



Paris Peace Conference
Committee

**JMUN
2025**

**BACKGROUND
GUIDE**

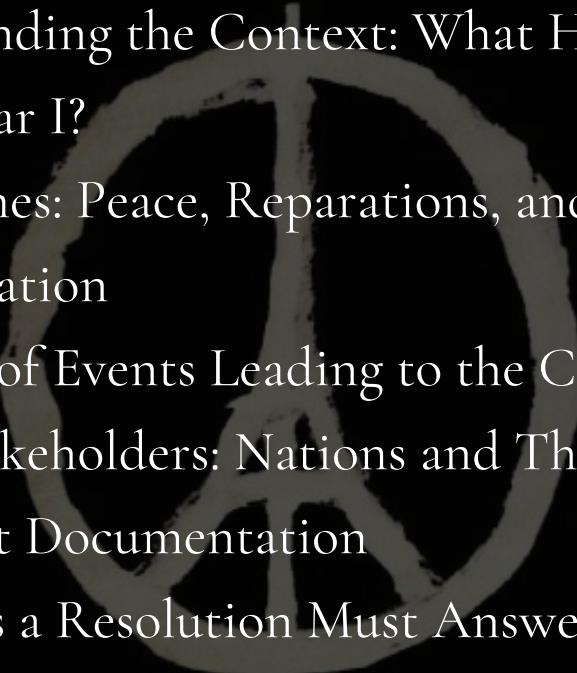


Agenda: Negotiating the Post-War Settlement: Peace, Reparations, and Self-Determination

Freeze Date: April 2011



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LETTERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Paris Peace Conference Committee at GWHJMUN 2025! This year, you will step into the shoes of diplomats negotiating one of the most significant peace settlements in history. The Paris Peace Conference convened in the aftermath of World War I, aiming to address the immense political, economic, and social turmoil caused by the war.

This guide is your starting point. It explains key historical events, the interests of nations involved, and the major themes of discussion. Whether this is your first or tenth MUN, we encourage you to engage with an open mind, contribute meaningfully, and find diplomatic solutions to the challenges ahead.

Good luck, and we look forward to seeing thoughtful discourse and debate coming from each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Saathvik Beri
Chair, Paris Peace Conference



LETTERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings delegates,

Saathvik and I are excited to see all of you become the faces of history itself. Your role is crucial in painting the future and handling the fragile global landscape post the first world war. As diplomats we expect you all to act with grace, eloquence and determination. The Paris Peace Conference held in Versailles was instrumental in dictating global politics, policy and events for the next decades to come, hence its important for your work to create settlements which your portfolios deem just and capable to handle the turmoil of the coming years.

Its very important to come to the committee well researched and informed. Its advised to have an in-depth knowledge of historical events, perspectives and statistics. We expect delegates to have a firm understanding of the different geopolitical viewpoints on the major themes of the conference. Furthermore we highly recommend familiarising yourself with different legalities to use in committee to enhance discussion and debate. Be prepared for different surprises in committee as you will never predict how committee flows.

To conclude I just want to reinforce that the destiny of generations to come are in your hands and the power to create diplomatic solutions by contributing is one of great importance. We both are extremely excited to see you in GWHJMUN 2025 Paris Peace conference!

Sincerely,
Eric Leene
Vice-chair, Paris Peace Conference



INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE AND AGENDA

**FREEZE DATE :
APRIL 2011**

The Paris Peace Conference began on January 18, 1919, in Versailles just outside Paris in France. It brought together leaders of the Allied Powers to negotiate terms for the post-war settlements for the losing nations.

As delegates, you will address two core issues:

- Peace: Designing a treaty that ensures lasting peace while addressing the desires of nations for security and stability.
- Reparations: Deciding how to hold the Central Powers (especially Germany) accountable for the damages destruction and loss of life because of the war.

As diplomats you have to strike a balance between addressing your country's needs and creating just treaties which satisfy other parties through discussion, compromise and debate.

Each portfolio has an unique perspective on how the outcome of the first world war should be handled.



UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT : WHAT HAPPENED IN WORLD WAR I?

World War I (1914–1918) was one of the deadliest conflicts in history. It began after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary, which led to a chain reaction of alliances pulling nations into war. On one side were the Allied Powers (France, Britain, Russia, and later the United States) and on the other, the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire).

Casualties and Destruction: Over 16 million people died, and entire regions were devastated by trench warfare, bombings, and occupation. It is estimated that the total casualties were near 40 million.

Economic Impact: The war drained economies, with nations like France and Belgium suffering enormous damage to their infrastructure. Furthermore, many countries would suffer a tremendous loss of life which reduces the quantity of labour reducing the total number of goods produced in an economy.

Shift in Power: Empires like Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire collapsed, and the war has left the remaining countries weakened, creating a dent in Europe's position as a superpower. Other countries like the USSR went through regime changes in their political structure due to the conflict in the first world war.



KEY THEMES

- **Peace:** How can nations ensure security while balancing punishment and reconciliation? France wants strict measures against Germany, while the U.S. promotes a more forgiving approach.
- **Reparations:** Should Germany pay for the war? If so, how much? Reparations could cripple its economy, but the Allied Powers demand compensation for their losses.
- **Demilitarization:** To what extent do the parties need to demilitarize? Should only the Central Powers demilitarize?
- **League of nation:** How should this international body function? What should be its powers and jurisdiction? What will the structure of the league be like?



TIMELINE OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE CONFERENCE

Pre-War Period (1871–1914)

1871: Unification of Germany and Franco-Prussian War

Germany, led by Prussia, emerged as a unified empire, marking a major shift in European power dynamics.

The war resulted in Germany annexing Alsace-Lorraine from France. This territorial loss deeply humiliated France and created lingering resentment, which became a key motivator for French policies in the Paris Peace Conference.

Formation of Alliances:

The Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy) and the Triple Entente (France, Britain, and Russia) solidified two rival blocs, heightening tensions across Europe.

World War I (1914–1918)

1914:

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, was assassinated in Sarajevo by a Bosnian Serb nationalist.

Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia, and with the backing of Germany, declared war. This triggered a series of alliances, pulling all major powers into the conflict.

1917:

In 1917, Russia underwent two revolutions. The first, in February, overthrew Tsar Nicholas II and established a provisional government.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE CONFERENCE

The second, in October, saw the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, seize power and establish a communist government.

The Bolsheviks sought to withdraw Russia from the war, seeing it as an imperialist conflict that harmed workers.

They signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918) with Germany, ending Russian involvement in World War I. The withdrawal of Russia meant Germany could focus its forces on the Western Front, prolonging the war.

The rise of communism alarmed many Allied leaders, particularly Clemenceau, who feared it could spread to Western Europe.

1918:

On November 11, 1918, Germany signed an armistice agreement, ending the fighting.

The terms of the armistice included Germany withdrawing from occupied territories, disarming, and accepting responsibility for the war's continuation.

The Lead-Up to the Paris Peace Conference (1918–1919)

December 1918:

Woodrow Wilson proposes his 14 points for lasting peace in the globe (points listed in 'important documentations')

The "Big three" (Woodrow Wilson, George Clemenceau, Lloyd George,) held preliminary discussions, revealing significant differences in their priorities.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE CONFERENCE

France and Britain favored punishing Germany, while Wilson emphasized reconciliation and peace.

November:

In November 1918, revolution broke out in Germany, leading to the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II and the establishment of a democratic government (Weimar Republic).

This political upheaval made Germany's position at the conference even weaker, as the new government sought to distance itself from the war.



MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS: NATIONS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The Big three (Allied Leaders)

FRANCE

Leader: Georges Clemenceau, nicknamed “The Tiger,” served as Prime Minister and was a fierce advocate for punishing Germany harshly.

Key Interests:

Territorial Security: France demanded the return of Alsace-Lorraine, annexed by Germany in 1871.

Military Guarantees: Clemenceau wanted to neutralize Germany as a military threat, pushing for the Rhineland to become a demilitarized zone.

Reparations: France sought extensive financial compensation for the destruction of its northern regions and the rebuilding of its economy. They wanted to achieve this by seizing German territories and colonies.

Historical Context: The Franco-Prussian war in the last century along with the recent invasion had left a bad taste in France. They despised Germany as 1.3 million French soldiers were killed and entire regions devastated, Clemenceau approached the negotiations with a firm belief that Germany needed to be weakened permanently. Nearly an entire generation of men and families had been affected and France wanted vengeance.



MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS: NATIONS AND THEIR INTERESTS

UNITED KINGDOM

Leader: David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Britain, played a pragmatic role in balancing demands for reparations with the need to stabilize Europe economically.

Key Interests:

Economic Stability: Lloyd George recognized that a strong German economy was vital for European recovery and British trade. After the first world war production of goods and services had stagnated so a mutually beneficial economic relationship was one priority.

Colonial Expansion: Britain sought control over former German colonies and influence in the Middle East. (refer to Balfour Declaration)

Naval Power: Britain aimed to maintain its naval supremacy, ensuring Germany's fleet remained limited.

Challenges: Lloyd George faced pressure from the British public because they had also suffered a fair share of damages due to the war, hence they demanded harsh treatment of Germany, while he personally leaned toward moderation.



MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS: NATIONS AND THEIR INTERESTS

UNITED STATES

Leader: President Woodrow Wilson arrived at the conference with an idealistic vision outlined in his Fourteen Points.

Key Interests:

League of Nations: Wilson prioritized creating an international organization to maintain peace and mediate disputes.

Leniency Toward Germany: As the American losses had not been too significant he argued against harsh reparations, believing they would lead to resentment and sow the seeds for future conflicts.

Advisors:

Robert Lansing (U.S. Secretary of State): Advocated for a cautious approach to self-determination to avoid destabilizing Europe.

Edward M. House (Wilson's Adviser): Played a behind-the-scenes role in crafting compromises during negotiations.



MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS: NATIONS AND THEIR INTERESTS

ITALY

Leader: Vittorio Emanuele Orlando represented Italy but often felt sidelined in major decisions.

Key Interests:

Territorial Expansion: Italy sought to claim territories promised in the Treaty of London (1915), including South Tyrol and Dalmatian Coast islands.

Recognition: Orlando aimed to assert Italy as a great power equal to France, Britain, and the U.S.

Challenges: Italy's demands clashed with those of other Allied leaders, particularly over disputed territories with Yugoslavia.

OTHER ALLIED POWERS

JAPAN

Represented by Saionji Kinmochi, Japan's delegation demanded recognition of its dominance in East Asia and sought control of former German colonies in the Pacific. Japan also proposed a racial equality clause, which was ultimately rejected by Western powers.

BELGIUM

Sought reparations for the devastation caused by Germany's invasion and demanded recognition for its role in the war.



MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS: NATIONS AND THEIR INTERESTS

EXCLUDED PARTIES

GERMANY

Context: Germany was excluded from the negotiations but would be held responsible for reparations and territorial concessions. Its future would be decided entirely by the Allied Powers. A major factor of its resentment was how it had received primary blame for causing the war when they believed other parties should take a share of the consequences.

Key Issues: The loss of its colonies, Separation of native Germans, military restrictions and reductions, and potential blame for the war (later included in the “War Guilt Clause”).

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

Context: The empire had collapsed into successor states such as Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. These new nations sought recognition and territorial adjustments.



IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATIONS

Woodrow Wilson's 14 points (summarised)

1. Open diplomacy without secret treaties
2. Economic free trade on the seas during war and peace
3. Equal trade conditions
4. Decrease armaments among all nations
5. Adjust colonial claims
6. Evacuation of all Central Powers from Russia and allow it to define its own independence
7. Belgium to be evacuated and restored
8. Return of Alsace-Lorraine region and all French territories
9. Readjust Italian borders
10. Austria-Hungary to be provided an opportunity for self-determination
11. Redraw the borders of the Balkan region creating Roumania, Serbia and Montenegro
12. Creation of a Turkish state with guaranteed free trade in the Dardanelles
13. Creation of an independent Polish state
14. Creation of the League of Nations



IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATIONS

Important legal documentation that could be used in committee (not necessary, but delegates may be marked highly if used effectively)

Key Documentations for Delegates:

- The Treaty of Frankfurt (1871)
- The Treaty of London (1915)
- The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918)
- The Hague Conventions (1899 and 1907)
- Self-Determination Doctrine
- Reparations Clauses from Previous Treaties
- Articles of War Guilt (Draft)
- The Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916)
- Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867 (Ausgleich)
- French and Belgian War Damage Reports
- British Financial Reports on War Loans
- Mandate System Framework
- Balfour Declaration



QARMA (QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER)

Questions a Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

1. How can peace be ensured while balancing justice and reconciliation?
2. What reparations should Germany and its allies pay, and how can they be enforced?
3. How should territorial disputes (e.g., Alsace-Lorraine, Poland) be resolved?
4. How should the League of Nations be structured to prevent future conflicts?
5. What role should the Allied Powers play in managing former colonies and territories?



RULES OF PROCEDURE

The following rules and key terms will guide the committee proceedings, ensuring structured and productive debate. Delegates are encouraged to engage actively, collaborate effectively, and maintain diplomacy throughout the conference.

The RoP for this committee shall be the same as any conventional UN committee, with certain deviations from the same which we shall elaborate on below. The RoP followed is similar to the UNA for USA procedure prevalently followed in the Indian Model UN circuit.

The procedure is as follows:

Roll Call: The committee will begin with a roll call, which is similar to attendance being taken. A roll call is taken to establish a quorum (minimum number of members required to begin a session) for the committee. The quorum for the ACD shall be 1/3rd of the total strength.

Setting the Agenda: This is the first step to starting the discussion in the committee – setting the agenda before opening the debate session. It mostly takes place if there are 2 or more agendas to be discussed in the committee. In case the committee has only one agenda to discuss, the agenda is adopted automatically without any motion, which is the case at this MUN.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules Governing Debate

Motions: Various motions can be raised at the MUN Conference to formally regulate the debate and systematically keep the flow of debate.

Motion Explanation and Purpose:

- **Motion to Open Debate:** This is the first motion of the session to start the formal proceedings of the committee. This motion is generally passed at the discretion of the Dias Members or the Chairperson.
- **Motion to Set Agenda:** This motion is raised to set the agenda to be discussed in the committee. This is raised in a situation when the committee is dealing with two or more agendas. If there is only one agenda, it is automatically adopted by the committee.
- **Motion to Open General Speakers' List:** This is the first step to establish the Formal Debate on the agenda which has been set up for the committee. This list is non-exhaustible and closes after the closing procedure of the committee.
- **Motion to begin Moderated Caucus:** This motion is raised to focus the discussion on a specific topic within the mandate of the agenda. The purpose of this motion is to discuss various important aspects of the agenda in detail.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

- **Motion to begin Unmoderated Caucus:** This is a form of informal debate which is not moderated by the Dias Members. In this type of debate, there are no formal proceedings that are followed. It is raised for a particular amount of time.
- **Motion to begin Voting Procedures:** After the amendments are discussed and voted on, the resolution is put to a vote. The Member States who voted 'Present and Voting' during the roll call may vote YES or NO on the resolution. The member states who voted 'Present' may ABSTAIN from voting on the resolution. The Observer Nations do not get voting rights on the resolution.
- **Motion to Adjourn the Session:** This motion is raised at the end of the committee session to adjourn the session until the next meeting. It is passed on a simple majority or at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- **Motion to Close Debate:** This motion is raised when the committee is over with the debating session and moves into the voting procedure for the Draft Resolution.
- **Motion to Suspend Debate Session:** This motion is raised to postpone all the committee proceedings for the rest of the committee sessions. It is usually raised at the end of the conference.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

General Speakers List (GSL):

The General Speakers List is opened following a motion raised by a delegate and the subsequent approval of the Chair.

The Chair then recognizes a list of speakers who wish to speak in the GSL and will have to sum up their country's stance on the agenda briefly agenda.

The default individual speaker's time is set at 90 seconds, which may be altered by raising a motion to alter the time. If the delegate has not used all the time that has been allotted, the delegate may yield the remaining time to comments, and questions, to another delegate or the Chair.

- 1. The delegate is not allowed to respond in retaliation to the comments made in his/ her speech. Yield to questions allows any member of the committee to ask questions on the speech made by the delegate to which the delegate would be allowed to answer. Follow-up questions will be allowed only at the discretion of the Dais.**
- 2. Yield to another delegate allows another delegate to use the remaining time. This time can be used by the other delegate to reinforce the points made by the previous delegate.**
- 3. Yield to the Chair simply means that the Chair would absorb the remaining time.**



RULES OF PROCEDURE

MODERATED CAUCUS:

A Moderated Caucus is a debate format where delegates make short speeches on specific topics. These specific topics are sub-agendas to the main agenda set by the committee. Delegates raise a motion to start a Moderated Caucus for a specific time period after which the Chair would recognize speakers to speak in the Caucus.

UNMODERATED CAUCUS:

An Unmoderated Caucus, as the name suggests, is not moderated by the Dais. Rules of the formal debate are suspended and delegates are allowed to freely converse with other members of the committee. This time period is used by the delegates to lobby amongst the committee members. An Unmoderated Caucus is also used by delegates to work on working papers and Draft Resolutions.

TIME LIMIT ON SPEECHES:

All GSL speeches are by default set at 90 seconds but can be changed if required. Moderated caucuses are raised by delegates and it is, therefore, their duty to set the duration of the moderated caucus and the time allotted per speaker. When a Delegate exceeds the allotted time, the Dais may call the speaker to order.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

POINTS:

Points are tools that can be used by delegates to increase their understanding of the happenings of the committee.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:

This point is raised only when a delegate feels personal discomfort. Subsequently, the Chair will do everything in his power to address the discomfort.

POINT OF ORDER (3 TYPES):

1. Factual Inaccuracy: If the speaker makes a factually incorrect statement.
2. Logical Fallacy: If the speaker makes a logically fallacious statement. For these conferences, we will strictly not be entertaining a logical fallacy on any statement.
3. Ad Hominem: If the speaker tries to dismiss an argument on the basis that it was made by a particular speaker as opposed to addressing the argument itself.

POINT OF INFORMATION:

This point is raised by delegates when they have a question about the delegate's speech.

POINT OF PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY:

This point is raised when a delegate has a question regarding the proceedings of the committee such as a question regarding who the next speaker on the list is or inquiring about how much time is left for the caucus⁹ to end.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

RULES GOVERNING VOTING

ATTENDANCE VOTING/ROLL CALL

Attendance shall be conducted at the beginning of every session when a delegate raises a motion to Roll Call after which every delegate in the committee must vote either "Present" or "Present and Voting".

- Present And Voting: The delegate is not entitled to abstention on substantive votes.
- Present: A Delegate that is declared "Present" shall vote in favor, against, or may abstain on any substantive matter.

PROCEDURAL VOTING

All delegates have one vote on a procedural motion. It is mandatory to vote on all procedural motions and abstentions are not allowed. Votes on procedural matters are expressed by simply raising their placards. A simple majority is required for a procedural motion to pass.

SUBSTANTIVE VOTING

Votes that have the potential for action outside the debate, such as a vote on Draft Resolutions, amendments, or motions that modify resolution content. All delegates have one vote and members may either vote Yes, No, or Abstain. Member States that have been declared as "Present and Voting" do not have the option to Abstain.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A draft resolution is a document that contains all the issues that the committee wants to solve and the proposed solutions to those issues. It is the final culmination of the debate at the conference. It's usually completed and voted upon during the last day of the conference.

For each draft resolution, there are sponsors and signatories

- Sponsors - The delegates who have made a majority of the draft resolution and lead their group/bloc
- Signatory - The delegates who are interested in seeing the draft resolution be tabled in the committee. Note: A delegate from a bloc can be a signatory of a resolution of another bloc. 2/3rd of a committee need to be signatories of a resolution for it to be displayed in committee

Clauses

There are two types of clauses in a draft resolution:

- Pre-ambulatory Clauses - state all the issues that the committee wants to resolve on this issue. It may state reasons why the committee is working on this issue and highlight previous international actions on the issue.
- Operative Clauses - state the solutions that the bloc of the resolution proposes to resolve the issue. The operative clauses should address the issues specified in the pre-ambulatory clauses.

For voting on a draft resolution, a “motion to table resolution [name of the resolution]” is raised. Once this motion passes, the sponsors will come up to the front and present the draft resolution. Following this, there may be points of information asked to the sponsors which they need to answer.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

Amendments

Following this, there are amendments to the resolution. An amendment is a statement that adds, deletes or changes an operative clause in a draft resolution. A delegate that raises an amendment needs to specify the type of amendment and what the amendment is by pointing out the precise article they want to amend. There are two types of amendments:

- Friendly Amendment - the sponsors agree with the amendment and the change is made
- Unfriendly Amendment - the sponsors disagree with the amendment. These amendments need to be voted upon in committee and there needs to be a 2/3rd majority for an unfriendly amendment to pass.

Note: If 2/3rds of a resolution has been amended, then the resolution will be scrapped entirely.

A sample draft resolution and the conventions for the format have been listed at the end of this document.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

Key Terms Recap

- General Speakers' List (GSL): A structured list of delegates delivering speeches in turn.
- Moderated Caucus: A guided discussion on specific subtopics, controlled by the Chair.
- Unmoderated Caucus: Informal discussions for negotiation and drafting documents.
- Blocs: Alliances of delegates working toward common goals or solutions.
- Sponsors: Delegates who draft and support a resolution.
- Signatories: Delegates who support discussing a resolution without necessarily agreeing with it.
- Working Papers: Preliminary documents outlining ideas and proposals.
- Draft Resolutions: Formalized documents containing actionable solutions.

These procedures and terms will help ensure a smooth and productive debate. Delegates should adhere to the Chair's directions and collaborate respectfully with peers.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

Sample Draft resolution format

Title of Draft Resolution

Committee Name

Committee Agenda

Sponsors: (maximum number provided by Chair)

Signatories: (minimum number provided by Chair)

Preambulatory Clauses

Preambulatory Clause Operative Word Preambulatory clause ,

Operative Clauses

Operative Clause Operative Word ... operative clause:

- Subpart 1,
- Subpart 2;

Notes:

- List of clause key words:<https://www.wisemee.com/preambulatory-and-operative-clauses/> You must ensure the key word is under the mandate of the committee (ex. GA committees can't use "demands")
- There will be a minimum number of preambulatory and operative clauses provided
- There is no maximum number of subparts for an operative clause
- Any and all annexures must be defined in an operative clause
- You must use correct portfolio names
- Sponsors can't be signatories to the same resolution
- The end of a resolution must contain a full stop, if there is a full stop before then post the full stop the resolution material is scrapped.

Refer to:

[https://bestdelegate.com/model-un⁹-made-easy-how-to-write-a-resolution/](https://bestdelegate.com/model-un-made-easy-how-to-write-a-resolution/)



FURTHER READING

Overview of World War I:
BBC History - World War I Overview

The Treaty of Versailles:
History.com - Treaty of Versailles

Wilson's Fourteen Points:
Avalon Project - Wilson's Fourteen Points

The Treaty of Versailles (Full Text):
Avalon Project - Treaty of Versailles

The Hague Conventions:
International Humanitarian Law - Hague Conventions

Europe After WWI:
Library of Congress - Maps of Europe

Borders and New Nations:
World History Atlas