

8.4 The Treaty of Versailles

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1. 释义

Okay, so World War One is over, and as **much of** Europe has been reduced to **a smoking pile of rubble** (倒塌的墙或建筑留下的) 瓦砾,废墟, 主 the powers involved in the war 谓 have to **figure out** a peace settlement 和平解决方案 — a settlement which, as it turns out 事实证明,人们后来发现, was far from 远离, 远非 peaceful. So let' s talk about it, and if you' re ready to get them brain cows milked self-determination 自决权 style, let' s get to it.

好了, 第一次世界大战结束了, 欧洲大部分地区已经变成了一堆冒烟的废墟, 参战的大国必须找到一个和平的解决方案——一个事实证明远非和平的解决方案。

In order to understand **the Versailles Peace Conference** 凡尔赛和平会议, you really have to understand that /the victorious powers 战胜国 did not **at all agree on** how peace should be administered 管理. And 主 the big three involved in this tension 系 were the United States, Great Britain, and France. Let' s begin with the United States.

为了理解凡尔赛和会, 你必须明白, 战胜国在如何管理和平问题上, 根本没有达成一致。

So **despite the fact that** /the U.S. military **played a comparatively 相对地 small role** in the victory of World War One, 主 U.S. President Woodrow Wilson 谓 **played a comparatively 比较地, 相对地 large role** in the peace settlement.

And 主 the words you need **to associate with** Wilson' s vision for European peace 系 is idealist 理想主义者. Wilson really wanted to create a perfect world /in which nations would no longer **go to war** with each other, which **as we' ll see** was a little... uh... idealist 空想家, 理想主义者. And if you liked that joke — and let' s be honest, how could you not — then you' ll love my AP Euro review pack, which does everything you need to get an A in your class and a five on your exam in May. Link in description.

尽管美国军队在第一次世界大战的胜利中, 所起的作用相对较小, 但美国总统伍德罗·威尔逊, 在和平协议的达成中, 却发挥了相当大的作用。而与威尔逊对欧洲和平的愿景相关联的词, 是"理想主义"。威尔逊真的想要创造一个完美的世界, 在这个世界里各国不再相互开战, 正如我们将会看到的, 这有点.....呃.....理想化。如果你喜欢这个笑话——说实话, 谁不喜欢呢——那么你会爱上我的 AP 欧洲历史复习资料包, 它能帮你搞定课堂上的 A 等成绩, 和五月考试的五分。详情链接在描述里。

Now in order to guide (v.)带领, 引导 (某人至某地); 搀扶 (某人朝...方向) 走; (朝...方向) 移动 (某物) the peace settlement /according to his vision, Wilson presented 展示, 提供 what he called **the 14 Points** 十四点原则, which were to guide the administration 施行; 执行 of peace.

The 14 Points included a provision 条款,提供, 供应 for the reduction of arms 军备裁减 among nations, open diplomatic relationships 公开外交关系 **rather than** secretive treaties 秘密条约, and most important of all, the right of self-determination 自决权 among nations. This idea hit at the heart of long-standing imperial traditions 长期存在的帝国传统 of European power. He said no one else **gets 被允许,有机会做某事 to 被允许,有机会做某事** determine the nation' s future /except that nation themselves, at which point /主 everyone living in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East 系 was like, "Say what now?" and all the European imperial powers were like, "Say what now?"

这一理念直击欧洲列强长期存在的帝国传统的核心。他说,除了这些国家自己之外,没有人有权决定其国家的未来,此时亚洲、非洲和中东地区的所有居民都像是在说:“这到底是什么意思?(啥?你再说一遍?)”而所有的欧洲帝国势力也都像是在说:“这到底是什么意思?(这唱的哪一出?)”

Example 1. 案例

no one else **gets to** determine the nation' s future /except that nation themselves

"get to" + 动词原形 表示 "被允许/有机会做某事", 强调 "获得权利或机会"。

- She gets /to choose the movie tonight. 她有权今晚选电影。
- no one else gets /to determine the nation' s future 其他任何人都无权决定该民族的未来。

为什么用 "gets to" 而非其他词?

与 "can" 的区别:

- "no one else can determine..."→ 仅陈述能力(可能被解读为客观限制)
- "no one else gets to determine..."→ 明确否定合法性(暗示"本就不该有这种权力")

威尔逊用 "gets to" 强调殖民统治的"不正当性", 而非单纯讨论"可行性"。

Say what now?

字面意思是"现在说什么?", 但实际是英语口语中表达 震惊、怀疑或嘲讽 的感叹。类似中文的 "啥? 你再说一遍?" 或 "这唱的哪一出?" (带戏谑感)

And maybe 主 the most ambitious provision of the 14 Points 系 was the creation of a League of Nations 国际联盟, which would be an international body 国际组织 **devoted to** the prevention of war. Now spoiler 阻碍...成功的人(或事物); 搞砸...的人(或事物); 剧情透漏 alert 剧透警告: *the League of Nations* was indeed formed 确实成立了, but it was doomed 注定的, 命定的; 注定要失败的 from the beginning.

Much to Wilson' s chagrin (n.)(懊恼; 委屈; 气愤)这让威尔逊非常懊恼, the United States didn' t even join. The United States Senate, which was responsible for ratifying (v.)批准 such treaties, squarely 明确地 voted (v.) no /because they feared that 主 a binding agreement 有约束力的协议 like that 谓 would drag (v.) the U.S. into a war /without congressional approval 国会批准.

Example 2. 案例

Much to Wilson' s chagrin

"Much to + 某人' s + 情绪名词": 表示 "令某人非常...的是", 强调该情绪的程度和被动性(即主语无法控制该结果)。

- Much to her delight... (令她大喜的是)

- Much to our surprise... (出乎我们意料的是)

chagrin

[U] (formal) a feeling of being disappointed or annoyed 失望；恼怒；烦恼；懊恼
→ 词源不详

Add to that, Germany and Russia didn't **participate in** the league either, and therefore the league really could not succeed. But I get ahead of myself 但我有点超前了 — we're talking about tensions at the peace conference 我们在谈论和平会议上的紧张局势。

Example 3. 案例

I get ahead of myself

字面："我跑到了自己前面" → 比喻 "过早讨论后续内容" 或 "偏离当前主题"。
作者/说话者的自我纠正，承认话题跳跃，需回归主线。

可以翻译成："我这话扯远了，此乃后话，暂且按下不表"。

So that was Wilson's idealism 理想主义, but apparently Britain and France were not smelling 闻；发觉 what Wilson **was stepping in** (介入) 英国和法国并没有察觉到威尔逊正在介入的事情, you know what I mean?

主 Britain's new **Prime Minister** David Lloyd George 谓 won (v.) his office /by campaigning (v.)参加竞选活动 on a platform to punish (v.) Germany for the war, and he won, so you know, got to punish Germany 必须惩罚德国。

France's premier 总理，首相 Georges Clemenceau likewise wanted to punish Germany /for all the destruction in France 同样想惩罚德国在法国造成的破坏, and his main goal was to uphold (v.)支持，维护 **the national security of France** against future German aggression 侵略。To that end 为了那个目的, Clemenceau **pushed for** 反复要求某事物，或采取强有力的行动,以促使其发生 Germany to be demilitarized 非军事化, **for** them to pay reparations (n.)赔款 for the war, and to create **a geographic buffer zone** 地理缓冲区 in the Rhineland 莱茵兰 /to prevent Germany from ever attacking France again.

Woodrow Wilson heard all this /and he was like, "Guys, this is not the way to peace 这不是通往和平的道路," which Britain and France responded, "Shut up, Woodrow, go sit in the corner 去角落里坐着 /and eat your happy meal 快乐套餐(一种由麦当劳推出的儿童套餐，包括汉堡、薯条、饮料和一个小玩具)." That's what they said.

Example 4. 案例

push for sth | push sb for sth

to repeatedly ask for sth or try to make sth happen because you think it is very important
(向某人)反复要求，施压争取...

- The pressure group **is pushing for** a ban on GM foods. 压力集团正强烈要求取缔转基因食品。
- I'm going to have to **push you for** an answer. 我将不得不催促你答复了。

And 主 further **adding** (v.) tension **to** the mix 系 was the strained (a.) relationship 紧张关系 with Russia. Remember, they had **dropped out of** 退出，退学，退出 (某个组织或活动) the war 退出战争 to have themselves a communist revolution 共产主义革命, and **now that** 既然，

由于 they were **very much** 彻头彻尾地、毫无疑问地 communist 现在他们已经是共产主义者了, Western European powers distrusted 不信任, 怀疑 them.

As a result, 主 the powers at the peace table 谓 bolstered (v.)支持;改善;加强 the states 后定说明 neighboring 与.....为邻; 位于附近 Russia like Poland and Czechoslovakia. These states, along with other states like Hungary and Yugoslavia, became known as **democratic successor states** 民主继承国 /because they **were newly formed** (v.) out of the rubble (倒塌的墙或建筑留下的) 瓦砾, 碎石 of larger empires 它们是在更大帝国的废墟上新形成的. The point is 关键是, these states were enlarged and strengthened /at Germany and Russia' s **expense** (代价, 费用; 价钱) 这些国家以德国和俄国为代价而扩大和加强, and that caused a great deal more tension.

Example 5. 案例
now that they were **very much** communist

此处 **"very much"** 不单纯表示“非常多”, 而是强调“彻头彻尾地、毫无疑问地”, 凸显俄国已完全转变为共产主义国家的事实。

- "He is very much alive." (他确实还活着。)
- "This is very much a problem." (这绝对是个问题。)
- The project is **very much** his brainchild. "这个项目完完全全是他的主意。"
- After the reforms, the country was **very much** a democracy."改革后, 该国已是不折不扣的民主国家。"

对比其他程度副词:

副词	语气强度	隐含意义
very	普通	仅描述程度高
very much	强烈	强调本质属性
completely	极端	彻底性

AT SB' S EXPENSE

- (1) paid for by sb 由某人付钱; 由某人负担费用
- We were taken out for a meal **at the company' s expense**. 公司出钱请我们外出就餐。
- (2) if you make a joke at sb' s expense, you laugh at them and make them feel silly 在某人受损的情况下; 以某人为代价; 跟某人开玩笑

AT THE EXPENSE OF SB/STH

- with loss or damage to sb/sth 在牺牲 (或损害) ...的情况下
- He built up the business **at the expense of** his health. 他以自己的健康为代价逐步建立起这个企业。

Okay, now there were several different treaties /signed at the peace conference, but 主 the one we want to focus on 系 is the peace treaty with Germany. There are two very important provisions in this treaty /that you got to remember.

First was **the War Guilt Clause** 战争罪责条款, which **placed** the entire blame (n.) for the war 战争的全部罪责 **on** Germany and Austria too, but mostly on Germany. And 主 the reason that clause is significant 系 is because it humiliated 羞辱 and defeated 击败, 挫败 Germany /on

the world stage 在世界舞台上, and was precisely that humiliation 耻辱, 蒙羞 后定说明 that' s going **to give rise to** fascism 法西斯主义 in the decades after the war, and later, you know, World War II.

好的, 这次和平会议签署了多项协议, 但我们要重点讨论的是与德国签订的那份和平协议。这份协议中有两条非常重要的条款, 你们一定要记住。首先是“战争责任条款”, 它将战争的全部责任, 归咎于德国和奥地利, 但主要责任还是落在了德国身上。这条条款之所以重要, 是因为它在世界舞台上羞辱并击败了德国, 正是这种羞辱在战后几十年里催生了法西斯主义, 之后, 就是第二次世界大战。

主 The second part of the treaty you need to remember 系 is *the provision* 条款, as I mentioned earlier, *for* Germany /to pay (v.) reparations 赔款 for the damage 后定说明 done (v.) during the war. This also is going to create a significant cause 原因 for World War II /because 主 the amount of money Germany is going to be forced to pay 谓 will end up ruining (v.) them economically.

Now 主 these two problems within the treaty, along with the mandated (a.) 依法的; 按法律要求的; 委托别国管辖的; 托管的 German demilitarization 强制德国非军事化 and land cessions (让步, 割让) 割地, 谓 would make it very difficult /for the new post-war government known as the Weimar Republic 魏玛共和国 /to flourish (v.) 繁荣. And despite some early flourishing, the Weimar 魏玛 began to crumble (v.) 崩溃, 坍塌 in the 1930s, but we' ll save that story for another video.

Example 6. 案例 mandated

(a.) 1.(of a country or state 国家) placed under the rule of another country 委托别国管辖的; 托管的

• mandated territories 托管地区

2. required by law 依法的; 按法律要求的

• a mandated curriculum 法定课程

3. having a mandate to do sth 获得授权的

• a mandated government 获授权的政府

Now finally, we need to talk about the actions of the League of Nations /and their establishment of *the mandate system* 委任统治制度.

First, you have to understand that /主 the Treaty of Versailles 谓 essentially 本质上, 根本上; 大体上, 基本上 redrew (v.) the map of Europe, especially Eastern Europe. The Russian Empire lost (v.) significant territory, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire disappeared entirely, as did 也是如此 the Ottoman 奥斯曼帝国.

And what' s more, 主 several of the new borders 后定说明 drawn (v.) for the states that emerged from these broken down empires 崩塌的帝国废墟 谓 were drawn by the victorious powers of the war /with precisely (强调真实或明显) 正是, 确实 no consideration 考虑, 斟酌 for the ethnic minorities 少数民族 who lived in them.

In some cases, borders were drawn /to split (v.) (使) 分裂 a unified ethnic people, and in

other cases, borders were closed (v.) around 紧紧包围,圈入 rival 竞争的, 对抗的 ethnic groups. And all of that is going to cause (v.) a great deal of trouble.

更甚者, 这些崩塌的帝国废墟上新兴国家的边界, 完全由战胜国一手绘制, 丝毫未顾及境内少数民族的生存现实。某些边界线将同一民族生生割裂, 另一些则把敌对族群强行圈入同一国境。凡此种种, 皆将埋下深重祸根。

But back to the League of Nations and the mandates. In order to gain support for their cause, 主 the allied powers 协约国 in the war 谓 **promised** several Arab nations 后定说明 ruled by the Ottomans **that** /they would recognize (v.) their independence. But 主 those European powers 谓 had been building (v.) worldwide empires for centuries /at that point, and 主 the itch (使) 发痒; 渴望, 热望 to control (v.) other people 系 was **too** tempting 诱人的, 吸引人的 **not to** scratch 挠, 搔 (痒处) .

And add to that *the prodigious (a.)* (范围, 规模, 程度) 巨大的, 庞大的, 大量的 *amount of* oil under the sands of those Middle Eastern states, and 主 the opportunity 系 was just too tempting.

再加上这些中东国家地下蕴藏着大量的石油资源, 这样的机会实在太过诱人。

So under the authority 批准; 授权 of the League of Nations, France **took control of** Lebanon and Syria, while Britain **took control of** Iraq and Palestine. You know, technically France and Britain weren' t colonizing (v.) these nations — they (指 Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Palestine) were just mandates (n.) 委任统治地 后定说明 administered by these countries for the League of Nations — but you know, if it walks like a duck /and it quacks (v.) (鸭子) 发出嘎嘎声 like a duck, it' s probably imperialism 帝国主义.

Example 7. 案例 mandate

(v.)1. (especially NAME) to order sb to behave, do sth or vote in a particular way 强制执行; 委托办理

[V that]

•The law **mandates (v.) that** imported goods be identified as such. 法律规定进口货物必须如实标明。

[alsoVN to infalsoVN]

2.[VN to inf] to give sb, especially a government or a committee, the authority to do sth 授权

•The assembly was mandated /to draft a constitution. 大会被授权起草一份章程。

they were just mandates (n.) /administered by these countries for the League of Nations

此处 "mandates" 是名词 (复数), 意为 "委任统治地".

特指: 一战后的国际法概念: 国联将战败国 (奥斯曼/德国) 的殖民地"委托"战胜国"暂管", 名义上是为其独立做准备, 实则为其殖民统治披上合法外衣。

作者通过 "technically... but..." 句式, 揭露委任统治的虚伪性:

- 表面说法 (technicality): "不是殖民, 只是受国联委托管理"
- 实质 (reality): 用俚语 "if it walks like a duck..." (走路像鸭、叫声像鸭, 那就是鸭) 戳破——这就是帝国主义。

The Postwar League of Nations Mandate System for the Middle East

Post-WWI Middle East (1923)



Following WWI, the League of Nations established a system of "mandates." In theory, the mandate system had the benevolent 仁慈的, 乐善好施的 intention of **preparing** the "natives" of various regions **for** self-government. Many **believed** of course **that** /主 the granting of mandates 谓 often represented (v.) nothing more than the granting of spoils 赃物; 成功所带来的好处 to the different victorious (a.) Allied governments.

The basis of the mandate system was Article 22 of the Covenant 承诺; 合同; 协约; (尤指定期付款的) 契约 of the League of Nations, which gave broad authority to the mandate powers /regarding 关于, 至于 preparation for self-rule 为自治做准备. The document is reproduced 重现 below 该文件转载如下.

一战后, 国际联盟建立了一套“托管制度”。**理论上, 托管制度的初衷, 是为各地区的原住民做好“自治”的准备。**当然, 许多人认为, 托管制度的授予, 往往无非是将战利品分给各个战胜国政府。托管制度的基础是《国际联盟盟约》第22条, 该条赋予托管地在自治准备方面广泛的权力。该文件内容如下。

It is noteworthy (a.)值得注意的, 显著的 that the mandate provision allowed the widest possible latitude 选择的自由, 回旋余地 in execution (n.)执行, 实施 of individual mandates: "The character of the mandate must differ (v.) according to the stage of the development of the people, the geographical situation of the territory, its economic conditions and other similar circumstances." The terms of each mandate were accordingly to be worked out /on a per-country basis.

值得注意的是, **托管条款, 允许在执行个别托管时, 拥有尽可能大的自由度**: “托管的性质必须根据人民的发展阶段、领土的地理位置、经济条件和其他类似情况, 而有所不同。”因此, **每个托管的条款, 都必须根据每个国家的具体情况制定。**

The Postwar League of Nations Mandate System for the Middle East

Okay, click [here](#) to keep reviewing for Unit 8 of AP European History, and click [here](#) to grab my AP Euro review pack, which does everything you need to get an A in your class and a five on your exam in May. I' ll catch you on the flip-flop. I' m out.

2. 中文释义

好的, **第一次世界大战结束了**, 欧洲大部分地区沦为一片焦土废墟, **参战各国不得不商讨出一个和平解决方案——但事实证明, 这个解决方案远称不上和平。**所以, 咱们来聊聊这个话题, 如果你准备好以 “民族自决” 的方式获取知识, 那就开始吧。

要理解"凡尔赛和平会议" (the Versailles Peace Conference) , 你必须明白, **战胜国在如何实现和平这一问题上, 根本无法达成一致。其中矛盾冲突的三大主要国家是美国 (the United States) 、英国 (Great Britain) 和法国 (France) 。**我们先从美国说起。

尽管美国军队在"第一次世界大战"的胜利中, 发挥的作用相对较小, 但美国总统伍德罗·威尔逊 (Woodrow Wilson) 在和平解决方案中, 却发挥了相对重要的作用。说到威尔逊对"欧洲和平"的设想, 你需要记住 "理想主义者" 这个词。威尔逊真的想创造一个完美的世界, 让各国不再相互开战, 不过我们之后会发现, **这想法有点.....呃.....太理想化了。**如果你喜欢这个玩笑——说实话, 你怎么会不喜欢呢——那么你一定会喜欢我的AP欧洲史复习资料包, 它能满足你在课堂上得A、在五月考试中得5分的所有需求。资料链接在简介里哦。

为了按照自己的设想指导和平解决方案, 威尔逊提出了他所谓的 "十四点原则" (the 14 Points) , 用以指导和平管理。**"十四点原则" 包括各国裁减军备、开展"公开外交关系"而非"签订秘密条约", 最重要的是, 各国拥有民族自决权。这一理念直击欧洲长期以来的帝国主义传统核心。**他表示, 除了国家自身, 其他任何势力都无权决定这个国家的未来。听到这话, 亚洲、非洲和中东地区的所有人都懵了: "这说的啥?" 所有欧洲帝国主义列强也都惊了: "这怎么行?" +

或许 "十四点原则" 中最雄心勃勃的条款, 是**成立"国际联盟" (the League of Nations) , 这将是一个致力于防止战争的国际组织。**剧透一下: 国际联盟确实成立了, 但从一开始就注定失败。让威尔逊懊恼的是, **美国甚至都没有加入。负责批准此类条约的美国参议院, 明确投了反对票, 因为他们担心这样一项具有约束力的协议, 会让美国在"未经国会批准"的情况下卷入战争。此外, 德国和俄罗斯也没有加入该联盟, 因此国际联盟根本无法成功。**但我有点说远了——我们正在讨论和平会议上的紧张局势。

这就是威尔逊的理想主义, 但显然英国和法国并不买账, 你懂我的意思吧? 英国新任首相大卫·劳合·乔治 (David Lloyd George) 凭借在竞选时承诺"惩罚德国", 而赢得了职位, 既然当选了, 那就得惩罚德国。法国总理乔治·克列孟梭 (Georges Clemenceau) 同样想让德国为"法国遭受的所有破坏"付出代价, 他的主要目标是维护法国国家安全, 抵御德国未来的侵略。为此, 克列孟梭推动德国裁军, 要求德国支付战争赔款, 并在莱茵兰 (Rhineland) 地区建立地理缓冲区, 以防止德国再次进攻法国。伍德罗·威尔逊听到这些后说: "伙计们, 这不是实现和平的方式。" 而英国和法国回应道: "闭嘴, 伍德罗, 一边儿待着去, 吃你的开心乐园餐吧。" 他们就是这么说的。

而与俄罗斯关系的紧张, 更是加剧了这种矛盾。记住, 俄罗斯为了进行"共产主义革命"而退出了战争, 现在它成为了共产主义国家, 西欧列强对其充满不信任。因此, **在和平会议上, 各国大力扶持波兰 (Poland) 和捷克斯洛伐克 (Czechoslovakia) 等俄罗斯周边国家。这些国家, 连同匈牙利 (Hungary) 和南斯拉夫 (Yugoslavia) 等其他国家, 被称为 "民主继承国", 因为它们是在庞大帝国的废墟上刚刚成立的。关键在于, 这些国家的扩张和加强, 是以牺牲德国和俄罗斯为代价的, 这引发了更多的紧张局势。**

在"和平会议"上签署了多项不同的条约, 但我们要重点关注的是与德国签订的和平条约。这个条约中有两项非常重要的条款, 你必须记住。第一条是 "战争罪责条款" (the War Guilt Clause) , 该条款将战争的全部责任归咎于德国, 奥地利也有份, 但主要是德国。这个条款之所以重要, 是因为它让德国在世界舞台上蒙羞并遭受重创, 而正是这种屈辱, 在战后几十年催生了法西斯主义, 并在后来引发了第二次世界大战。

你需要记住的条约第二部分，正如我之前提到的，是规定：德国必须为战争期间造成的损失，支付赔款。这也将成为第二次世界大战爆发的一个重要原因，因为**德国被迫支付的巨额赔款，最终会使其经济崩溃**。现在，条约中的这两个问题，再加上强制德国裁军和割让土地，将使战后新成立的“魏玛共和国”（the Weimar Republic）很难繁荣发展。**尽管“魏玛共和国”在早期有过一段繁荣时期，但在20世纪30年代开始走向崩溃，不过这个故事我们留到下次视频再说。**

最后，我们需要谈谈国际联盟的行动，以及他们建立的“委任统治”制度（the mandate system）。首先，你必须明白，**《凡尔赛条约》（the Treaty of Versailles）从根本上重新绘制了欧洲地图，尤其是东欧地区。俄罗斯帝国（the Russian Empire）失去了大片领土，奥匈帝国（the Austro-Hungarian Empire）彻底消失，奥斯曼帝国（the Ottoman）也是如此。更重要的是，战胜国为这些从衰败帝国中诞生的新国家，划定的几条新边界，在划定过程中，完全没有考虑生活在那里的少数民族。在某些情况下，边界划分将原本统一的民族分割开来；在另一些情况下，敌对的民族被划在了同一边界内。而所有这些都将引发巨大的麻烦。**

回到“国际联盟”和“委任统治”制度。为了获得支持，战争中的“协约国”曾向“奥斯曼帝国”统治下的几个阿拉伯国家承诺，会承认它们的独立。但当时欧洲列强已经构建全球帝国长达几个世纪，控制他国的欲望实在难以抗拒。再加上中东国家地下蕴藏着大量石油资源，这个机会实在太诱人了。因此，在国际联盟的授权下，法国控制了黎巴嫩（Lebanon）和叙利亚（Syria），而英国控制了伊拉克（Iraq）和巴勒斯坦（Palestine）。从技术层面上讲，法国和英国并不是在殖民这些国家——它们只是为国际联盟对这些国家进行“委任统治”——但你懂的，这明摆着就是帝国主义那一套。

好啦，[点击这里](#)继续复习AP欧洲历史第8单元的内容，[点击这里](#)获取我的AP欧洲史复习资料包，它能满足你在课堂上得A、在五月考试中得5分的所有需求。回头见！

3. pure

Okay, so World War One is over, and as much of Europe has been reduced to a smoking pile of rubble, the powers involved in the war have to figure out a peace settlement — a settlement which, as it turns out, was far from peaceful. So let's talk about it, and if you're ready to get them brain cows milked self-determination style, let's get to it.

In order to understand the Versailles Peace Conference, you really have to understand that the victorious powers did not at all agree on how peace should be administered. And the big three involved in this tension were the United States, Great Britain, and France. Let's begin with the United States.

So despite the fact that the U.S. military played a comparatively small role in the victory of World War One, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson played a comparatively large role in the peace settlement. And the words you need to associate with Wilson's vision for European peace is idealist. Wilson really wanted to create a perfect world in which nations would no longer go to war with each other, which as we'll see was a little... uh... idealist. And if you liked that joke — and let's be honest, how could you not — then you'll love my AP Euro review pack, which does everything you need to get an A in your class and a five on your exam in May. [Link in description.](#)

Now in order to guide the peace settlement according to his vision, Wilson presented what he called the 14 Points, which were to guide the administration of peace. The 14 Points included a provision for the reduction of arms among nations, open diplomatic relationships rather than secretive treaties, and most important of all, the right of self-determination among nations. This idea hit at the heart of long-standing imperial traditions of European power. He said no one else gets to determine the nation's future except that nation themselves, at which point everyone living in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East was like, "Say what now?" and all the European imperial powers were like, "Say what now?"

And maybe the most ambitious provision of the 14 Points was the creation of a League of Nations, which would be an international body devoted to the prevention of war. Now spoiler alert: the League of Nations was indeed formed, but it was doomed from the beginning. Much to Wilson's chagrin, the United States didn't even join. The United States Senate, which was responsible for ratifying such treaties, squarely voted no because they feared that a binding agreement like that would drag the U.S. into a war without congressional approval. Add to that, Germany and Russia didn't participate in the league either, and therefore the league really could not succeed. But I get ahead of myself — we're talking about tensions at the peace conference.

So that was Wilson's idealism, but apparently Britain and France were not smelling what Wilson was stepping in, you know what I mean? Britain's new Prime Minister David Lloyd George won his office by campaigning on a platform to punish Germany for the war, and he won, so you know, got to punish Germany. France's premier Georges Clemenceau likewise wanted to punish Germany for all the destruction in France, and his main goal was to uphold the national security of France against future German aggression. To that end, Clemenceau pushed for Germany to be demilitarized, for them to pay reparations for the war, and to create a geographic buffer zone in the Rhineland to prevent Germany from ever attacking France again. Woodrow Wilson heard all this and he was like, "Guys, this is not the way to peace," which Britain and France responded, "Shut up, Woodrow, go sit in the corner and eat your happy meal." That's what they said.

And further adding tension to the mix was the strained relationship with Russia. Remember, they had dropped out of the war to have themselves a communist revolution, and now that they were very much communist, Western European powers distrusted them. As a result, the powers at the peace table bolstered the states neighboring Russia like Poland and Czechoslovakia. These states, along with other states like Hungary and Yugoslavia, became known as democratic successor states because they were newly formed out of the rubble of larger empires. The point is, these states were enlarged and strengthened at Germany and Russia's expense, and that caused a great deal more tension.

Okay, now there were several different treaties signed at the peace conference, but the one we want to focus on is the peace treaty with Germany. There are two very important provisions in this treaty that you got to remember. First was the War Guilt Clause, which placed the entire blame for the war on Germany and Austria too, but mostly on Germany. And the reason that clause is significant is because it humiliated and defeated Germany on

the world stage, and was precisely that humiliation that's going to give rise to fascism in the decades after the war, and later, you know, World War II.

The second part of the treaty you need to remember is the provision, as I mentioned earlier, for Germany to pay reparations for the damage done during the war. This also is going to create a significant cause for World War II because the amount of money Germany is going to be forced to pay will end up ruining them economically. Now these two problems within the treaty, along with the mandated German demilitarization and land cessions, would make it very difficult for the new post-war government known as the Weimar Republic to flourish. And despite some early flourishing, the Weimar began to crumble in the 1930s, but we'll save that story for another video.

Now finally, we need to talk about the actions of the League of Nations and their establishment of the mandate system. First, you have to understand that the Treaty of Versailles essentially redrew the map of Europe, especially Eastern Europe. The Russian Empire lost significant territory, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire disappeared entirely, as did the Ottoman. And what's more, several of the new borders drawn for the states that emerged from these broken down empires were drawn by the victorious powers of the war with precisely no consideration for the ethnic minorities who lived in them. In some cases, borders were drawn to split a unified ethnic people, and in other cases, borders were closed around rival ethnic groups. And all of that is going to cause a great deal of trouble.

But back to the League of Nations and the mandates. In order to gain support for their cause, the allied powers in the war promised several Arab nations ruled by the Ottomans that they would recognize their independence. But those European powers had been building worldwide empires for centuries at that point, and the itch to control other people was too tempting not to scratch. And add to that the prodigious amount of oil under the sands of those Middle Eastern states, and the opportunity was just too tempting. So under the authority of the League of Nations, France took control of Lebanon and Syria, while Britain took control of Iraq and Palestine. You know, technically France and Britain weren't colonizing these nations—they were just mandates administered by these countries for the League of Nations—but you know, if it walks like a duck and it quacks like a duck, it's probably imperialism.

Okay, [click here](#) to keep reviewing for Unit 8 of AP European History, and [click here](#) to grab my AP Euro review pack, which does everything you need to get an A in your class and a five on your exam in May. I'll catch you on the flip-flop. I'm out.
