

Topic 1: Treaty of Versailles

Terms of the Treaty

War Guilt	Article 231. Germany had to accept the full blame for starting the war.
Reparations	Germany was not consulted. The original treaty left an undisclosed amount which was agreed in 1921. £6.6 billion which was to be paid until 1984. (Terms were changed under the Young Plan signed later)
German territories	Overseas colonies were given as mandates under the League of Nations, but looked after by Allied countries. Britain and France: Togoland, Camerouns. Britain: German SW Africa, German East Africa, German New Guinea. Germany lost European territories: Alsace Lorraine given to France, Saar coalfields given to France for 15 years, Malmedy to Belgium, West Prussia and Upper Silesia to Poland, Danzig made a free city, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia given independence.
Armed forces/military	100,000 men in the army, conscription was banned, no submarines or aeroplanes, 6 battleships, Rhineland was to be demilitarised.

Fourteen Points: success?
 NO: Free access to the seas – blocked by Britain
 YES: League of Nations to be set up
 France to regain Alsace Lorraine

Treaty of Brest Litovsk 1917:
 Russia lost: 54% of its industry, 34% of its population and were made to pay 300 million roubles.

ANALYSIS POINT:
 This shows Germany set a precedent for a harsh treaty with no leniency.

Treaty of Guarantee - France wanted a guarantee that Britain and France would come to their aid if Germany attacked in the future. This does not materialise.

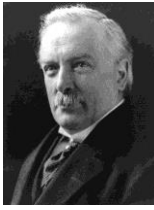
What did Germany lose?
 10% of its land
 100% of its colonies
 12% of its population
 16% of its coalfields
 50% of its steel and iron industry

What were the motives/aims of the Big Three?



Woodrow Wilson, USA

- **Fourteen Points** 8 Jan 1918
- Wanted lasting peace
- Did not want to give communism/extremism a footing
- Wanted democracy and self determination
- Creation of League of Nations



David Lloyd George, Great Britain

- Huge public pressure for a harsh treaty
- Won the election based on the 'make them pay' campaign
- Wanted to ensure trade could continue
- Wanted Germany to lose their navy and colonies



Georges Clemenceau, France

- France had suffered significantly during the war
- Wanted to remove the threat of Germany
- Wanted to punish Germany
- Wanted the Rhineland to be an independent state, French control of the Saarland.
- Significant limitation of the German army.
- Buffer zone in the Rhineland

Damage done in the war:

- 2.5 million hectares of French agriculture destroyed (50%)
- 20,000 French industrial compounds destroyed
- France was left in 33 billion francs of debt
- 1.6 million French soldiers killed, 750,000 British
- 1.6% British population killed, 3.3% of French, 0.17% of USA

Why did they clash?

- America had not suffered as badly as France
- Clemenceau thought Britain were only concerned with their own interests
- France felt the most threatened by a strong Germany
- Self determination and free navigation of the seas threatened British empire

House of Commons voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Treaty, whereas Clemenceau did not run in the 1920 election as he knew he would lose.

Satisfied?

Georges Clemenceau	Overall satisfied as France was secure on her eastern front and had benefitted (Saar, majority of reparations, limited German army), however Treaty of Guarantee never materialised and many in France did not think the Treaty was harsh enough.
Woodrow Wilson	Satisfied with some elements, notably growth of diplomacy. League of Nations established and some countries given self determination. Emphasis on disarmament and Rhineland was not made a separate state. However, German colonies were now mandates and Free navigation of the seas was blocked by Britain. Limits on self determination (Anschluss). Treaty was harsh.
David Lloyd George	Britain was very satisfied with the treaty as they emerged as the leading naval power (Germany lost its colonies and navy). Lloyd George had persuaded Clemenceau to take a more moderate approach. However, trade would be difficult due to the loss of German industry.

Was the Treaty 'fair'?

FAIR	NOT FAIR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France were occupied which caused huge financial burdens – 2.5 million hectares of crops were destroyed (50%), 20,000 industrial compounds • France was in 33 billion francs of debt – they needed the reparations to pay this off • France had been invaded and wanted a weak border to protect them from further invasion • Treaty of Brest Litovsk had been very harsh on Russia – 54% of its industry (this is more than Germany lost). This shows they had set a precedent. • It was giving independence (self determination) to states that Germany had invaded – Lithuania, Estonia. • The Allies had collectively suffered – France had lost 1.6 million men and Britain had lost 750,000. • 1.6% of the British population and 3.3% of the French lost their lives in this war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reparations payments were at an impossibly high amount – by 1922 Germany could already not pay despite their good will to do so – Invasion of the Ruhr • Invasion of the Ruhr stagnated German industry even further • Naval blockade had already limited the food resources in Germany • Germany lost huge amounts of their industry (50% of their steel) this meant that reparations were difficult to make • 6.5 million Germans were living outside of Germany – lack of self determination • Germany were forced to abide by rules that other countries did not have to, for example disarmament • Internal uprisings show that Germany did not have enough soldiers for internal stability – Munich Putsch, Kapp Putsch, Sparti • cist Uprising • Germany did not start the war – Austria Hungary did – they had been forced to sign the war guilt clause, Article 231

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Impact of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany

Germany were not represented in the Treaty. They managed to make minor changes – the holding of a plebiscite in Upper Silesia. They saw the Treaty as a **Diktat** and the Weimar Gov as **November Criminals**.

Invasion of the Ruhr:
 First instalment of the reparations £50 million was paid in 1921
 1922 nothing was paid
 Ebert tried to negotiate with the Allies
 French ran out of patience – military occupation
 German government ordered the workers to go on strike promising they would pay their wages – passive resistance
 French killed 100 workers and expelled 100,000 from the region
 Strike meant that the Germans had no goods to trade or money to buy things with. The government also started to print money to pay wages.

1919 Spartacist Uprising: left wing rising led by Rosa Luxembourg. Defeated by the Freikorps.
1920 Kapp Putsch: right wing rising led by the Freikorps. Ebert had to leave Berlin for protection. Defeated by a workers strike.
1923 Munich Putsch: right wing coup led by Hitler and supported by key WWI army generals like Ludendorff.

What financial position were Germany in?

- The First World War had cost Germany 37 billion US dollars.
- 13 million Germans were employed in the German army during WWI.
- During the war industrial output had dropped 40%
- 1.7 million German soldiers died during WWI.
- Germany lost 10% of its land, 12% of its population, 16% of its coal fields and 50% of its coal and steel industry.

Economic/Social Impact	Political Impact	Social Impact
Figure of £6.6 billion announced by Reparations Commission in 1921 – they had signed a 'blank cheque' Germany defaulted on payment in 1922 which led to the invasion of the Ruhr. 100,000 Germans were expelled from the region and 130 were killed. Hyperinflation occurred due to the over printing of money to pay striking workers.	Around 6.5 million Germans now lived under foreign rule. Created a revanchism in Germany – policy of seeking to retaliate. Allowed extremists on both right wing and left wing to exploit political weakness – Kapp Putsch, Spartacus Uprising, Munich Putsch. Nazis capitalised on the rhetoric for the next 10 years to gain support. Polarised opinion away from the moderates.	Immediate post war period was characterised by inflation, rising unemployment and problems of poverty and homelessness Class conflicts A section of Germany's land was given to Poland to give them to access to the Baltic Sea. This "Polish Corridor" separated Germany and East Prussia, dividing a same race and culture. Various ethnic groups forced to mix due to the drawing of new boundaries

ANALYSIS POINT:
 Proves the German argument correct. They had argued that limitations on their army would mean they could not ensure political stability.

Plebiscites:

Area & Year	Result
Schleswig – 1920	Partitioned between Germany and Denmark
East Prussia: Allenstein and Marienwerder – 1920	Remained part of Germany
Upper Silesia – 1921	Partitioned between Germany and Poland
Saar Basin – 1935	Returned to Germany

4 mark questions – 5 minutes

- Either give four (ideally five) separate points, or offer two points with supporting detail for each point.
- Be precise (e.g. facts, figures, names, dates etc.)
- Make sure you answer the actual question

In what ways did the Treaty of Versailles weaken Germany's armed forces?

In what ways was the Treaty of Versailles designed to restrict Germany's ability to attack France?

6 mark questions – 12 minutes

- Two points, each explained with supporting detail
- Each point should have its own paragraph

Why did Germany dislike the Treaty of Versailles?

Why did the aims of the 'Big Three' differ?

Why did France want a harsh treaty imposed on Germany?

10 mark questions – 23 minutes

4 paragraphs - 2 FOR and 2 AGAINST the statement. If the statement mentions two events/people by name 2 paragraphs for each.

You must have a conclusion at the end of the of the answer summarising your argument to the question.

No need for an introduction.

To what extent was the Treaty of Versailles a sensible treaty given the circumstances of the time? Explain your answer.