]
8. a) What was the war guilt clause?
b) What consequence did it have?
c) Why might we say this was unfair on Germany? [3]

Now complete your map of 1919 Europe using your textbook.

Compare your 1919 map to the map you have showing 1914 Europe. Write a paragraph explaining what has changed. Make sure you include:

- ⇒ New countries created
- ⇒ Which countries have changed
- ⇒ Why you think the changes were made
- ⇒ Why the changes might upset Germany even more

GLOSSARY

Reparations – payments made by the defeated countries to repair the damage done to the victorious countries

Compromise – where all sides give up some of their aims so agreement can be reached.