

The Peace of Paris 1919

Twenty seven countries met in Paris to settle World War I. However, only four countries made the decisions: the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy.

Five separate treaties were signed in Paris, each named after a Paris suburb: St. Germain with Austria, Trianon with Hungary, Neuilly with Bulgaria, Sevres with Turkey and Versailles with Germany.

The four major powers had to come to an agreement among themselves about what should be done with the defeated nations.

Directions

Examine carefully the demands of each of the victorious countries. Decide what you think would be a fair peace settlement to which the four victorious countries could agree.

France

1. The part of Germany west of the Rhine River should be an independent state under Allied supervision. Germany must be reduced in size so that it is no larger than France.
2. In eastern Europe there should be buffer states against communist Russia.
3. Germany must pay for all war damages, including the cost of the war and war pensions to the soldiers.
4. Germany must be disarmed. It should have an army of only 100,000, no planes, heavy artillery or submarines. It should not draft soldiers.
5. Germany must admit its guilt for the war, and that Germany was totally responsible for the war.
6. German and Turkish colonies must be turned over to Britain and France.

Great Britain

1. France should obtain only Alsace Lorraine (which it had lost in the 1870 war with Germany), the Saar coalfields which it could have until 1935, and allied occupation of the Rhineland for 15 years.
2. In eastern Europe there should be buffer states against communist Russia.
3. Germany must pay for all war damages, including the cost of the war and war pensions to the soldiers.

4. Germany should be allowed a small army to protect western Europe from Russian communism.

★ 5. Germany must admit its guilt for the war, and that Germany was totally responsible for the war.

↓ • 6. German and Turkish colonies must be turned over to Great Britain and France.

★ 7. Great Britain, being the largest seapower, should be allowed control of the seas during war.

Italy

1. Some of the German and Turkish colonies should be turned over to Italy.

2. Parts of the Austrian Empire should be turned over to Italy.

United States

1. There should be no secret treaties.

2. Armaments should be reduced by all countries. There should be freedom of the seas in both peace and war.

3. Boundaries in Europe should be redrawn along national lines and each nationality should have its own independent country.

4. Occupied territory should be evacuated.

5. There should be a gradual end to colonialism.

6. There should be an international organization to prevent war.

7. War reparations to be paid by Germany should be reasonable and within Germany's ability to pay.