

CH1: Impact of WWI on Europe

CH 1.1: The Treaty of Versailles

Pre-War:

1. Causes of WW1:

- Militarism: The production of armaments for the use of gaining or defending territory.
- Major countries which were arming themselves include Britain, France and Germany.
- Alliances: Alliances formed in secret between countries to aid and defend each other
- Nationalism: Patriotism towards one's country and desire for its independence.
- Imperialism: When one country takes over another economically and politically.
- Assassination: The assassination of Austrian-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914. This caused Austria-Hungary to declare war on Serbia

2. Secret diplomacy (one of the main reasons the LON was set up) turned an assassination-based war into a World War. LON Point

3. Germany did not start war, Austria-Hungary actually caused it (Austria-Hungary broke up, related to war guilt clause) UNFAIR

4. Germany had not been invaded before the armistice was signed, Weimar Republic, new democracy wanted peace and agreed on Woodrow Wilson's 14 points UNFAIR

- This is related to the resulting nationalistic post-war disapproval of the Weimar Republic in Germany

Post-War:

1. Germany was not invited to the Paris Peace Conference and was only given 2 weeks compared to the 6 months used to negotiate to make comments, which were ignored. UNFAIR

2. Goals of the Big 3:

Woodrow Wilson:

- Bind all countries together in a mutual alliance towards lasting peace
- Wanted to end 'old world' diplomacy which had led to war
- Germany should lose all its territorial gains
- Disarmament
- Restrictions on trade should be abolished (Brit opp)

Evidence (term) in TOV:

- Proposed 14 point programme to shape modern international relations
- Formation of League of Nations (LON)

Terms related to German territorial losses & de-militarization (*refer to specific terms in ToV)

Georges Clemenceau:

- Determined to exact vengeance ie. gain back territories lost during 1870 Franco-Prussian War (USA and Brit opp)

- Wanted compensation caused the German war machine on French ground so it will cripple the German economy and make France powerful in Europe (USA and Brit Opp)
- Wanted to weaken Germany so it could never threaten France again eg. A de-militarized zone along border where Germany invaded France (USA and Brit opp)
-Germany was never to have troops in Rhineland; French troops there to prevent unwanted attack

Evidence (term) in TOV:

- Reparations term
- French troops stationed in the Rhineland (DMZ) to guard against any unwanted German attack

Germany to return the province of Alsace-Lorraine

David Lloyd George:

- Punish Germany (British public sentiment) (USA opp)
- Continue to conduct trade with Germany (one of British bigger trade partners)
- Prevent economy from failing so Germany would not be lured towards Bolshevism / Communism
- Wanted to retain British supremacy at sea and did not want to abolish trade restrictions & to control German overseas colonies

Evidence (term) in TOV:

- Article 231 (war guilt clause) + Reparations £6,600,000,000

German overseas colonies taken away and given to Britain who had mandate over them

In summary: Woodrow Peace, George Revenge, David punishment yet sustainability for trade, Italy and Japan: Promised rewards.

Effects of TOV on Germany:

1. War Guilt Clause: Germans to accept full blame for damage caused in the war (cause of all other clauses (link to fact that Germany was not initial aggressor, link to fact that it was for the containment of an aggressor and reparation as Germany had caused great damage through the German war machine and bombing of USA's ships, especially at the border between Germany and France, lack of argument link to treaty of Brest-Litovsk, whereby Germany planned to impose similarly harsh clauses on Russia which was withdrawing)
2. Reparations Fee: £6600 million reparations (link to war guilt, loss of industrial region such as Saar and the Port of Danzig, self-reparation, loss of able-bodied workers, rebellion and French & Belgian occupation of Ruhr, hyper-inflation, Dawes Plan)
3. Demilitarisation: 100,000 men, 15,000 men in Navy, no submarines, no tanks, no aircraft, no conscription. Demilitarisation of Rhineland until 1934, left vulnerable to France (link to WG Clause, employment of Freikorps during communist and nationalist rebellion, failure of self-defense during invasion of Ruhr, Hitler's rearmament scheme)

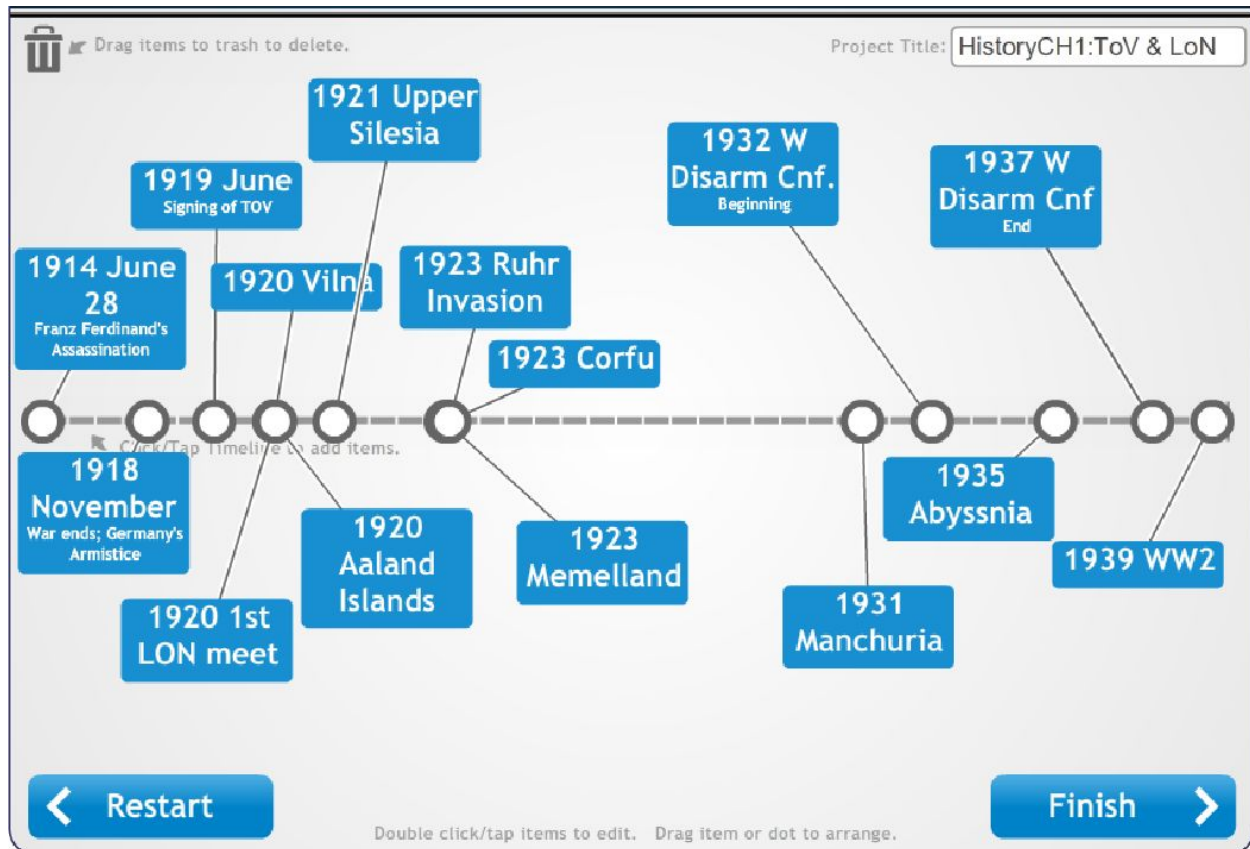
-Germany unable to start another war, significantly less able to defend itself against Allied Powers

4. Territorial Reductions: Loss of pride due to fall from colonial mastery and loss of resource rich regions such as Saar, Rhineland and the Port of Danzig (link to WG Clause, separation of German-speaking Austria to prevent further aggression, return of Alsace-Lorraine even though Germany had won it by fair means from France
5. League of Nations: International peacekeeping organisation which involved the cooperation of many countries. Germany joined in 1926.

What? TLDR; War Guilt, Territorial Losses, Demilitarisation, Reparations

Unfair/Harsh/Negative (Besides Point 1, 4)	Fair/Not Harsh/Positive (Besides Point 2)
<p>Austria-Hungary had initiated war however could not be punished as it was broken up into separate colonies after the war.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany had only entered the war as a result of her diplomatic ties with Austria-Hungary. Thus the treaty was excessively harsh due to the War Guilt Clause which stated that Germany would accept full blame for the war. Should not have been held accountable for the resultant damage. 	<p>Germany had been a main aggressor during the war and should be punished.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinking of the US passenger-carrying ship the <i>Lithuania</i>, and the colossal loss of lives at the French-German borders due to German troops and the German war machine. This led to the clause of the reparations fee which Therefore Germany was rightfully punished due to her acts of cruelty during the war.
<p>The terms in the TOV were geared towards the desires of the victors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> George Clemenceau, the president of France, who sought to exact vengeance on Germany, was one of the key decision-makers behind the TOV. Germany was not invited to the Paris Peace Conference and given only two weeks to share their views on the TOV and even so, their comments were largely ignored. This led to terms such as the reparations fee of 6,600,000 pounds which was heavily detrimental to the already ailing German economy, and even directly opposed the principle of self-determination, whereby countries would be in control of their own fate, which was meant to be one of the core concepts to be employed in the TOV 	<p>The Germans would have been equally harsh as victors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk which was planned to be imposed on the Russians which surrendered to Germany, severely plundered Russia of her resources such as her coal deposits. Thus the treaty was fair as clauses such as the heavy reparations fee of 6,600,000 pounds were substantiated by the similarly harsh treaty of Brest-Litovsk

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This caused certain unreasonable terms such as the return of Alsace-Lorraine to France even though Germany had conquered it legally. 	
<p>It weakened Germany such that it was unable to defend herself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Demilitarization Clause of the TOV maintained that Germany could only have 100,000 men, 15,000 Navy, no submarines, tanks aircraft and no conscription • This left Germany vulnerable to attacks from other countries, especially the neighbouring France. This resulted in Germany's failure to defend herself during the invasion of Ruhr, when French and Belgian troops occupied the area and the Germans could not retaliate • Thus Germany was left at the mercy of other countries as it would not be able to respond to their attacks. 	<p>The TOV contained an aggressor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loss of millions of lives during the war proved Germany to be capable of mass destruction. • Thus the treaty was fair as , through the demilitarization clause, Germany's army was severely limited to a 100,000 men, 15,000 Navy, with no submarines, tanks aircraft and no conscription. • This was meant to render Germany incapable to start another war again and was engineered towards the pursuit of world peace
Unfair/Harsh	Fair/Not Harsh
<p>The dire situation of Germany was not put into consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany had also suffered huge losses in terms of its economy and its able-bodied workforce as a result of the war and was struggling in self-reparation. • However, Germany was not invited to the Paris Peace Conference and given only two weeks to share their views on the TOV and even so, their comments were largely ignored. • This led to terms such as the reparations fee of 6,600,000,000 pounds which was heavily detrimental to the already ailing German economy. 	<p>Reparations had to be made for affected countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries such as France had amassed great losses due to their war with Germany, through the many deaths and the property damage • Thus the reparations fee of 6600 thousand pounds was fair as it allowed for the countries which had suffered from Germany's actions to recover. • Fair as a form of compensation
Caused great German Humiliation	



History Timeline:

1. Ottoman Empire, broke away and Austria-Hungary and Russia both sought the territory, though their occupants (Balkans) sought independence. In 1908, Bosnia became part of Austria-Hungary, while Serbia plotted to challenge this change. The assassination took place on 28 June 1914, in Sarajevo, the capital city of Bosnia, due to nationalistic beliefs. This event caused Austria-Hungary to declare war on Serbia. Allies: Serbia>Russia>France>Britain>Italy>USA>Japan. Axis: Austria Hungary>Germany>Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria.
2. Signed by Weimar Republic, new democracy after Kaiser Wilhelm's monarchy (related to WG clause)
3. Germany not invited to discussion, only given 2 weeks, and their comments were ignored.

All other dates' descriptions are written below.

CH 1.2: The League of Nations

Core Values:

1. International Peace and Security
2. Pacifism

3. Open, just and honourable diplomacy
4. International Law enforcement

Aims:

1. World parliament, Collective Security
2. Improvement of Lives and Jobs
3. Disarmament
4. Enforcement of Treaty of Versailles
5. Self-determination of minority populations

SIDED: Security, Improvement of lives and jobs, Disarmament, Enforcement of TOV, Self-determination.

Collective Security

- Work together to safeguard peace

Disarmament

- Reduction of a country's military forces and weapons
- Failure and delay of World Disarmament Conference (1932-1937) as Germany and France would not agree

Weaknesses of LON: Structural, lack of authority and credibility, limited membership, Pacifism, Appeasement

1. Structural Weaknesses:

- Understaffed and disorganised Secretariat
- The working relationship between the General Assembly and the Council was not clearly defined. The Conference of Ambassadors often made decisions that should have been made by the League itself, which meant that the Conference seemed to have more power than the permanent League members.
- Permanent Council members (Britain, Japan, France, Italy) which had veto power (decisions must reach unanimous agreement of all 4 before they were made). This meant that the decisions LON usually had to be in all 4 members' favour; this slowed down the League's efforts for peacekeeping and caused them to be ineffective. (e.g Manchurian Crisis, took 2 years to respond)

2. Lacked authority and credibility:

- Peacekeeping measures were ineffective and not followed through by League
- Members largely consisted of victors of WW1 (only 9 members were not on the side of the Allies in the LON, biased towards victor's desires "victor's club").

Methods of Peacekeeping:

Name of Method	Description	Weakness
Moral Persuasion	Members of the League would publicly condemn the offender	Strong offenders would not be affected by the criticism (e.g Manchurian Crisis)

Military Sanction	Members of the League would use military force on offender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> League members unwilling to be involved militarily (post-war pacifism, recovery and principle of diplomacy? E.g. Abyssinian Crisis) League did not have an army to support demands
Economic Sanction	Members of the League would be ordered not to trade with the offending party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members did not want economy to be adversely affected Offending League members could withdraw

Sanction: Penalty

3. Limited Membership

- Countries sought own recovery of strength, did not want to be involved in other conflicts
- USA's isolationist policy: Government (against Woodrow Wilson's will) did not want to interfere with European affairs
- Major powers USA, Germany and Russia were not part of the LON due to their isolationist policy, WW1 Aggressiveness and Communist ideology respectively. Though Germany and Russia later joined (but subsequently left due to their reluctance to abide by post-war pacifism), the League was consequently structurally weak as it did not have powerful nations to back its decisions. After the War, USA was economically and militarily powerful and was the country which conceptualised LON and its values, and she could have been a useful partner in the League.

4. Post-war Pacifism and distrust

- Chose ineffective policy of appeasement (link to Hitler's conscription)
- Unwillingness to disarm due to distrust towards other countries (Link to World Disarmament Conference 1932-1937)
- SCAMP: Structural Weakness, Credibility and Authority, Limited Membership, Post-war Pacifism and Distrust.

Notable Successes

- Aaland islands (1920s): Given to Finland when the dispute between Sweden and Finland on issue of territory came to the point where there was a danger of an outbreak of war. No weapons were to be kept there, solved peacefully with diplomacy (Peace, Disarmament)
- Upper Silesia (1920s): Germany contested for ownership of Poland-owned Upper Silesia due to its industrial value. Plebiscite showed a clear split in the region as to which

country they were in favour of, partition formed and conflict was resolved
(Self-determination, Peace)

3. Memelland Conflict (1920s): Lithuania invaded Memel as large population was Lithuanian, but it was put under French control. Upon discussion by LON, Memel was transferred to Lithuania. (Success of diplomacy, self-determination, peace and collective security)

Notable Failures

1. Corfu (1920s): Italian General assassinated in Greece's territory, Italy demanded compensation, Greece failed to meet demands, and Italy invaded Corfu. Council members could not compel Italy to withdraw, therefore told Greece to pay the compensation fee. (own member's failure to adhere to diplomacy and peace, failure to ensure security and peace, LON may be biased towards stronger member)
2. Vilna Conflict (1920s): Vilna put under Lithuania, large polish population. Poland invaded, Lithuania appealed. League demanded withdrawal, but Poland refused. (failure of diplomacy, failure to ensure security and peace)
3. Manchurian Crisis (1930s): Japan sought economic gain after industry crashed due to USA's tariffs. Manchuria held much coal and iron ore. As China was busy with war against communism, managed to capture easily. Japan asked to withdraw with investigation and plebiscite, Lord Lytton's committee took a year to write report and caused great delay. Japan left LON (own member's failure to adhere to diplomacy and peace, failure to ensure security and peace)
4. Abyssinian Crisis (1930s): Border conflict between Italy and Abyssinia, armed sales banned yet poison gas still used by Italy. Took months to discuss matter, delayed decision for trade sanction. Britain and France did not intervene as wanted to keep ally and did not want to anger, Italy eventually invaded. (failure of disarmament, failure of diplomacy, failure to ensure peace and security).