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| Treaty of Versailles |
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| The Treaty of Versailles was one of the peace treaties signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles, by Germany and the Allied Powers at the end of World War One. It was signed exactly five years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the event that had triggered the war. The signing of the treaty followed six months of negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference, which had opened on January 18, 1919. It also led to the creation of two major international organizations: the League of Nations (1919-1946) and the International Labour Organization.  Negotiators tried with great difficulty to enforce and maintain peace as well as democracy. The talks took place in a complex international context that witnessed a significant shift of power and remapping of Europe. While the communist revolutions had led to the demise of the Russian Empire, the end of the Great War provoked the collapse of German and Austro-Hungarian powers, and the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire.  The main terms of the peace were determined by the so-called ‘Big Three’: the English Prime Minister David Lloyd George, the French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau and the President of the USA Woodrow Wilson. The Allies agreed to hold Germany responsible for all the loss and damage caused by the war in Article 231 of the treaty, later known as the War Guilt Clause. |
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| Further reading:  (Sharp) |