

A Flawed Peace Lecture

A Flawed Peace: Although President Wilson was optimistic about the end of the war, there were many flaws with the peace.

The Fourteen Points: President Wilson's peace plan. He thought if these points were followed, peace would last. America didn't believe his plan and wasn't behind him.

National Self-Determination: The idea that borders should be based on ethnicity and national identity – basically a group of people who feel that they are a nation should be allowed to have their own country. People thought if this were followed, peace would ensue.

League of Nations: A “General Association of Nations”. Member nations would help preserve peace by pledging to respect and preserve each other's territory and political independence.

The Treaty of Versailles: When the treaty was signed by the countries, it officially ended the war in June 1919.

Peace Conference in Paris: This conference was designed to create peace and a treaty. President Wilson represented the U.S. Lloyd George represented Great Britain, George Clemenceau represented France, Vittorio Orlando represented Italy. Germany was not invited.

Punishment for the Germans: Leaders thought that the war could be blamed on Germany since they were the ones who started building their military first.

Reparations: They were required to pay back 33 billion dollars to the U.S.

Set-up for WWII: Germany didn't have the money to pay back, and so their economy fails horribly. Worse economic situation for Germany than America during the Great Depression.

Other: Nine new nations are created. Some of them are – Austria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland, Hungary

For: Those who were for the treaty liked most of it except some parts in the League of Nations – they agreed to sign if it was amended.

Against: They thought it made the U.S. become too involved in world affairs.

Outcome: U.S. Senate rejected the treaty in 2 separated votes; this made it hard for the League of Nations to be effective with out one of the world's major countries backing them.