

Versailles - A Flawed Peace



Final German Offensive

- Cause: Russian surrender
- When: Spring of 1918
- What: Came within 35 miles of Paris
- Result: Defeated by Allies at Second Battle of the Marne in July 1918
- Why: AMERICA!



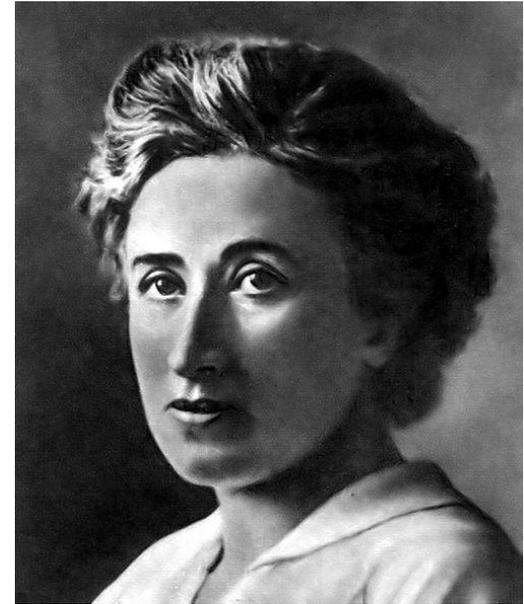
Revolutions in Germany and Austria-Hungary

- Austria-Hungary
 - Ethnic minorities will declare independence in Austria-Hungary and force the last Habsburg Emperor to flee!
- Germany
 - Soviet-style councils of workers and soldiers began to form
 - As peace negotiations dragged on, these councils began to protest and mutiny
 - Chaos and allied pressure forces William II to abdicate
- New democratic republican governments, led by liberals and moderate socialists, formed that immediately surrendered!



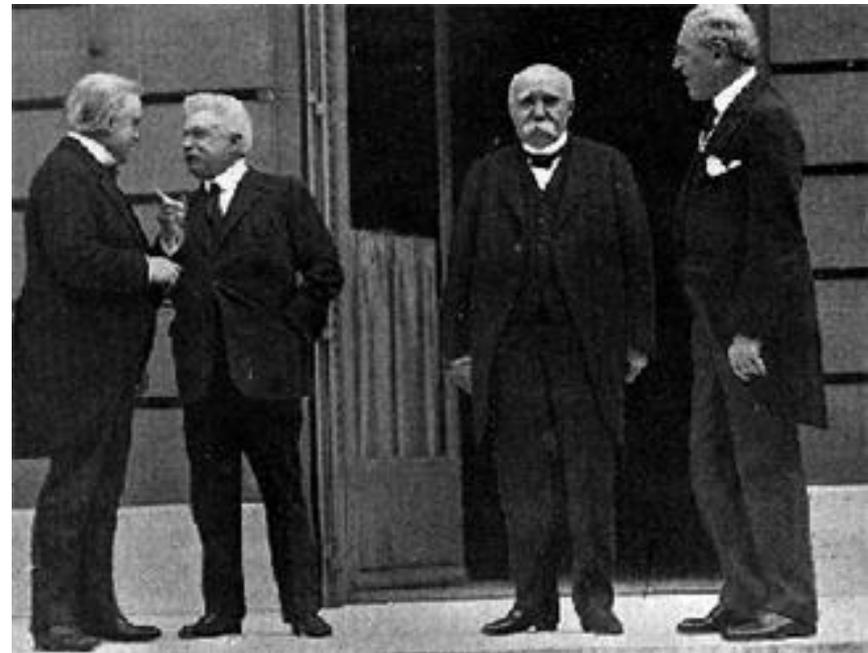
Political Instability Follows the War

- German Social Democratic Party split during the war
 - Moderates – Formed the new Weimar Republic
 - Radicals (led by Liebknecht and Luxemburg) – Declared themselves Communists
- Unlike Russia, the attempted Communist Revolution fails in Germany
 - Leads to widespread fear of communism
 - This fear of communism will be used by Hitler and the Nazis to gain popular political support



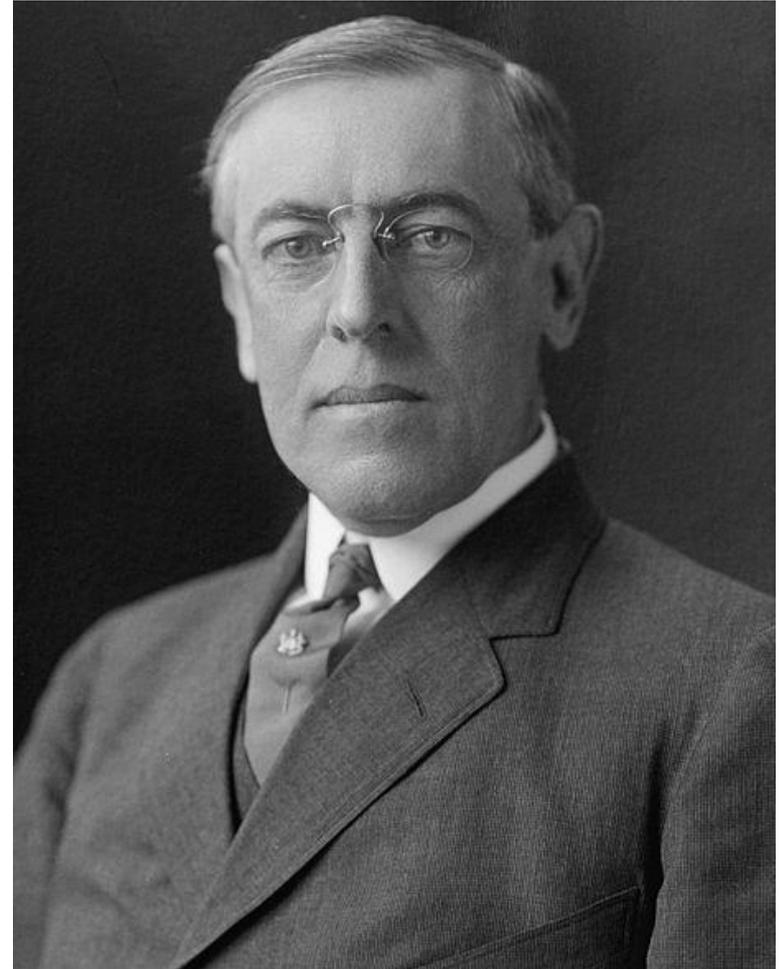
Paris Peace Conference

- Representatives of 27 nations met at Versailles on January 18, 1919
- Goal: Fix the mistake of Vienna by using nationalism to gain eternal peace
- Big Four:
 - Woodrow Wilson, US
 - Georges Clemenceau, France
 - David Lloyd George, GB
 - Vittorio Orlando, Italy
- Notable absences:
 - Russia and Germany



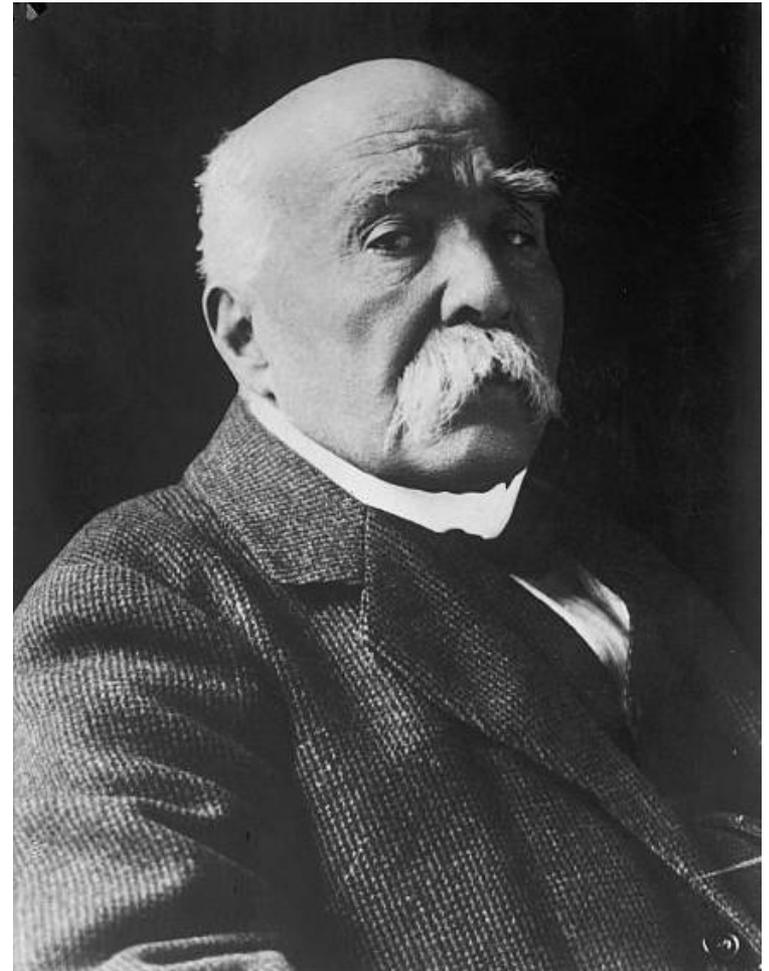
Wilson's 14 Points

- Points 1-5 designed to prevent another war
- Points 6-13 dealt with boundary changes
 - National Self-determination
- Most importantly, the 14th point called for the creation of a League of Nations
 - An international organization to address diplomatic problems



Allies Reject Wilson's Plan

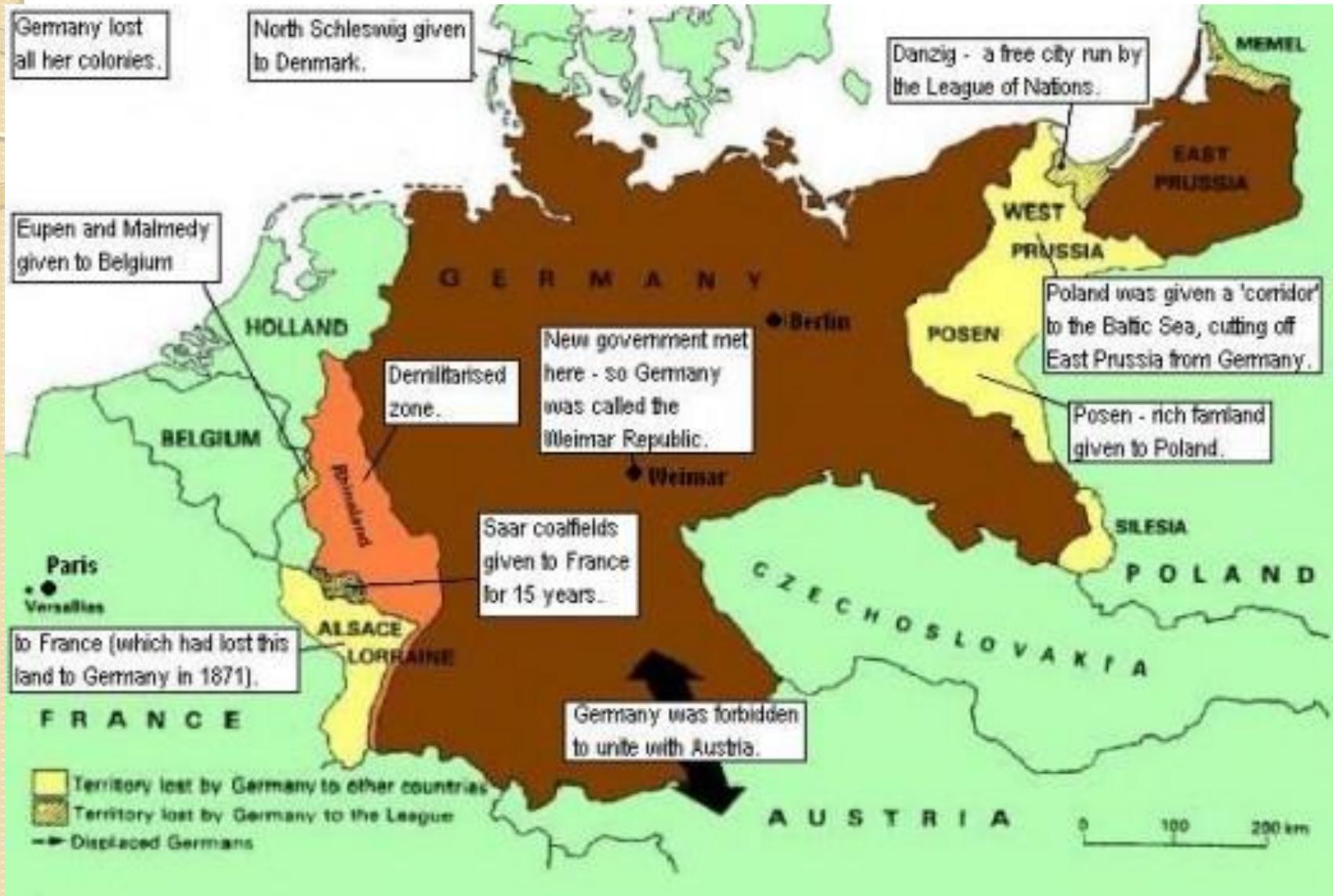
- The Allied leaders rejected Wilson's plan
 - They believed it was too forgiving and idealistic
 - Clemenceau (France) and Lloyd George (Britain) wanted Germany to pay for the war
- France particularly worried about its own security
 - Desired a buffer state for protection
 - Wanted to strip Germany of all military capabilities
- USA: Rejected this proposal as a violation of national self-determination
- Result: Compromise was the only way...France gave up demand in return for a defensive alliance with GB and USA



The Treaty of Versailles

- Signed by Big Four and Germany on June 28, 1919
- Adopted Wilson's plan for League of Nations
- Provisions:
 - Substantial colonial losses, but minimal land losses in Europe
 - Restricted militarism
 - DMZ in Rhineland
 - Forbids Anschluss!
 - War-guilt clause
 - Payment of reparations
 - \$33 billion





The Creation of New Nations

- Austria-Hungary was disintegrated
 - New nations appeared in Eastern Europe
- Ottoman Empire was carved up by the allies
 - Land became mandates rather than new nations
 - Territories administered by the League of Nations
 - A front for Imperialism?
 - Balfour Declaration – British desire to create a Jewish state in Palestine



Map 1



Europe Before World War I

Map 2



Europe After World War I

US Rejects the Treaty

- Wilson believed it was the world's best hope for lasting peace
- However, many in the Senate believed that it would threaten the US policy of isolationism
- US and Germany would sign a separate peace treaty in 1921
 - Doom the fate of the League of Nations



THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.

A Peace Built on Quicksand

- Germany was economically devastated
 - Hitler: “We demand vengeance!”
- Colonial people were angered by the mandate system
- Both Japan and Italy were unhappy with the peace settlement



Legacy of World War I

- An entire generation was lost!
 - 10-13 million soldiers died
 - 7-10 million civilians died
 - 21 million soldiers were wounded
- 1918 Influenza Epidemic
 - 20 million people killed worldwide
- Armenian Genocide
 - Estimates place the death toll at 1-2 million!



Final Significance

- “The First World War dealt a last blow to the ancient institutions of monarchy and aristocratic feudalism. Thrones toppled in Turkey, in Russia, in Austria-Hungary, in the German Empire and the individual German states; and with the kings went the courtly retainers and all the social preeminence and special advantage of the old landed aristocracies. The war was indeed a victory for democracy, though a bitter one. It carried further a process as old as the French and American revolutions. But for the basic problems of modern civilization, industrialism and nationalism, economic security and international stability, it gave no answer. And it left the major European nations much weaker than before to face the rising economic power of the United States, the revolutionary government of the Soviet Union, and the emerging anticolonial movements of Africa and Asia.”