

# Treaty of Versailles: Knowledge Organiser

## Results of the First World War

The First World War lasted from **1914-1918** and was the most **destructive** warfare the world had ever seen. The full industrial might of the great powers culminated in the **deaths** of 8 million soldiers and 9 million civilians from all over the world. In addition to this, the infrastructure of many countries was **destroyed**. Over 300,000 houses, 6,000 factories and 1,000 miles of railway were destroyed as well as over 12 million tonnes of shipping sunk in the seas.

There was a great deal of **anger** in 1919 – people wanted **revenge** for all the loss.



## The Main Terms of the Treaty of Versailles

### Blame

Article 231 War Guilt Clause.

### Land

Lost Alsace Lorraine, Saar coalfields, Danzig, Rhineland demilitarised.

### Army

100,000 men in army, no air force, no submarines, 6 battleships.

### Money

£6.6 billion reparations.

### Empire

Lost all empire to control of League of Nations.

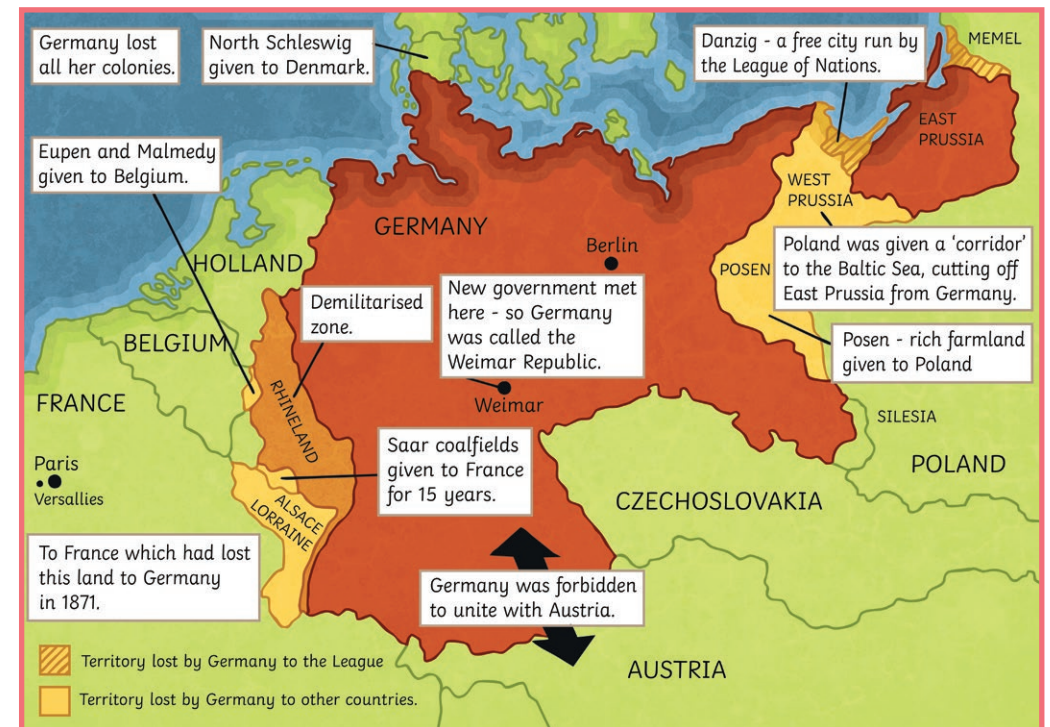
## Why Was the Treaty so Harsh on Germany?

In 1918, Russia had asked Germany for a peace treaty to leave the war following the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. The **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk** was the result. This treaty was the **harshest** the world had ever seen. Russia lost huge amounts of land to Germany and 25% of its population.

The allies felt they could expect something similar if they had lost the war to Germany. They expected Germany to be a harsh victor.




In addition, the British and French public wanted **revenge** on Germany for the pain and loss of the war. Germany was **blamed** for having started the war and as such should be made to pay for it.

## Terms of the Treaty of Versailles



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## The 'Big Three': Were They Satisfied with the Treaty?

	Georges Clemenceau 	David Lloyd George 	Woodrow Wilson 
<b>Aims</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enormous <b>damage</b> to France – French <b>pride dented</b> by invasion by Germany.</li> <li>Fighting took place in France.</li> <li>French industry and agriculture <b>ruined</b>.</li> <li><math>\frac{2}{3}</math> French army had been casualties.</li> <li>Worried about <b>future</b> German <b>threat</b>.</li> <li>Wanted to <b>cripple Germany</b> for future generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Middle ground</b></li> <li>Publicly had promised to '<b>make Germany pay</b>'.</li> <li>Privately worried about <b>trade</b> and future revenge.</li> <li>Wanted Germany punished but <b>not too harshly</b>.</li> <li><b>Needed trade</b> with Germany.</li> <li>Lose German Navy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Idealist</b> and reformer</li> <li>Peaceful world</li> <li><b>14 Points</b></li> <li>Self-determination</li> <li>Strengthen democracy in Germany to avoid another war.</li> </ul>
<b>Satisfied</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Military restrictions</b></li> <li>No conscription</li> <li>Gaining Alsace Lorraine back from Germany.</li> <li>Rhineland demilitarised as '<b>buffer</b>'.</li> <li><b>War guilt</b> clause</li> <li>Reparations to <b>rebuild France</b> and <b>weaken Germany</b>.</li> <li>Gaining German colonies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Navy restricted</b> to six battleships and no submarines.</li> <li>Loss of German <b>Empire</b></li> <li>Gaining German colonies</li> <li><b>Public satisfied</b> with German humiliation (war guilt).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>League of Nations</b> set up to try and avoid future wars.</li> <li>Map of Eastern Europe redrawn along <b>self-determination</b> lines (mostly).</li> </ul>
<b>Unsatisfied</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French public felt treaty <b>too lenient</b> on Germany.</li> <li>Thought reparations <b>were too little</b> to cripple Germany long-term.</li> <li>Wanted Germany split up to ensure it was never again a threat – this could never be achieved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believed treaty was <b>too harsh</b> on Germany.</li> <li><b>Distruisted</b> idea of <b>self-determination</b>, especially in Czechoslovakia.</li> <li>Declared "we will have to fight another war in 25 years' time and at 3 times the cost!"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Few of 14 points accepted.</b></li> <li>No self-determination in colonies.</li> <li>US Senate <b>refused to accept</b> Treaty of Versailles and <b>never joined League of Nations</b>.</li> <li>Wilson died a broken man.</li> </ul>

## German reactions to the Treaty

The German people felt they had been '**stabbed in the back**' by the new government who had asked for an armistice in November 1918. Very few accepted they had lost the war, so any treaty would be unwelcome.

The negotiations were undertaken behind **closed doors** so Germany had little idea about what to expect from the treaty. The only clue they had were Wilson's 14 points, which seemed reasonable. Germany lost 10% of its land and 12.5% of its population.

When the harsh terms of the treaty were revealed, Germany was **horrified**. They called the treaty '**Diktat**' as they had no choice but to accept it. The German navy scuttled its own ships in protest, but Germany was in no position to fight any further wars. Germany signed the treaty on 28 June 1919.

Germany was further **insulted** by being **forbidden** to join the **League of Nations** until it could prove it was a peace-loving nation.