

The 14 Points, the Paris Peace Conference and the Treaty of Versailles

Definitions:

- **The 14 Points** – a speech given by US President Woodrow Wilson outlining 14 ideas he thought would create a lasting peace
- **The Paris Peace Conference** – a yearlong conference in Paris, France where the victors of WWI met to create the terms to bring WWI to an end
- **The Treaty of Versailles** – one of several peace treaties created during the Paris Peace Conference. Germany signed it in June of 1919.

Woodrow Wilson



- 28th President of the U.S.
- Served 2 terms as a Democrat
- Gave the 14 Points speech to the U.S. Congress on January 8th, 1918
- Hoped his ideas would help prevent all future wars

Your Task

In your assigned groups please do the following:

- Read Wilson's 14 Points speech together (mark up the text)
- Choose someone to record your group's thoughts on paper
- Write your group members names on that paper
- Discussion and record your group's ideas to the following questions

Discussion Questions

1. Who is responsible for World War I? Explain your response.
2. To what extent was World War I avoidable? What are the implications of your response(s) for wars in general?
3. Summarize Wilson's 14 Points. How might these have been received by various leaders across Europe?
4. To what degree do you think government type (democracy, dictatorship/monarchy, etc.) determines whether nations are more or less warlike?
5. Compare the Russian Revolution with the French Revolution. What are the biggest similarities? What are the most important differences? Which of the two, if either, would you classify as a "success"?
6. To what extent do you think people are capable of learning from history?
7. Is a war on this scale of WWI no longer possible? Explain your thinking.

The Big Four



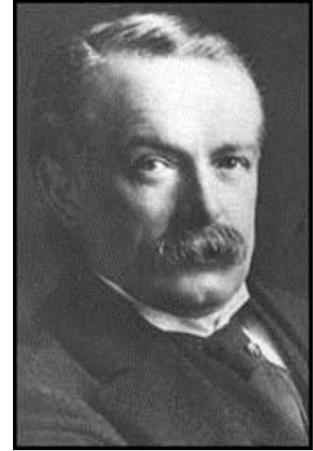
Woodrow Wilson USA



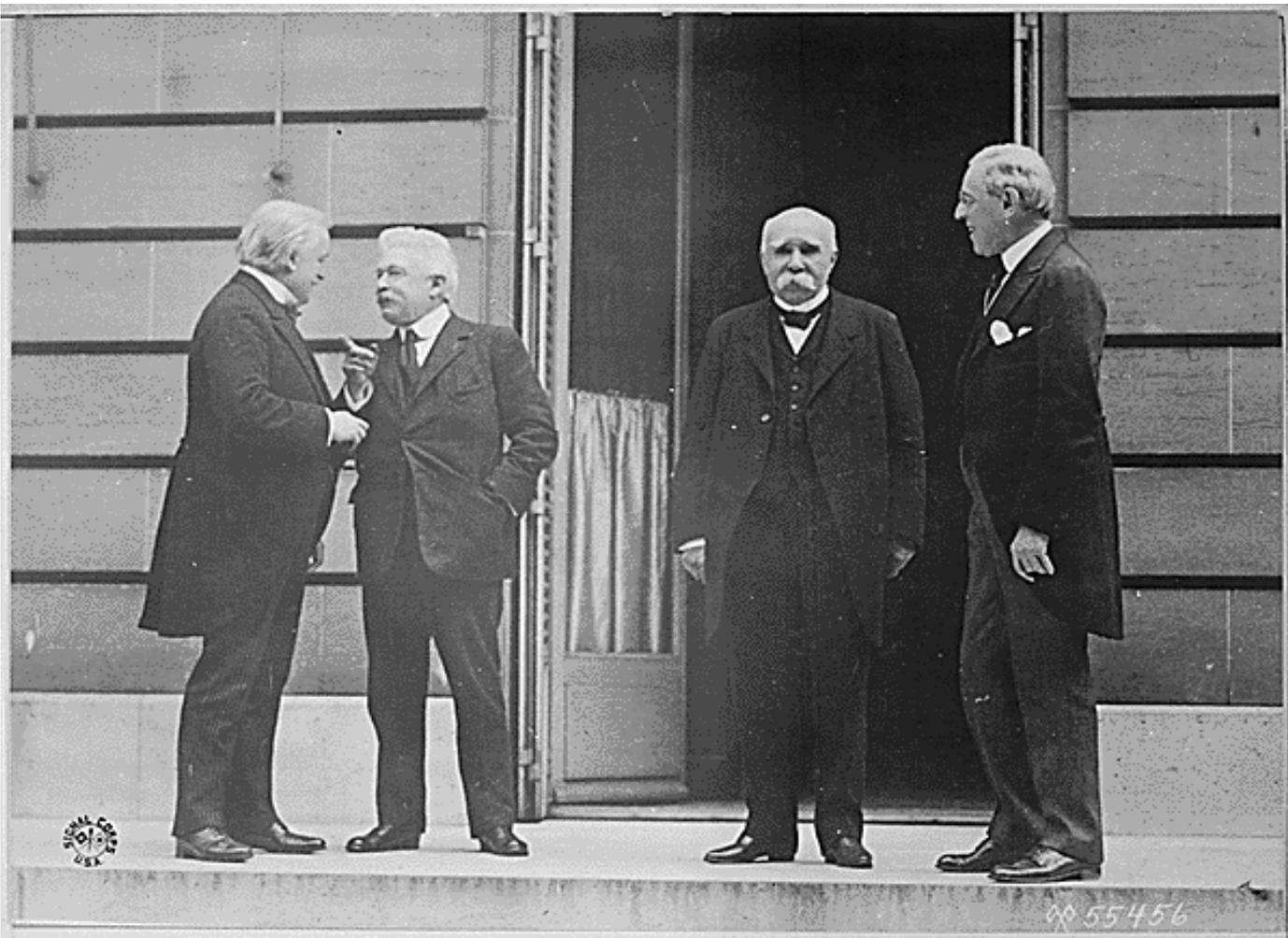
Georges Clemenceau France



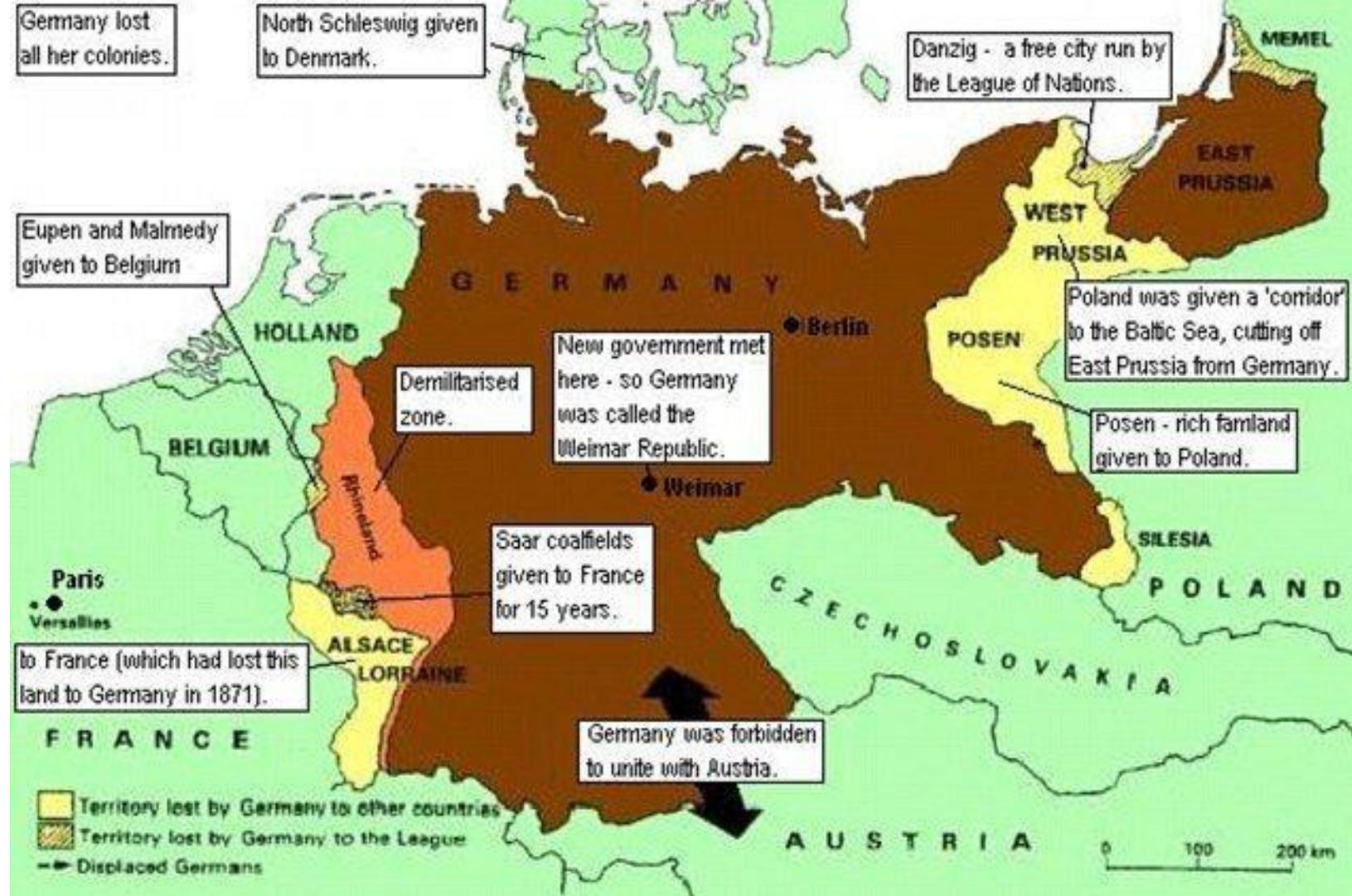
Vittorio Orlando Italy



David Lloyd-George Great Britain



The Big Four at Versailles in 1919



Europe Before 1919

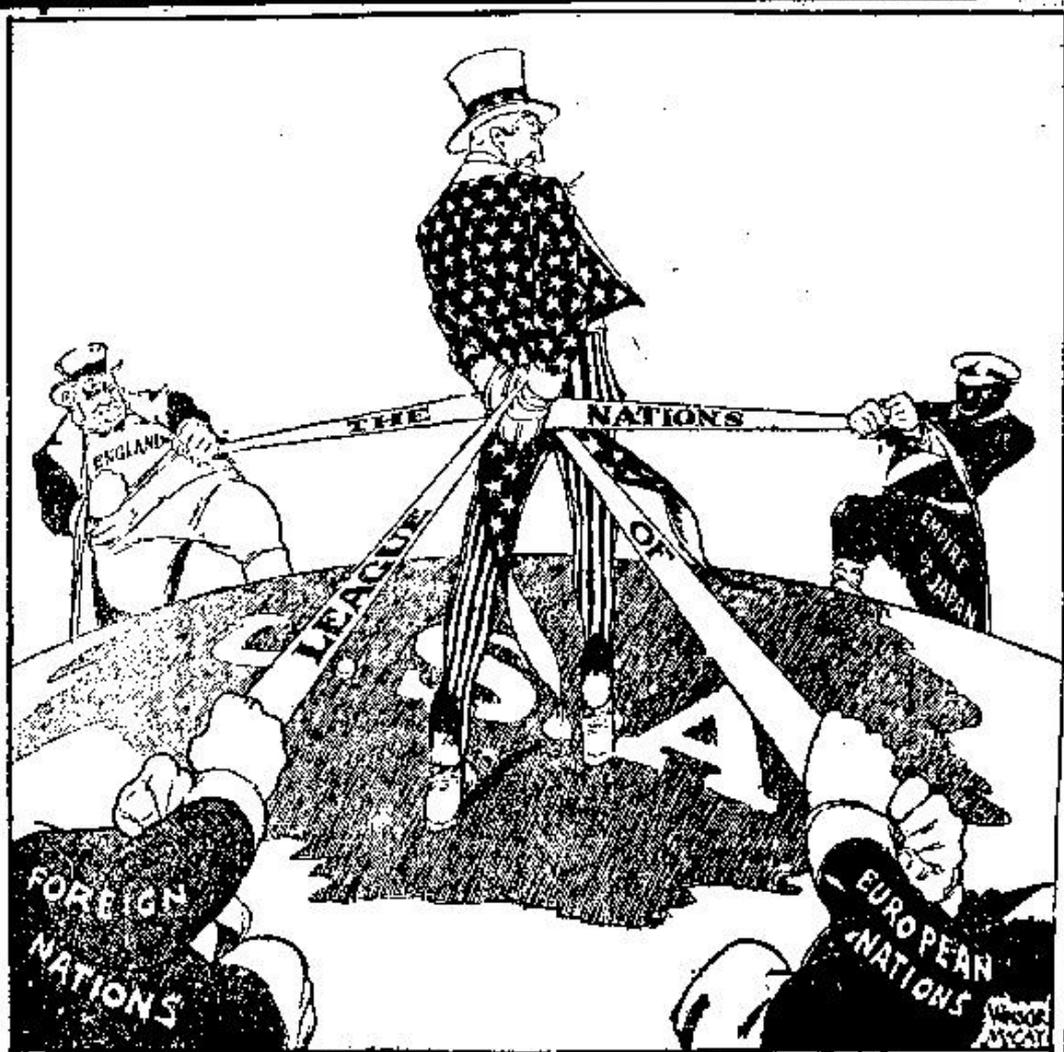


Europe After 1919



The League of Nations

- The American public was divided on whether the League was a good idea or not
- Wilson and the Democratic party largely supported joining the League (and it was Wilson's most important idea in the *14 Points*)
- Henry Cabot Lodge and the Republican party largely thought joining the League was a bad idea and supported a return to “Isolationism”

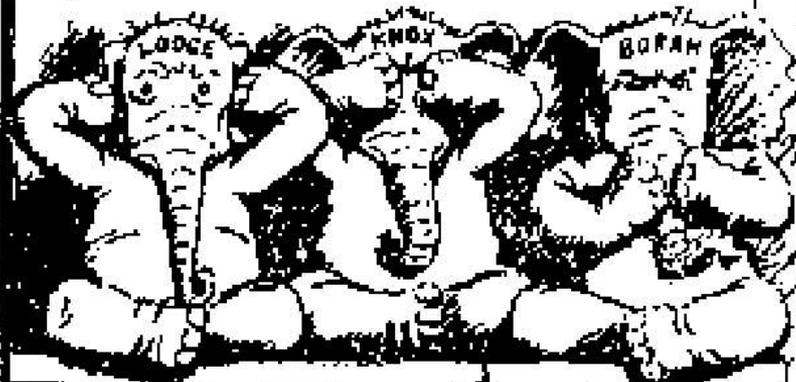






THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.

G O P



HEAR NO GOOD
OF THE
LEAGUE

SEE NO GOOD
IN THE
LEAGUE

SPEAK NO GOOD
OF THE
LEAGUE

Seminar Questions

1. Was World War I avoidable? Are all wars avoidable? Why do you suppose the efforts to prevent war following WWI failed?
2. In what ways was life in Europe changed following World War I?
3. What role does the type of government play (democracy, dictatorship/monarchy, etc.) in whether nations are more or less warlike?
4. How do you think the Russian Revolution compares with the French Revolution? Do you think they have more similarities or more differences?
5. Should the Russian Revolution be regarded as a success or failure?
6. To what extent do you think people are capable of learning from history?
7. Is a war on this scale no longer possible? Explain your thinking.
8. To what extent do you think its possible for people from different ethnic/cultural backgrounds to live together?

Your Mission...

- Choose **ONE** cause and explain why it was the most important in bringing on the First World War. Then choose **ANOTHER** and explain why this was not as important as the first.
- Analyze **TWO** factors that explain the discrepancy between the war Europeans expected and the war Europeans got in 1914.
- Explain **TWO** ways in which Marxism was adapted to fit Russia by Lenin

