

Group Assignment #2 Paris Peace Conference, 1919 (due in your week 8 Tutorial) = 4 marks

Using primary documents we will investigate the ambitions and strategies pursued by each state at the Paris Peace Conference (Germany & Russia at Brest-Litovsk); and how effective were the outcomes achieved? Particular reference will be paid to the role of the individual statesmen involved. In a short group presentation of about 2 pages/5 minutes your group will make a thesis argument with reference to the primary documents and other sources of evidence to support your case. We will discuss this in the tutorial as well. Each group to choose one of the 5 topics.

Groups will investigate the questions below, using primary texts, below. Please let me know if you find the links expired. You may want to use chapters from this book to supplement your primary documents:

Margaret MacMillan, *Paris 1919: Six Months that changed the world* (2002)*online* D644

<http://webcat1.library.ubc.ca/vwebv/holdingsInfo?searchId=27661&recCount=100&recPointer=0&bibId=10714199>

Group Topics & documents:

1. Germany & Russia: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/bl34.asp#treatytext

The Versailles Treaty, Part IV <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/partiii.asp>

Compare and contrast the Treaty imposed by Germany on Russia with the Versailles Treaty imposed on Germany.

Examine the costs and consequences to Russia. Why did Russia agree to this?

Russia: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk optional background documents:

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/blmenu.asp

2. France; (The Versailles Treaty, Parts II and III)

<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/partii.asp>

<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/partiii.asp>

How did these parts of the treaty serve French national interests? Was it fair to impose them on Germany?

3. United States; President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points & League of Nations

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp

The League of Nations (The Versailles Treaty, Part I)

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/versailles_menu.asp

How would the League prevent future wars? Whose vision did this represent?

How did the Versailles settlement live up to the 14 points? Why did the US not ratify the Treaty?

4. Britain; (The Versailles Treaty, Part V)

<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/partv.asp>

What had Britain achieved by this Part of the Treaty?

5. Reparations (The Versailles Treaty, Part VIII) <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/partviii.asp>

Whose idea was this? Was it just, or workable?

General Questions for Presentation:

Who would gain, and who would lose by this settlement? Why was it imposed, and by whom?

What did this state gain, or lose, at Paris? What were their national objectives? Was their diplomacy effective? Were they satisfied or dis-satisfied with the outcome? Does this explain future behaviour? Try to come up with a thesis to bring this all together for your presentation. Number 5 Reparations, try to place the reparation in the context of the Paris Peace Conference: who was most responsible?