

The Results of WWI

- A. When the delegates of the 'victorious' powers met at Versailles in 1919 to create a peace settlement, Europe had changed much since 1914
- II. The impact of the war on Europe; the situation in 1919
 - A. The Human cost of the war
 - 1. The death toll was around 9 million soldiers, 15% of all combatants. Millions were permanently disabled by the war.
 - 2. Civilian death didn't compare to that of WWII, but many died from war, flu, and famine
 - B. Economic consequences
 - 1. War cost in Britain alone was more than £34 billion
 - 2. The US had lent \$2,000 million to other countries by the end of the war to Britain and France.
 - 3. Land and industry had been destroyed, negatively affecting the economy
 - C. Political consequences
 - 1. Britain and France didn't suffer any major political changes (being victorious), but in Central Europe maps were completely redrawn
 - 2. Germany
 - a) Revolution had broken out against the old regime before the war ended
 - b) Sailors and workers revolted in small towns and took over
 - c) The Kaiser abdicated the throne and fled
 - 3. Russia
 - a) Experienced two revolutions in 1917
 - b) First overthrew the Tsarist regime and replaced briefly by a Provisional Government
 - 4. The Hapsburg Empire
 - a) Defeat of Austria-Hungary, Hapsburg Empire disintegrated and monarchy collapsed
 - b) Last emperor was forced to abdicate and a republic was declared
 - c) Austria and Hungary were split into two separate states
 - 5. Turkey
 - a) Collapse of the Sultan in 1922 was replaced by the rule of Mustapha Kemal, and was an authoritative regime
 - b) The collapse left huge areas of Central and Eastern Europe in turmoil
- III. Impact of the war outside Europe: the situation in 1919
 - A. America
 - 1. Emerged from the war as the world's leading economy
 - 2. Many of their resources were sent to Europe, and they dominated the European market
 - 3. President Wilson hoped that America would play a larger role in international affairs, but the majority of Americans who didn't want to enter the war focused more on national concerns
 - B. Japan and China
 - 1. Japan's economy also did well during the war
 - 2. WWI also presented Japan with opportunities for territorial expansion
 - 3. China entered the war on the Allied side in 1917, and sent delegates to Versailles in hopes that they could gain back Shandong from Japan

IV. Problems facing the peacemakers in 1919

1. Versailles conference was dominated by political leaders of 3 of the 5 victorious powers
 - a) David Lloyd George (Prime minister of UK), Georges Clemenceau (Prime minister of France) and Woodrow Wilson (Prez. of US)
2. First problems was the political and social instability in Europe
3. Other problems were
 - a) Different aims of the peacemakers
 - b) Nature of the Armistice settlement and the mood of the German population
 - c) The popular sentiment in the Allied countries

B. The Aims of the pacemakers

1. Woodrow Wilson stated the US war aims in his fourteen points
 - a) Abolition of secret diplomacy
 - b) Free navigation at sea for all nations in war and peace
 - c) Free trade between countries
 - d) Disarmament by all countries
 - e) Colonies to have a say in their own future
 - f) German troops to leave Russia
 - g) Restoration of independence for Belgium
 - h) France to regain Alsace and Lorraine
 - i) Frontier between Austria and Italy to be adjusted along the lines of nationality
 - j) Self-determination for the peoples of Austria-Hungary
 - k) Serbia to have access to the sea
 - l) Self-determination for the people in the Turkish Empire and permanent opening of the Dardanelles
 - m) Poland to become an independent state with access to the sea
 - n) A League of Nations to be set up in order to preserve the peace
2. Wilson was an idealist who aimed to build a better and peaceful world
3. He believed that the US should take the lead in this new world order
4. His views weren't shared by Clemenceau and Lloyd George
5. Wilson thought that Germany should be punished, but not as severely as France and Britain thought
6. France wanted Germany to never threaten France again, by economic and territorial sanctions
7. Britain thought that Germany should lose its navy and colonies
8. The aims of Japan and Italy were to maximize their wartime gains