

The Collapse of Russia

- The Tsar and his government could not meet the test of Total War
 - The cost in lives, suffering and sacrifice for the people with nothing to motivate them and with no end in sight led to revolution
- March 1917 elements of the military in St. Petersburg mutiny, the Tsar eventually abdicates, and a Provisional Government takes over
- Under the Provisional Government additional military blunders and failed offensives take place
- By November 1917 the Bolshevik wing of the Social Democrats stages a revolution to seize power with the motto “Peace, Land, Bread”

New Russian Government Seeks Peace

- March 3, 1918 Russia exits the war and signed the TREATY OF BREST-LITOVSK
 - Russia gives up massive territory on its western border to “independent” states of Poland, Finland, the Baltic States and the Ukraine
 - Each of these new states was controlled by a German imposed government
 - In this treaty the Germans realize many of their pre-war objectives to dominate Eastern Europe
 - Germany now turns the full weight of its army against France and England (but left a large force in the East due to a lack of trust of the new Russian government)

The United States Enters the War

- In the 1916 Presidential campaign Democrat Woodrow Wilson was reelected based in part on his slogan that “he kept us out of the war”
- Despite this there had always been sympathy for the Allies in the US to a much larger extent than support for Germany – except for the anti-democratic nation of Russia
- When in 1917 the Tsarist government collapses another barrier to entry was removed – war advocates referred to it as a “WAR TO MAKE THE WORLD SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY”

1917 Events Involving the US

- February – Germany announces “unrestricted submarine warfare” knowing full well that this will anger the US
- Germany made a gamble – that they could defeat the French and English faster than the US could mobilize its forces and bring them into Europe
- The ZIMMERMAN TELEGRAM further outrages the American public
- Feb – March Germany sinks a number of US transport vessels
- April 6, 1917 the United States declares war on the Central Powers

1917 : The War at Sea

- German submarine actions hugely successful – by April it was looking possible that Germany might starve England into peace talks
- Convoys and the entry of the US, which had a sizeable navy ready to fight, helped end the immediate danger to England

The Western Front : 1917 - 1918

- French strive to “hold the line” and “wait for the Americans and the tanks”
- The English launch the offensive at **PASSCHENDAELE** with another 400,000 English killed for no strategic gains
- By the end of 1917 the stalemate continued, but the Allies had bought the time needed for the United States to train and transport enough men and equipment to get into the fight

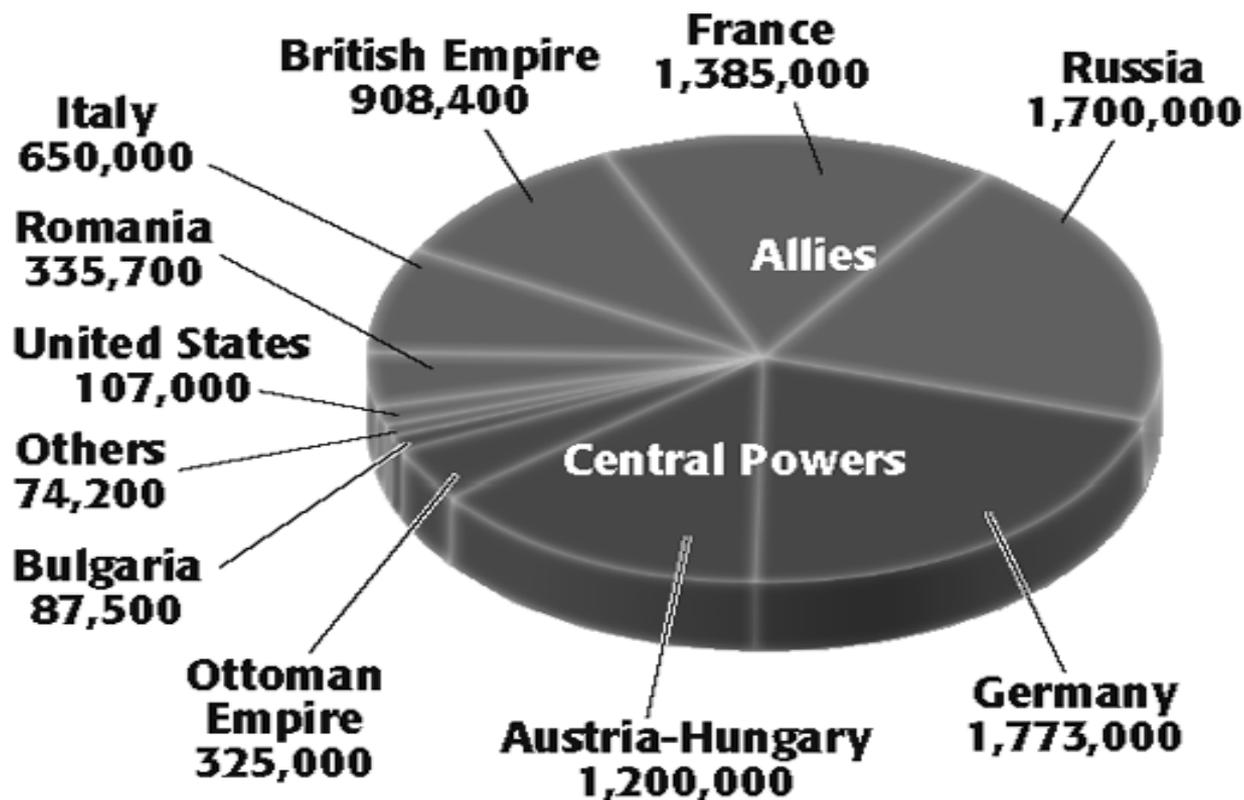
US Mobilization

- US troops strength goes from 130,000 to 3.5 million land forces in a matter of months
- US banks and the US government make massive loans to the Allied government to help them further the war (most of the money loaned was spent in the United States on ammunition, food and other war supplies)
- US shipping tonnage goes from 1 million to 10 million
- Massive stores of ammunition, food and other manufactured goods were stockpiled for the coming US involvement in Europe

1918 : The War Comes to an End

- Prior to the arrival of the Americans some in Germany thought that a peace deal was a good option
 - Germany leaders and Generals squashed such proposals
- By July 250,000 US troops were landing in Europe each month
- As US troops, along with English and French began attacks in the summer the German army began to pull back
- By late fall it was clear that Germany was going to be defeated and they sought a peace deal with Wilson
- **November 11, 1918** the Armistice was signed and the fighting stopped (at 11am)

World War I Military Deaths*



* Figures are approximate

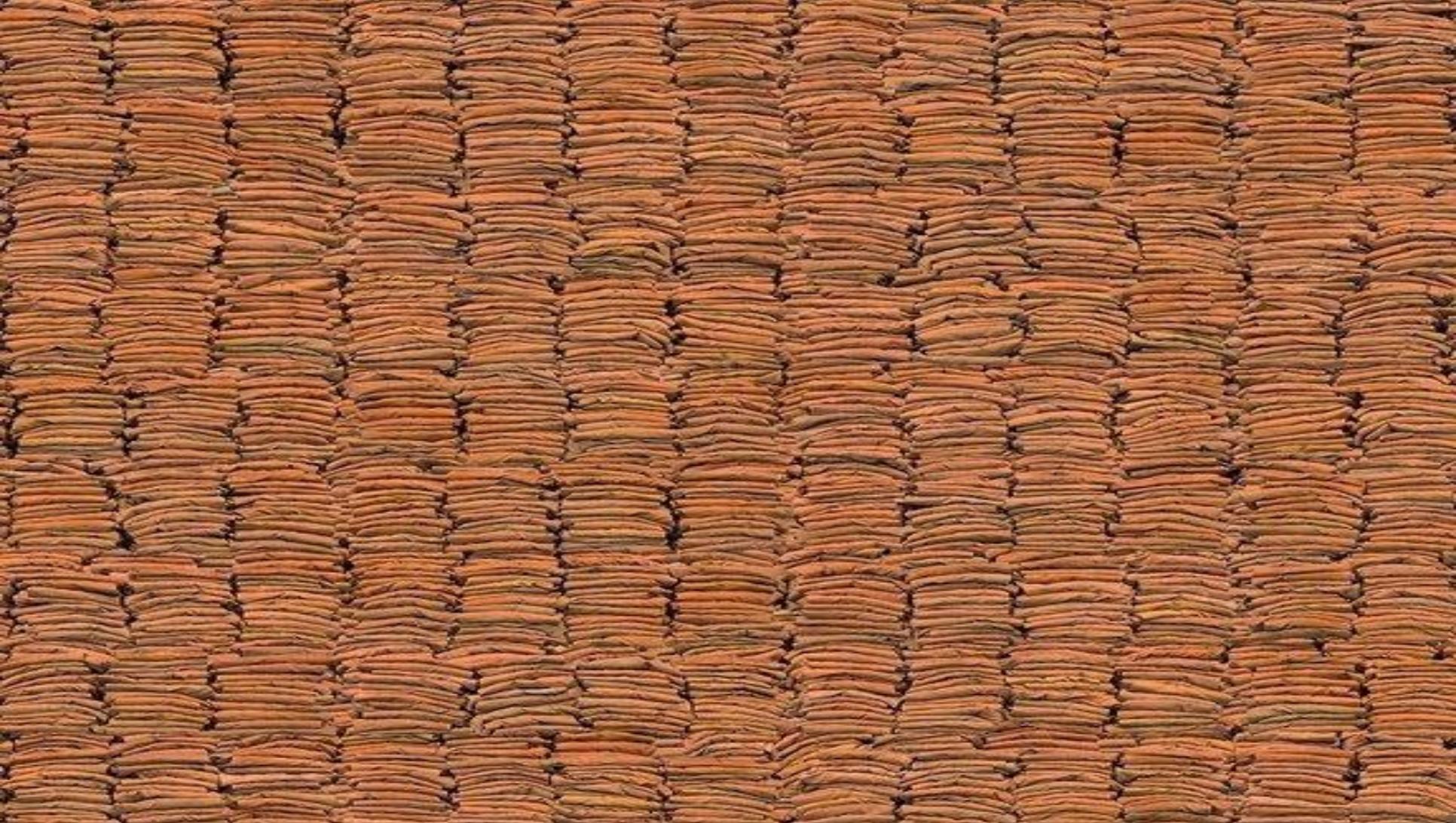
Understanding the Numbers...

Artist Chris Jordan's art helps to get a sense for how much a million is...

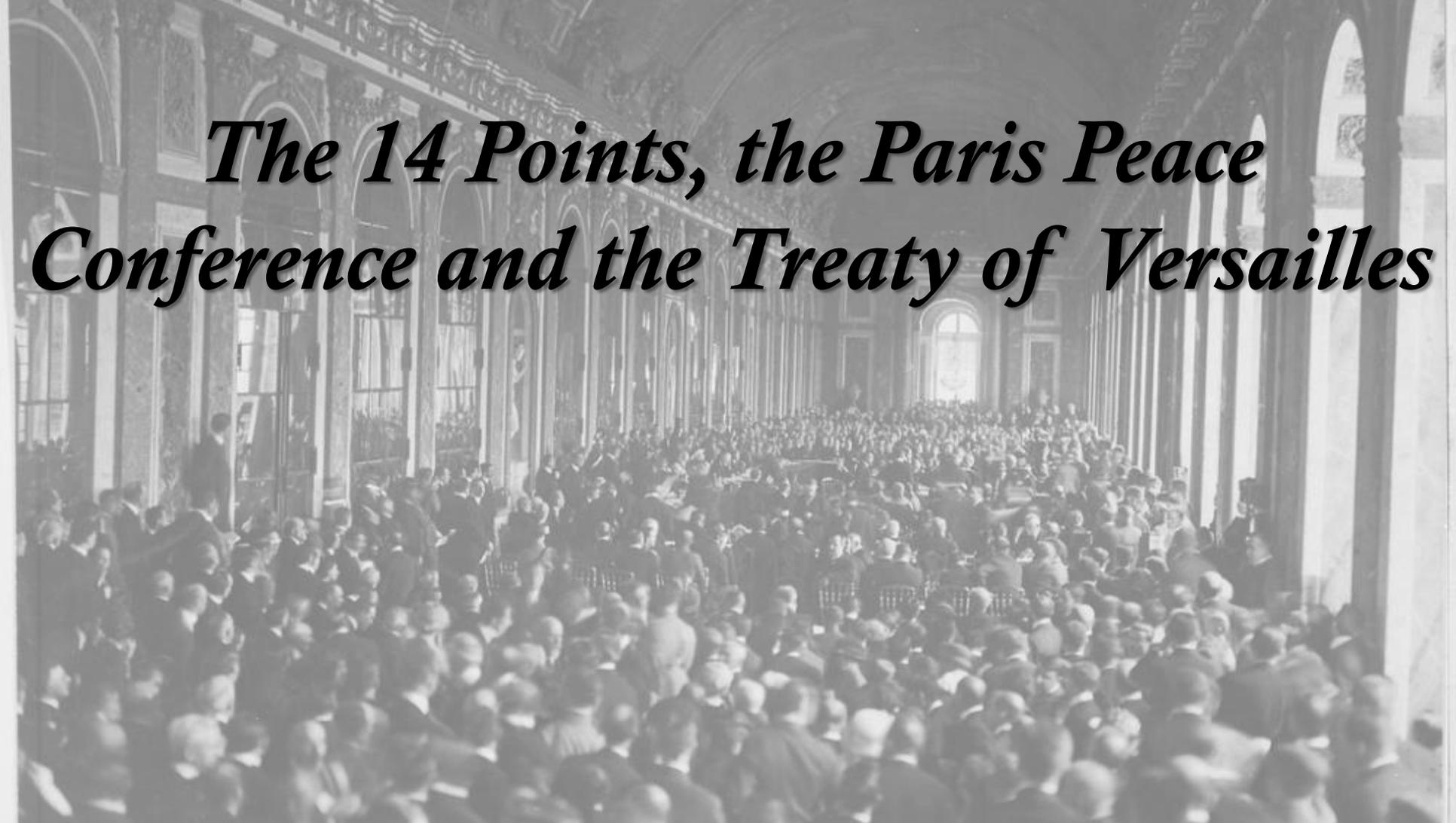
Here is a photo of 2 million plastic bottles...



This series depicts 2.3 million prison uniforms.
(Which also happens to be the number of people the U.S. has in its prisons and jails making us #1 in terms of the number of citizens we have locked up).







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

Questions at the end of WWI:

- Why did this war happen and can we create conditions under which something this horrible never happens again?
- Who is responsible and what, if anything, should be their punishment?
- What should be done with the crumbling empires in central Europe? On what basis should state boundaries be drawn? Who should draw them?

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

Key Ideas of the 14 Points

- No more secret treaties; transparent diplomacy
- Free trade and freedom of movement on the seas
- Global arms reduction to the lowest level possible
- Reevaluate colonialism; equal weight to local populations
- Germany needs to leave all Belgian, Russian and French territory and adopt a democratic government
- Break up Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Empires into new nation states
- Restore an independent Poland
- Create a LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The Big Four



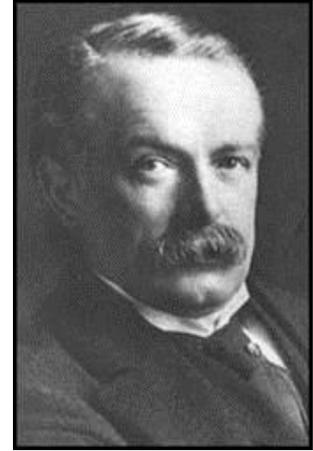
Woodrow Wilson USA



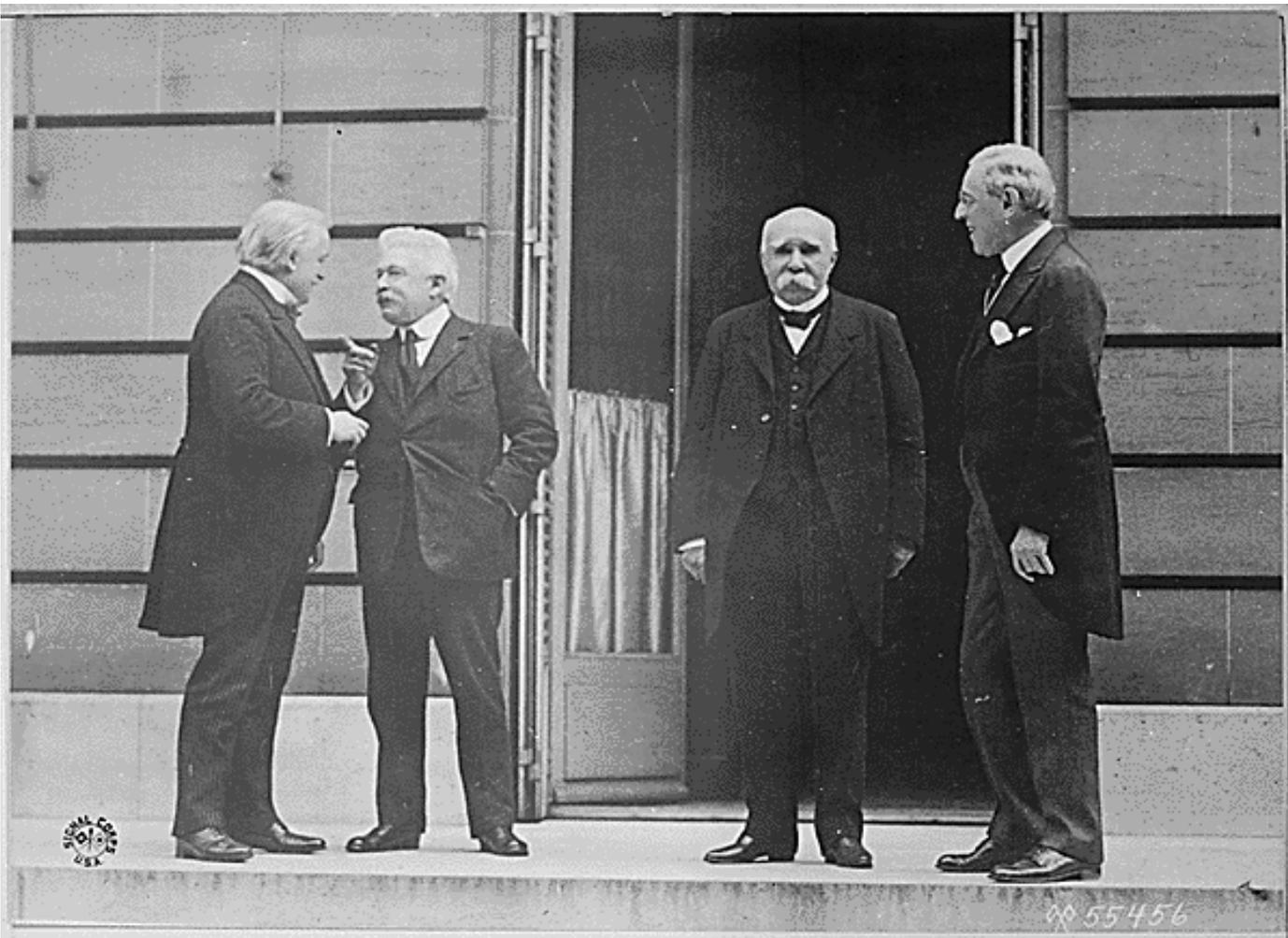
Georges Clemenceau France



Vittorio Orlando Italy

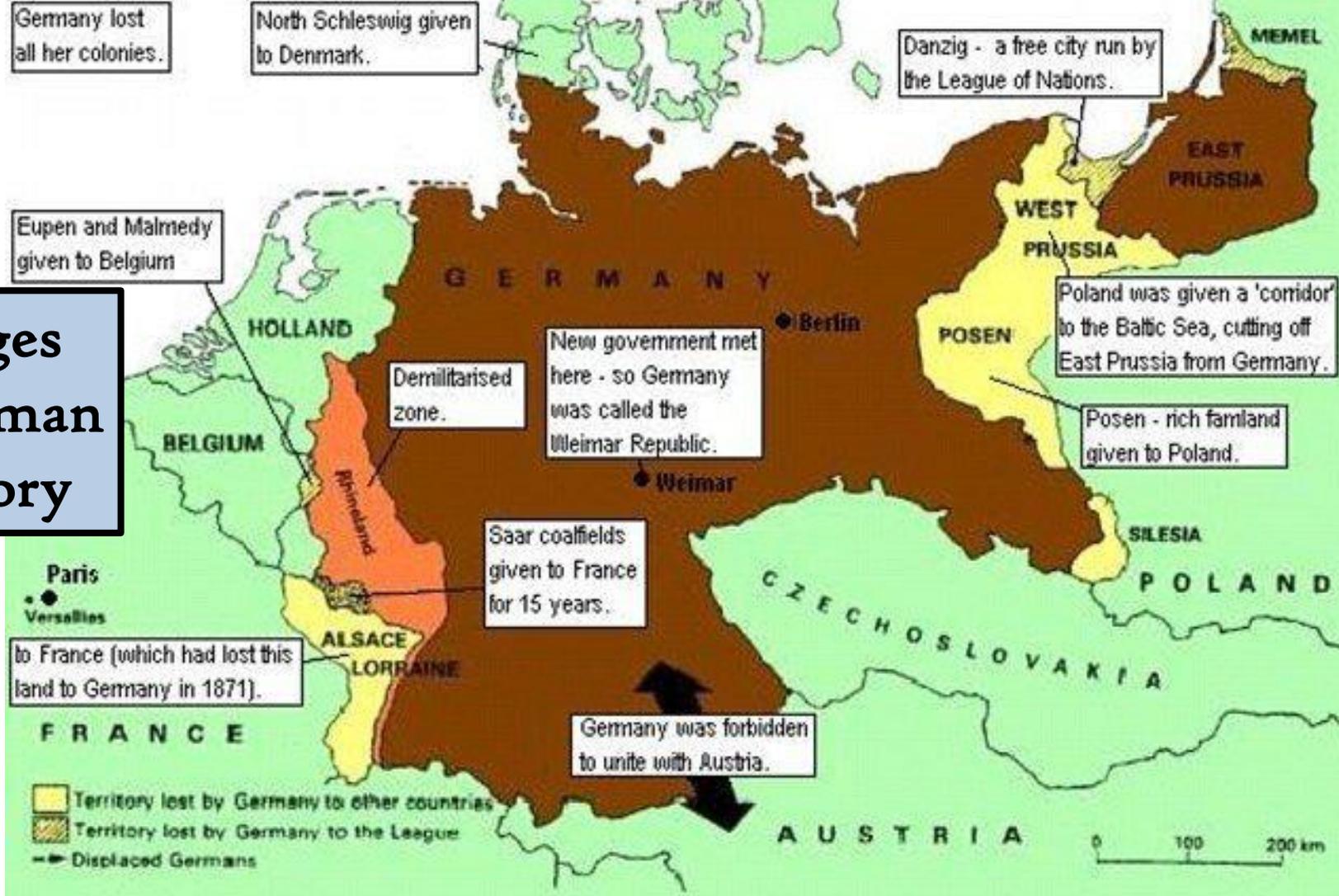


David Lloyd-George Great Britain



The Big Four at Versailles in 1919

Changes To German Territory



Europe Before 1919



Europe After 1919

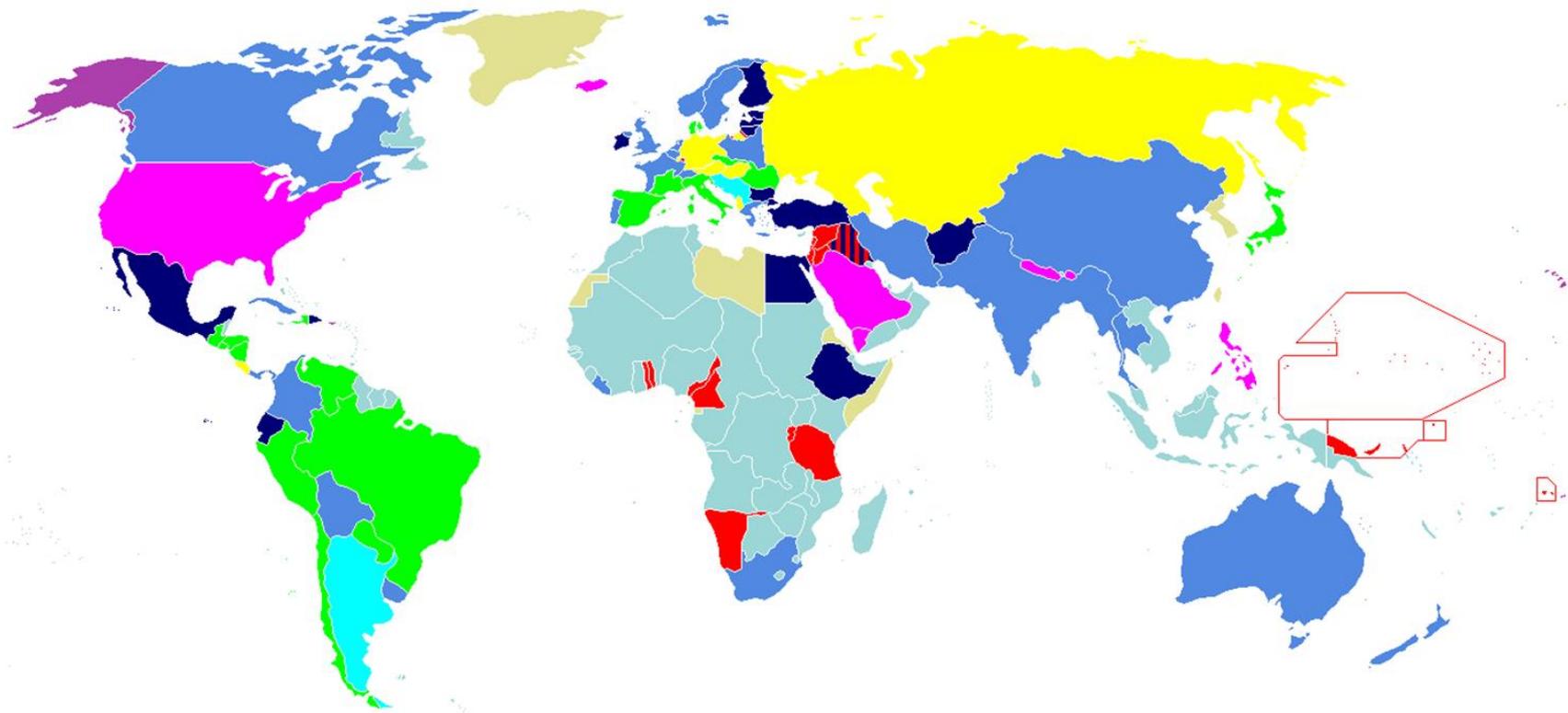


The League of Nations

- 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”

European Government Types in 1937



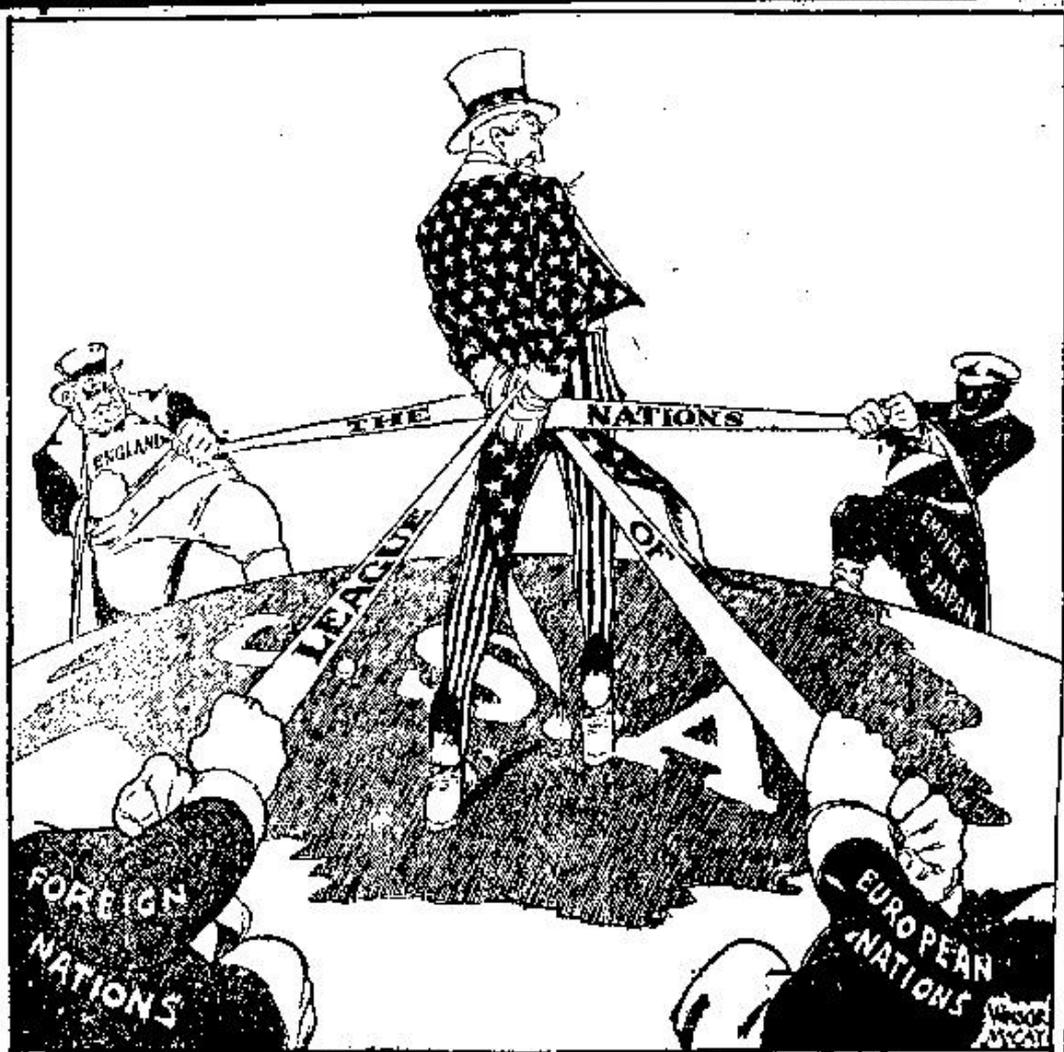


- Founding member that stayed until the end
- Founding member that left and joined again
- Founding member that left at the end
- Joined later and stayed until the end
- Joined later and left later

- League of Nations mandate
- Never members
- Colonies of members
- Colonies of members that left
- Colonies/territories of non-members



**League
of
Nations**



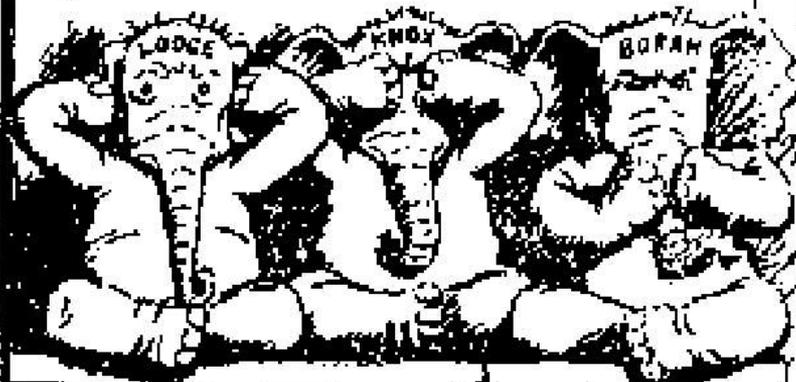




THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.



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

