

Paris Peace Conference (1919)



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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is our greatest pleasure to welcome you to this DCYP 2019 simulation of the Paris Peace Conference. The impact of the Great War was immense and has left all participants desperate to ensure that it was not in vain nor will it ever happen again.

Despite the Treaty of Versailles and the other treaties from the Paris Peace Conference being drafted almost a hundred years ago, our world today is still marked by the decisions made during the summer of 1919. Now it is your opportunity to step into the shoes of those world leaders who helped decide the fate of the global community after the most devastating conflict at that time. You will debate the fate of defeated Germany and how to solve the many territorial disputes caused by the Great War.

We would like you to keep in mind that the nature of the Historical Committee will take us back to January 1919. Each delegation should thus carefully study their state's position at this time as well as the factors that may influence it: the types of regime in power, its economy, religion, or security concerns.

Lastly, although we are aware that the historical outcome of the Paris Peace Conference is very well known, this does not mean that this simulation needs to reproduce the same treaty. Simulation starts with the opening of the congress on 18th January 1919 with all options and avenues still open. The states and the corresponding interests at stake have all been faithfully replicated. However, it is impossible to bring back the delegates that had initially filled these positions and this means that a new outcome is always possible. Not every state will be satisfied with what they have received by the end of this weekend, but we do hope that all the delegates will be satisfied with the amount they will have learned and the fun they will have had.

Best of luck,
Vidit, Arushi and Shaurya,
Your executive board for this conference.

Introduction to the Committee



The Paris Peace Conference was the one of the defining diplomatic conferences of the twentieth century. It laid the foundation for peace in Europe during the interwar era of 1919-39 and whose achievements and shortcomings can still be felt in the national borders, international system, and regional conflicts down to the present day.

The conference began on the 18th of January 1919 and comprised of the victorious Allied Powers meeting at the Palace of Versailles at the end of the World War I (1914-18) to set the peace terms for the defeated Central powers.

The conference comprised of 27 nations including the 'Big Four', France, Britain, Italy and United States, along with other smaller nations lobbying for the interests of their respective countries/colonies.

At the end of the conference, five major treaties were prepared for each of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire.

Introduction to the Agenda

The Great War, known today as World War I, was one of the most devastating wars in the history of human kind. What began as a war that was expected to be over soon came to last four years until a negotiated armistice in November 1918, leaving some 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians dead and untold destruction across the continent. It started when Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo on the 28th of June 1914. The assassination of Franz Ferdinand set off a rapidly escalating chain of events that ultimately led to the First World War. After the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Austria declared war on Serbia since the assassin, Gavrilo Princip, was linked to the Serbian revolutionary group 'Black Hand'. During this, Germany assured its full support to Austria-Hungary for the upcoming war. Soon after Russia joined the war to support its ally, Serbia, which ultimately led to a war between Germany and Russia. Soon after, Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium. Within a time span of a few months, Britain, Italy and the Ottoman Empire also joined the war.

Assassination of the Archduke played a major role in the start of the war but it wasn't the only catalyst for the start of World War I; there were other factors that played a key role in the start of the war. The four major factors were:

1. Alliances

A number of alliances had been signed by countries between the years 1879 and 1914. These were important because they meant that some countries had no option but to declare war if one of their allies declared war first. The biggest of these alliances were the Triple Entente between Britain, France and Russia and the other being the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.



2. The Policy of Imperialism

The European nations of the eighteenth and nineteenth century began their policy of Imperialism in other countries of the world. England, France and the Dutch extended their empires in India, Indo-Chin and Indonesia respectively. Other nations of Europe extended their domination in Africa. Germany also decided to adopt the policy of colonial expansion. During the first half of the twentieth century the Imperialism of Europe reached its pinnacle. The main ideology of Imperialism was to capture one country after another by military power.

3. Militarism

The growing European divide had led to an arms race between the main countries. The armies of both France and Germany had more than doubled between 1870 and 1914 and there was fierce competition between Britain and Germany for mastery of the seas. The British had introduced the 'Dreadnought', an effective battleship, in 1906. The Germans soon followed suit introducing their own battleships. The German, Von Schlieffen also drew

up a plan of action that involved attacking France through Belgium if Russia made an attack on Germany.

4. Nationalism

Closely aligned with the growth of militarism was that of nationalism. Each nation of Europe had the slogan 'My Country is the Great'. At first this insurgent nationalism took its birth in Germany. Its ruler Kaiser William II was the symbol of extreme nationalism. Influenced by him England, France, Holland and Austria also became proudly about their nationalism. As a result, there was internal rivalry among the countries.

Timeline of the great war

1914

- June 28 Archduke Franz Ferdinand is assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serbian
- July 23 Austria-Hungary makes demands on Serbia for retribution. Serbia does not meet demands.
- July 28 Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. Russia begins mobilizing its troops.
- August Germany declares war on Russia, Germany declares war on France, Germany invades Belgium. Britain declares war on Germany.
- September Four years of trench warfare begins.
- November The British begin a naval blockade of Germany. The Ottoman Empire declares war on the Allies.
- December An unofficial truce is declared between the two sides at Christmas.

1915

- February The Germans begin to use submarines against Allied merchant ships around the island of Britain.
- April The Allies attack the Ottoman Empire at the Battle of Gallipoli
- October Bulgaria enters the war by declaring war on Serbia.

1916

- February The Battle of Verdun begins between France and Germany
- May The Battle of Jutland, is fought between Britain and Germany in the North Sea.

July The Battle of the Somme begins. Over 1 million soldiers will be wounded or killed.

1917

January The British intercept the Zimmerman Telegram in which Germany tries to convince Mexico to join the war. This results in the United States declaring war on Germany.

March The Russian Revolution begins. Tsar Nicholas II is removed from power on March 15

April The United States enters the war, declaring war on Germany.

November The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, overthrow the Russian government.

December The Russians agree to peace with the Central powers and leave the war.

1918

January 8 President Woodrow Wilson issues his "Fourteen Points" for peace and an end to the war.

October Germany ask the Allies for an armistice, Turkey makes peace.

November Austria makes peace

November 11 Germany agrees to the armistice with the allies and war is brought to an end

1919

January 18 Peace conference at Paris begins

Military Issues

The first World War had three paradigm shifts in the methods of warfare. The first of these paradigm shifts was the transition from human and animal muscle power to machine power as the primary motive force in war. The transition to mechanical motive power did not occur all at once, of course, but it reached full maturity during World War I. The transition started with the invention of the steam engine and railroads during the 19th century, but it went into high gear with the development of the internal combustion engine at the end of the century. By 1918 the military technologies based on the internal combustion engine were starting to mature with the introduction of the tank and heavier-than-air combat aircraft.

The second was moving from two-dimensional warfare to three-dimensional warfare which ushered the aircrafts. Up to that point battles had been fought on two-dimensional planes. But the aircraft made the sky the new high ground, and it was no longer sufficient to dominate the horizontal space within the range of your weapons. The problem of control of the air also extended

to the battle at sea, but there, the introduction of the submarine extended the battle space below the surface as well as above it.

The third paradigm shift was the introduction of depth. With the advent of aircraft, long-range artillery, and target-acquisition technologies capable of accurately locating deep targets, it became possible to attack an enemy force deep in its vulnerable rear areas. The combat problem became one of striking at the enemy simultaneously along his front and deep in his rear, while defending simultaneously along your own front and the vulnerable and critical installations in your own rear. It had become extremely necessary to regulate the production and utilization of the newly-emerged warfare technologies and to ensure to the proper dismantling of the weapons on either side of the conflict.



The War left military weapons and other equipment of mass destruction from the defeated central power, which the committee must decide on how to best deal with. The German Imperial Navy's High Seas Fleet, comprising some 72 vessels is currently interred at Scapa Flow in Scotland, under the watch of the UK Royal Navy's 1st Battle Squadron and British Vice until the parties of the peace conference decides how to divide, dismantle, or dispose of them. The German fleet of some 24 Zeppelin dirigible airships are another important point: their infamous air-raids over the United Kingdom dropped some 5,806 bombs on that country alone and led to a loss of a full sixth of Britain's normal output of munitions.

Apart from these methods of warfare, the war left millions of troops dead, on both sides, in the trenches and other occupied regions, presenting a significant challenge for reintegration in the civilian society.

Territorial Issues



To start the reorganization of Europe, the participants of the Paris Peace Conference first should determine the frontiers of Germany to the north, east, and west. After this, delegates may turn to the borders of Austria-Hungary and consider the states which have broken away within the Balkans. Finally, the parties of the Conference should tackle the fate of Germany's colonies and the question of the post-war settlement in the Ottoman Empire.

Europe

Western Frontier

Moving west along the former German border, the Peace Conference shall have to decide on the counties of Eupen and Malmedy. In 1815, Prussia annexed a part of Belgium which Germany used to prepare the attack on Belgium's neutrality by building strategic railways through sparsely inhabited regions. Germany also constructed a military base at Elsonborn near the border of Belgium.

Despite its neutrality, Luxembourg was occupied in August 1914, mainly for its strategic value. Luxembourg was occupied on the morning of 2 August 1914, as it was essential for the German army to secure this important railway traffic node before the actual start of the war so that it could be used as a deployment area. At the outbreak of the war Germany used the railways in order to attack Belgium and France. During the war Luxembourg was swallowed up in Germany and cut off from the outside world.

Alsace-Lorraine is one of the most complicated territories to discuss. It was annexed from France by Prussia in 1871. Alsace-Lorraine had been relatively well integrated into the German Empire, and a new constitution in 1911 had granted it more autonomy. But as soon as the war broke out, it became a burning issue. Even Woodrow Wilson stated in his 14 points that all the French territories should be freed and restored. Nonetheless, it was strongly in Germany's interests to retain Alsace-Lorraine as an important strategic position and rich of iron ore supply, and the fate of the territory is to be heavily contested in the postwar settlement.

Another important region that should be considered during the Paris Peace conference is the Left Bank. The Left Bank of the Rhine commonly refers to the territory of the German Empire lying west of the river between Alsace-Lorraine and the Dutch frontier. This region was also annexed from France by Prussia. The left bank is not only of industrial importance but also of military importance.

A corner of the region of the Left Bank, the Saar Valley, is a problem in itself. It is not only rich in opportunities for the growing of farmland, but had also become a military base for the Germans due to its close proximity to Lorraine and the coal deposits around the region. This region alone is responsible for 8% of the coal output of Germany.

Eastern Frontier

The aftermaths of the first world war not only resulted in the adjustments of the territories but also of some regions breaking away from countries and becoming independent nations.

One such nation was Poland. November 1918 saw the emergence of an independent Poland from Russia and Germany. Even Woodrow Wilson stated in his 14 points that an independent and restored Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea. It is however difficult to know where to draw the map given the widespread overlapping of ethnic Poles and ethnic Germans within the historic boundaries of Poland and of Prussia. Upper Silesia has been separated from Poland for six hundred years; while the provinces of Posen and West Prussia have been a part of Prussia since the partition of Poland in the 18th century. Northern cities such Danzig and its surrounding hinterlands are dominated by ethnic Germans. The desire of such provinces to separate from Germany in favour of union with Poland thus varies enormously, and as such require a careful handling in any settlement. With the surrender of Germany, the victor powers have to decide the fate of its colonies in Africa and the Pacific Ocean.

The Ottoman Empire

Had the secret Treaty of London of April 1915 been made public, the world would have discovered sooner that the objects of the war had completely changed. The treaty of London was a secret treaty between neutral Italy and the Allied forces of France, Britain, and Russia to bring Italy into World War I. The Allies wanted Italy's participation because of its border with Austria. Italy was promised Trieste, southern Tyrol, northern Dalmatia, and other territories in return for a pledge to enter the war within a month. Despite the opposition of most Italians, who favoured neutrality, Italy joined the war against Austria-Hungary in May.

Another territory that should be considered as part of the Ottoman Empire is Palestine which was occupied by British troops with Arab support in 1917. In the same year, Britain issued the Balfour Declaration, promising a Jewish National Home in Palestine which conflicted with Hussein-McMahon correspondence of 1916, which promised Arab independence in Arab lands. In addition, the secret Sykes-Picot agreement of 1916 has already provided a division of the Ottoman Empire territories, meaning that competing plans and promises among the Allies must be balanced against each other by the parties at the conference.

Overseas Colonies

In the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, most of Asia and Africa was imperialized by the European countries. By the end of the 19th century, nearly the whole African continent were under the control of the European colonial powers. The United Kingdom had the largest overseas empires, which included India, Burma, Egypt, South Africa, Australia and other members of the commonwealth. The French administered huge covers of Africa along with a small territory in Indochina (Vietnam). The Ottoman Empire, a slowly-declining great power in the Middle East, controlled a vast expanse of territories in the Arabian Peninsula and in Anatolia at the start of the war. Similarly, Italy and Germany both had notable overseas empires in Africa as well as Asia. Apart from these, Belgium presided over the mineral rich Congo in Africa. Therefore, when war erupted in Europe, the colonies were forced to join in as well. According to the statistics, around 4 million non-Europeans played both combatant and non-combatant roles in the war. The troops of the colonies paid a high toll fighting in the war.

Despite the already-existing calls for independence by various colonies, the war played an important role in increasing the nationalist sentiments in the colonies such as India and Egypt. These colonies began to push for greater independence. Demands were made by the colonies present in the conference for the recognition of their independence

One of the major tasks of this committee will be to settle the territorial disputes around the world and formalize them.

Issues at Stake

Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points

On 8th January 1918, Woodrow Wilson, the then President of the United States, delivered an address in which he outlined the fourteen terms for bringing stability and long-lasting peace in Europe. Woodrow Wilson's proposal called for the victorious Allied powers to set unselfish peace terms with the defeated Central powers. While his Fourteen-Points were overall well-received amongst by the Germans, the Allied powers remained skeptical and criticized the overly idealistic theme of the speech.

One of Wilson's purposes in delivering the Fourteen Points speech was to present a practical alternative to the traditional notion of an international balance of power preserved by alliances among nations—belief in the viability of which had been shattered by World War I—and to the

Bolshevik-inspired dreams of world revolution that at the time were gaining ground both within and outside of Russia.

Woodrow Wilson's fourteen points play an important role in framing the American position during the peace negotiations in Paris. Woodrow Wilson wanted "peace between equals" to prevent future retaliations from the defeated states.

The fourteen points can be summarized as follows:

1. Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.
2. Freedom of navigation on the high seas in times of peace and war alike.
3. The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace.
4. Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.
5. An open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims keeping in mind the claims of not only the colonial powers but also the people of the colonial states.
6. The evacuation of all Russian territory and respect of Russia's self-determination by the other nations.
7. Belgium must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which it enjoys in common with all other free nations.
8. All French territory should be freed and restored by Germany and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine should be righted.
9. A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy should be effected along clearly recognisable lines of nationality.
10. The opportunity of the freest autonomous development should be provide to Austria-Hungary.
11. The nations of Montenegro, Romania and Serbia should be completely restored along with free access to the sea for Serbia and international guarantees of the Balkan states' independence and integrity.
12. The prospect of autonomy for non-Turkish peoples of the Ottoman Empire and the unrestricted opening of the Straits, but secure sovereignty for the Turks in their own areas.
13. An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations and should be assured a free and secure access to the sea.
14. A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.

The Russian Fear

The Russian Revolution was one of the most influential events to emerge from the furnace of the First World War. It transformed Russia and its Empire and firmly planted the flag of world revolution at the center of 20th century world history. The Revolution was the outcome of a vast array of interacting forces, internal and external, long-term and short-term, structural and accidental. The Great War did not create the forces of revolution, but it did set them in motion and fuel them. Economic and military losses during World War I resulted in the end of the rule of the Tsar. In the two revolutions that took place the months of March and October in 1917, Russia saw the

governance of a new Bolshevik government followed by the governance of a Left Socialist Revolutionaries government (Vladimir Lenin) which thereby resulted in an end in the imperial rule. At the beginning of 1919, the Allied Powers were skeptical if peace can be made with Russia under the Bolsheviks and they are concerned that Russia would only use the peace process to gain time for future expansionist attempts. Russia's strength has faded but the Allies fear of the ideological challenge of communism, preaching of class war, world revolution, anti-colonialism and Russia's version of self-determination. Nonetheless, dealing with Russia is essential for the peace negotiations not least to determine territorial decisions; for example, regarding the Eastern borders of Poland.

Minorities

The borders of states need to be redrawn after the war and large groups of people have been displaced across countries and continents. It can be expected that nation states will not be inhabited by one nation alone but that minorities in terms of race, religion and language will need to be accommodated. Especially in newly created democratic states where majority-voting systems are used to determine politics, the interests of minorities are in danger to be overheard if their rights are not recognized.

Wilson's Fourteen Points have already shaped negotiations on how to treat minorities, especially with the ground-breaking concept of "self-determination" – even if its detailed meaning remains open to further definition. Point ten states that "the peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development".

Moreover, the future of colonies needs to be addressed. Wilson's fifth point calls for a settlement of this question that considers not only the position of the colonial powers but also that of the people living in the respective colony. Accommodating the rights of minorities can be an important factor to prevent future conflict but requires balanced solutions to reflect the often-contradictory interests of the parties involved.

Bloc Positions

Europe

Kingdom of Belgium

As the first country to be invaded by Germany in 1914, it was also this attack that brought the British into the war based on the Treaty of London which ensured British support in case of an attack on Belgium. Belgium aims to recover its economy using German reparations, playing on French desires to establish a buffer zone on the left bank of the Rhine to increase its security against future German attacks, and also has interest in claiming some Dutch territory in Zeeland and the German colonies in Africa. Troops from the Belgian Congo fought in the Cameroons and gained control of the western third of German East Africa that Belgium hopes to maintain. Additionally, recovery of the ties to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are among its goals, as is the revision of the Treaty of London (1839) demanding Belgian neutrality.

Kingdom of Italy

Italy had been persuaded first to join the Triple Alliance and then to join the Allies in order to gain land. In the Treaty of London 1915, they had been offered the Trentino and the Tyrol as far as Brenner, Trieste and Istria, all the Dalmatian coast except Fiume, full ownership of Albanian Valona and a protectorate over Albania, Aladia in Turkey and a share of Turkish and German Empires in Africa. The Italian representative had the aim of gaining these and as much other territory as possible. The loss of 700,000 Italians and a budget deficit of 12,000,000,000 Lire during the war made the Italian government and people feel entitled to these territories. There was an especially strong opinion for control of Fiume, which they believed was rightly Italian due to the Italian population. Most of the territories were promised to other nations and the great powers were worried about Italy's imperial ambitions.

Kingdom of Montenegro

The Kingdom of Montenegro was militarily and politically exhausted after the Balkan Wars. It fought till successfully till January 1916 but had to eventually surrender to the Central Powers. When this happened, their king Nicolas I fled the country and was unable to raise an army. Now, the country's main aim for the conference is the restoration of their country's independence. As also stated in Woodrow Wilson's fourteen points of erecting a fully restored state of Montenegro.

Republic of Lithuania

During World War I, Lithuanian territory was occupied by Germany from 1915 until the war ended in November 1918. The first national government of Lithuania was formed after the armistice. The State claims the region of Vilnius. The delegation's main goal at the peace conference is territorial recognition. During the conference, Lithuania paid special importance to the Wilsonian idea of self-determination. As well, Lithuania also paid special importance to race relations.

French Republic

After the defeat of France in the Franc-Prussian war in 1871, France felt that the Germans had humiliated them. So for France, this was now a chance for punitive peace treaties. France's primary aim was the demilitarization of Germany so as to prevent Germany from invading again therefore, wanting to reduce Germany's power in every possible fashion and to surround Germany with strong barrier nations. Clemenceau's (principal French negotiator) initial demand was that Germany give up all territory west of the Rhine and that the Saar basin be annexed to France. But when it comes to the Fourteen Point Plan, France is willing to compromise because it knows that all the nations would not agree to its punitive measures.

Republic of Poland

After over a century of partitions between Austrian, German, and Russian imperial powers, Poland had re-emerged as a republic as a result of the Great War, declaring its independence on 7 October 1918. Poland's objectives are the recognition and confirmation of the historic and ethnic Polish territories formerly within the borders of the German, Russian, and Austro-Hungarian Empires as part of the nascent state. The Polish Delegation demanded the following territories in the West: Duchy of Poznan, Pomorze, southern East Prussia and the Upper Silesia east of the Oder River. All these demands were justified on ethnic grounds, for according to the Prussian census of 1910 these territories were predominantly Polish. The Polish Delegation also demanded the territory of Danzig as the only port that could serve Polish needs.

Republic of Portugal

Portugal was initially neutral in the war. However, due to tensions with Germany involving especially the German campaign in Angola, Portugal entered the war. Having performed poorly on the battlefield and now rent by internal political turmoil, the Portuguese delegation of Portugal seeks German reparations to pay for its military expenses and a share of the German colonies and battle fleet. The main demand of Portugal is the security of the colonial possessions of Angola and Mozambique in Africa. Besides, the State also had an interest in German Southwest Africa and German East Africa. The Portuguese delegation intend to adhere as closely as possible to Britain's position.

Czechoslovakia

The area of Czechoslovakia was a part of the Austro Hungarian Empire until the Empire collapsed at the end of World War I. During the war, a small numbers of Czechs, fought with the Allies in France and Italy in exchange for their support for the independence of Czechoslovakia from the Austrian Empire. Following the Pittsburgh Agreement of May 1918, the Czechoslovakia declaration of independence was published by the Czechoslovakia National Council. The main goal for the Delegation of Czechoslovakia is to gain territory, especially over Austria. Moreover, it is a country with weak military base, and then another demand is to receive protection.

Kingdom of Romania

After pursuing a careful policy of neutrality during the Great War, Romania entered the World War I with the motivation to seize Transylvania. However, after an initial success, the Central Powers pushed Romania back, until its surrender with the Peace of Bucharest in May 1918. The Romanian demands in the Paris Peace Conference are to regain control of lost territory and reparation to the damage suffered in the war.

Dominion of Canada

The British declaration of war automatically brought Canada into the war, because of Canada's legal status as a British dominion, which left foreign policy decisions in the hands of the United Kingdom's parliament. Canadians have an important military participation in the war, and then the Prime Minister requested a separate seat at the Conference. Canada aims at greater post-war autonomy as result of its participation in the war at the side of the British, and seeks a more independent policy in its foreign relations. Canada's participation in the war has been largely

financed nationally instead of relying on foreign powers, which results in an economic advantage after the war.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland

The United Kingdom was one of the Big Four members. It entered the war when Belgium was annexed by Germany. Maintenance of the British Empire's unity, holdings and interests were an overarching concern for the United Kingdom's delegates to the conference, but it entered the conference with the more specific goals of ensuring the security of France, settling territorial contentions and supporting the Wilsonian League of Nations. Britain wanted Germany to pay for their actions by punitive measures in regards to division of territory. Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, was a major player in dividing land without taking into consideration ethnic groups.

North and South America

United States of America

United States of America was the last of the big Four to enter the Great War. From the beginning, President Woodrow Wilson had two main goals in mind: a peace settle that was not very harsh for either side and the formation of peace keeping organisation to prevent such wars in the future. In the month of January 1919, Woodrow Wilson came up with his fourteen points plan where he outlined the country's aim including creation of new and restored states, no economic barriers and more. The most important point stated a fundamental goal of President Wilson's vision: the establishment of a league of nations to settle disputes between countries by peaceful means. It is the most idealistic party at the conference and it is yet to be seen how the American ideals will balance with the interests of the other parties in the conference.

Republic of the United States of Brazil

Brazil was the only country of Latin America that actually went to war. Brazil was suffering the effects of a fragile economy: it relied heavily on coffee exports and had to import oil. As the war progressed, ports across the world were blockaded and countries banned coffee exports in favour of more urgently needed goods. Later, the country's coffee exports came under physical attack: in 1916 and in 1917, German submarines sank a number of Brazilian merchant ships. On October 1917, Brazil joined the war. Brazil's concerns in the Peace Conference were in order to ensure the economic stability and guarantee the maintenance of the coffee trade. Brazil, furthermore, has close ties to the United States.

Republic of Honduras

The Central American and Caribbean republics were officially pro-Ally. Before the Great War, Honduras' main economic income came from the banana production, but a collapse in commodity prices led to financial support by the United States. Honduras did not go to war, but broke relations with the German Government and declared war on Germany. Along with other countries in Latin America, Honduras aligned its interests with the ones that the United States of America defends.

Republic of Haiti

For the people of Haiti, the immediate post-First World War period promised more of what they had endured since 1915 – occupation by American troops. The presence of the marines, who brought a measure of stability to a chaotically violent political system, was to dominate Haitian affairs until 1934. Thus, Haiti's interests were aligned with America's at the Peace Conference.

Republic of Guatemala

Before the war, Germany had gained control of the rich coffee lands and introduced scientific methods so that they controlled about 50% of the Guatemalan economy. The country wanted to be free from this German stranglehold and then joined the United States in the war against Germany. Guatemala wants control over their coffee market and the delegation has its interests aligned to the United States.

Asia and Africa

Empire of Japan

At the end of the Great War, the Empire of Japan had grown significantly in the status of power. During the war, the Japanese government took control of the German holdings in Asia and the Pacific including the German colonies in the Pacific and the German Kiautschou Bay concession in Shandong in the Republic of China on the behalf of the Allies. The Japanese delegation's two main demands comprised of the inclusion of their racial equality proposal and the other was the territorial claims for the former German colonies: Shandong, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, the Mariana Islands, and the Carolines. The Japanese were unhappy with the conference because they got only one half of the rights of Germany, and walked out of the conference.

Kingdom of Siam

Siam declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary in mid-1917. In 1918 it sent a small expeditionary force to France, the only troops of an independent Southeast Asian country to participate in the war in Europe and the occupation of Germany. While militarily insignificant, Siam's participation in the war allowed the country's royal elite to reaffirm its rule and to foster patriotic sentiment. In their efforts to regain sovereignty and to enhance Siam's international stature, the delegation of Siam demanded equal treatment from France and Britain in leverage of the kingdom's active participation in the war.

Republic of China

China plays a very interesting role in the Conference. In the committee, a major goal for China is to not to be overtaken by the Japanese and have them gain power as well as territory over them through the readjustment of borders. During the real Paris Peace Conference, China had wanted Germany's concessions on Shandong to be returned to them, which did not end up happening and caused enough conflict between the Western powers and China that the Chinese did not end up even signing the Treaty of Versailles. Despite lack of military power, they do still hold a firm

importance on the Conference and in the global environment. The delegation declared that the Chinese delegates would stand for the principles enunciated by President Wilson from the United States.

Republic of Liberia

Liberian delegation attended to the Paris Peace Conference in complete harmony with the delegates of the United States. In 1847, Liberia's black settler population declared its independence, and the country is one of only two African states that had not been colonised by Europeans at the beginning of the Great War. Liberia's main aims are to maintain its independence and territorial integrity and to strengthen an economy severely weakened by the war, not least as 75% of its foreign trade at the war's beginning depended on Germany.

Aftermath

As specified in Woodrow Wilson's 14 points, an international association of nations was formed which was known as the League of Nations. The League of Nations was created after the First World War to provide a forum for resolving international disputes. It was the first worldwide intergovernmental organisation whose principal mission was to maintain world peace. In 1940, League members Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and France all fell to Hitler. Switzerland became nervous about hosting an organization perceived as an Allied one, and the League began to dismantle its offices. The League of Nations set the foundation for United Nations that was formed after the second World War.

Five major treaties were signed at the Paris Peace Conference. The negotiations of these treaties were dominated by the "Big Four", i.e. Great Britain, the United States, Italy and France, yielded several major decisions which were extremely harsh on the defeated nation. Germany was humiliated the most by the terms in the Treaty of Versailles. This harsh defeat of Germany in the first World War paved the way for Hitler to rise to power in Germany. Of the many provisions in the treaty, one of the most important and controversial required Germany to accept the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage during the war (the other members of the Central Powers signed treaties containing similar articles). This article, Article 231, later became known as the War Guilt clause. The treaty required Germany to disarm, make ample territorial concessions, and pay reparations to certain countries that had formed the Entente powers.

Germany didn't fare well after World War I, as it was thrown into troubling economic and social disorder. After a series of mutinies by German sailors and soldiers, Kaiser Wilhelm II lost the support of his military and the German people, and he was forced to abdicate on November 9, 1918. The following day, a provisional government was announced made up of members of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Independent Social Democratic Party of Germany (USDP), shifting power from the military.

Hitler's rise to power resulted in the second World War along with the death of millions of innocent people (Jews, Gypsies, November Criminals etc.)

Questions that need to be answered in the resolution:

1. Acceptance of the loss to the allied powers in all forms by the central powers (especially Germany) due to its aggression.
2. Are the resources of Germany adequate to make complete reparation for all losses? If not then how to recover the economic and financial loss done to the allies? Who will get bigger shares in resources and how to decide this?
3. How will Germany and its associates compensate for the damage done to the civilian population and their property?
4. The biggest concern raised by all nations after seeing such huge devastation would be to prevent another war, which might end up in worse conditions. What precautional measures should be set up in this regards?
5. How to stop any form of retaliation from Germany? All forms of sanctions should be explained in detail including economic, territorial and military.
6. What should happen to all the colonies of the central powers in Africa, Asia and other parts of world? What should be the basis of its distribution? Which countries would be given preference?
7. Taking in mind the 14 ideals of Woodrow Wilson what should be done to maintain world peace and who should be responsible to administer problems that might lead to a war?
8. How should the European territories be distributed among the allies? Should new countries be made and given importance ? How would they be governed and be made stronger so that they prevent themselves from any attack?
9. What should happen with the German administered ethnically variable regions? How to find a solution to the problems faced by them?
10. Should historical claims or linguistic/ethnic claims be entertained for right to accession on a territory?
11. How should the special case of Polish people be taken into consideration?

Further Reading:

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1914-1920/paris-peace>

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/post-world-war-i-peace-conference-begins-in-paris>

<https://www.international.gc.ca/odskelton/macmillan.aspx?lang=eng>

https://www.journalbelgianhistory.be/nl/system/files/article_pdf/BTNG-RBHC%2C%2002%2C%201970%2C%201%2C%20pp%20001-020.pdf

