

## Vocabulary Builder

 mutual-(MYOO choo uhl) $a d j$. sharedmerchant ships sailed together, protected by warships. The arrangement was designed to provide mutual safety at sea. Convoys made up of British and American ships proved to be an instant success. Shipping losses from U-boat attacks fell as sharply as they had risen. Germany's gamble had failed.

The Allies Struggle Meanwhile, the situation on land began to swing in favor of the Central Powers. The Allies were exhausted by years of combat. Russia was torn by revolutions. In March 1917, a moderate, democratic revolution overthrew Czar Nicholas II but kept Russia in the war. In November 1917, radical communists led by Vladimir Lenin (LEHN ihn) staged a revolution and gained control of Russia. Russia stopped fighting in mid-December, and on March 3, 1918, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ended the war between Russia (soon to become the Soviet Union) and Germany. The end of the war on the Eastern Front allowed Germany to send more soldiers to the Western Front.

In the spring of 1918, Germany launched an all-out offensive on the Western Front. The fierce attacks threatened to break through Allied defenses and open a path to Paris. The hard-pressed Allies organized a joint command under French General Ferdinand Foch (fawsh).

American Troops Join the Fight General John J. Pershing, the commander of American forces in Europe, arrived in France in June 1917, with a small American force. However, it was not until early 1918 that American troops began arriving in larger numbers. At about the same time, the German offensive began to stall. By the end of March 1918, Allied counterattacks and German exhaustion ended the great German offensive.

More fighting followed, and with each passing week, American troops assumed more of the burden on the battlefield. Germany launched several more offensives. Allied defenses buckled and stretched but did not break. Each failed offensive weakened Germany a bit more and raised Allied hopes.

## American Troops Distinguish Themselves

 American troops called "doughboys," saw significant action in the late spring and summer of 1918. Americans fought on the defensive along with the French at the Second Battle of the Marne and on the offensive at the Battle of Cantigny (kahn tee NYEE), where they dislodged a large German force from fortified positions. They battled valiantly at Château-Thierry (sha TOH tir EE) and Belleau (beh LOH) Wood, MeuseArgonne (myooz ahr GAHN) and Saint-Mihiel (mee YEHL). Although it took some time, American troops learned quickly and fought bravely.One of America's greatest war heroes was Alvin York of Tennessee. On October 8, 1918, York was one of thousands of Americans fighting in the MeuseArgonne region of northeastern France. Trapped behind enemy lines, York and 16 other Americans took cover from blistering machine-gun fire. As half of the American force fell to German bullets, York took aim with his rifle and silenced a nearby German machine-gun nest. He then dodged a flurry of bullets to attack several other machine gunners and even charged one German position with only a pistol! When the firefight died down, York and the surviving Americans had taken the German position against amazing odds. York's battlefield heroics earned him a Congressional Medal of Honor.

## American Involvement in World War I, 1918

Geography Interactive
For: Interactive map
Web Code: nep-0605


## UNITED KINGDOM

## English Channel




> North
> SeaAllies, 1918
Central Powers, 1918
Neutral countries, 1918
Allied front line, July 1918
Armistice line, November 1918
American offensives
British offensives
French offensives Battle, 1918

GERMANY

FRANCE

When the American General Pershing reached France, he is said to have remarked "Lafayette, we are here!" He was referring to the French General Marquis de Lafayette, who aided the American cause during the Revolutionary War. Now was the time for America to repay that debt.

The Convoy System in World War I


Alvin York was only one of thousands of heroes, many of whom died and most of whom were never recognized for their deeds. They followed orders, fought bravely, and made great sacrifices. Although African American soldiers often faced discrimination in the United States Army, they demonstrated their patriotism in dozens of engagements. For example, an entire African American unit, the 369th Infantry Regiment, received the Croix de Guerre, a French award for bravery, for its members' actions in the Meuse-Argonne campaign. By the end of the war, 1.3 million American soldiers had served on the front, more than 50,000 had lost their lives, and about 230,000 had been wounded.

The War Ends The American troops, added to those of France, Britain, and Italy, gave the Allies a military advantage. By the fall of 1918, the German front was collapsing. Both the German and Austro-Hungarian armies had had enough. Some men deserted, others mutinied, and many refused to fight. Their leaders faced little choice but to surrender. On November 11, 1918, Germany surrendered to the Allies in a railway car in Compiegne (kohn PYEHN), France.

The war was over. Of the millions of soldiers who mobilized to fight, almost 5 million Allied and 8 million Central Power troops were dead. Nearly 6.5 million civilians were also dead, victims of the terrible conflict. It was left to the peacemakers to determine whether the results would justify the costs.

Checkpoint How did American involvement help the Allies win World War I?

## INFOGRAPHIC

$\Delta$ American doughboy helmet, worn by a member of the first U.S. division in France

## American Voloes From the Western Front

In 1918, Americans fought alongside other Allied troops in several key battles on the Western Front, including Belleau Wood, Château-Thierry, the Second Battle of the Marne, Saint-Mihiel, and Argonne Forest. Although all of these battles were Allied victories, they were nonetheless deadly. Machine-gun barrages and exploding artillery shells filled with shrapnel or deadly gas killed or wounded thousands of American troops. One soldier wrote home to his mother: "Don't worry. I am alright and it is worthwhile...we are blocking the


## Wilson Promotes Peace Without Victory

Vladimir Lenin, leader of the communist revolution in Russia, maintained that the entire war was nothing more than an imperialistic land-grab. Once in power, he exposed secret treaties that Russia had made with the other Allies in which they agreed to divide among themselves the empires of their enemies. These revelations undercut the morality of the Allied cause in the war.

For President Woodrow Wilson, however, the war was not about acquisitions and imperialism-it was about peace and freedom. In January 1917, Wilson had introduced the idea of a "peace without victory" in an address to Congress:

> Primary Source ${ }^{66}$ Only a tranquil Europe can be a stable Europe. ... [There] must be a peace without victory. .. Victory would mean peace forced upon the loser, a victor's terms imposed upon the vanquished. It would be accepted in humiliation... and would leave a sting, a resentment, a bitter memory upon which terms of peace would rest, not permanently, but only as upon quicksand." - Woodrow Wilson, "Peace Without Victory" speech, January 22, 1917
> In another address to Congress in January 1918, Wilson answered Lenin's charges about the nature of the conflict by outlining America's war aims in what became known as the Fourteen Points. At the heart of the Fourteen Points was his idea of "peace without victory." Wilson proposed a peace inspired by noble ideals, not greed and vengeance.



SOURCE: Encyclopædia Britannica Online

American soldiers bandaged after a gas attack


## Thinking Critically

Why do you think American casualties were relatively few compared with the casualties of the other combatants?

## History Interactive*

For: Interactive content
Web Code: nep-0611

## NoteTaking

Reading Skill: Summarize As you read, summarize Wilson's goals for peace and whether or not each goal was fulfilled.

| Wilson's Ideas <br> for Peace | Decision Made <br> at Paris Peace <br> Conference |
| :--- | :--- |
| Peace without victory | Great Britain and <br> France make Germany <br> pay reparations. |
| Open diplomacy |  |
| Freedom of seas and <br> free trade |  |
| Move toward ending <br> colonialism |  |
| Self-determination |  |
| League of Nations |  |

The Fourteen Points sought to fundamentally change the world by promoting openness, encouraging independence, and supporting freedom. Critical of all secret treaties, Wilson called for open diplomacy. He insisted on freedom of the seas, free trade, a move toward ending colonialism, and a general reduction of armaments. He also championed national self-determination, or the right of people to choose their own form of government. This would lead to the creation of several new, independent states, but also raised many questions of which populations would achieve statehood and under what circumstances. Finally, he asked for a League of Nations to secure "mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike."

In early 1919, the victorious Allies held a peace conference in Versailles (ver Si), a suburb of Paris, in the former palace of Louis XIV. President Wilson believed that the peace conference was too important to be left to career diplomats and lesser politicians, so he crossed the Atlantic Ocean himself to represent the United States at the conference, something no President had ever done.
Wilson did not invite any leading Republicans to join him in his peace delegation. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, a Republican foreign policy expert, was left behind because Wilson disliked him intensely. Wilson's decision angered Republicans, who had won control of Congress in the 1918 elections. However, when the American President arrived in France, adoring crowds greeted him. "Never has a king, never has an emperor received such a welcome," wrote one journalist.

Checkpoint Why did Wilson believe that a "peace without victory" would help avoid future wars?

## Wilson at the Paris Peace Conference

Wilson's idealism did not inspire the other Allied leaders at the peace conference. They blamed Germany for starting the war, reminded Wilson that they had suffered more in the war than the United States, and insisted that Germany make reparations, or payment for war damages. They wanted to weaken Germany so that it would never threaten Europe again.

Allied Leaders Reject Wilson's Ideas British prime minister David Lloyd-George and French premier Georges Clemenceau (klay mahn SOH) knew that the citizens of their countries expected both peace and victory. Lloyd-George insisted on protecting the existing colonial status quo and punishing Germany. Clemenceau wanted to make Germany pay dearly for what it had done to France. In addition to reparations, he demanded the return of Alsace-Lorraine and several key German colonies. Besides Britain and France, other Allies also had goals of their own and were skeptical of Wilson's grand vision.

Allies Create a League of Nations Once the Versailles conference began, Clemenceau, LloydGeorge, Italian Premier Vittorio Orlando, and other Allied leaders started to chip away at Wilson's Fourteen Points. Onto the scrap heap of failed proposals they piled freedom of the seas, free trade, the liberation of colonial empires, a general disarmament, and several other ideas.

## Territorial Changes After World War I

Ceouraphy Interective
For: Interactive map
Web Code: nep-0606


Wilson lost a number of battles but kept fighting to salvage a League of Nations, a world organization where countries could gather and peacefully resolve their quarrels. On this point, Wilson refused to compromise. The other delegates finally voted to make the League of Nations part of the treaty.

Problems With the Peace In the end, the various peace treaties created almost as many problems as they solved. In the new map that emerged from the conference, national self-determination was violated almost as often as it was confirmed. In Europe, several populations of Germans found themselves attached to non-German nations. The same was true of several Austrian populations.

Furthermore, in the Middle East, the breakup of the Ottoman Empire led to new states in which ethnic groups were clustered together randomly. To form Iraq, for example, the Versailles peacemakers threw together three provinces of the defeated Ottoman Empire-Basra, Baghdad, and Mosul. But Basra had natural links to the Persian Gulf and India, Baghdad to Persia, and Mosul to Turkey and Syria. The various regions had no sense of Iraqi nationalism. In addition, Iraq, like other holdings in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, was not allowed to practice self-determination. It was attached to Britain as a mandate, or territory overseen by another nation.

Checkpoint How did the decisions at the Paris Peace Conference violate the Fourteen Points?

## Decision

 Point
## Should the United States Join the League of Nations?

After the Paris Peace Conference, the United States had to decide whether to join the League of Nations. The League's purpose was to help maintain peace in the world. In the political cartoon below, Wilson overloads a dove, a symbol of peace, with a large, heavy branch representing the League of Nations. Read the options below. Then you make the call.

## President Wilson Favors Joining

## Primary Source

${ }^{66}$ A general association of nations must be formed . . . for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike. . . . It is the principle of justice to all peoples and their right to live on equal terms . . . with one another, whether they be strong or weak."
—President Woodrow Wilson, January 8, 1918


You Decide

## Senator Borah Opposes Joining

## Primary Source

${ }^{66} \mathrm{Mr}$. President, there is another reason . . . why I shall record my vote against this treaty. It imperils what I conceive to be the underlying, the very first principles of this Republic. It is in conflict with the right of our people to govern themselves free from all restraint, legal or moral, of foreign powers. It challenges every tenet of my political faith."
-Senator William Borah,
November 19, 1919

1. Why did Wilson favor joining the League of Nations?
2. Why did Borah oppose joining?
3. What decision would you have made? Why?

## America Rejects the Treaty

When Wilson left Versailles to return to the United States, he knew the treaty was not perfect. But he believed that over time the League could correct its problems. He still thought that a lasting peace could emerge.

Wilson Faces Troubles at Home Wilson did not leave his problems in France when he boarded a ship bound for the United States. German Americans thought the treaty was too harsh toward Germany, especially the "war guilt clause" that suggested that Germany had caused the war. Irish Americans criticized the failure to create an independent Ireland. Most importantly, however, the treaty would need to be submitted to the Republican-controlled Senate Foreign Relations Committee and then ratified, or approved, by the Republicancontrolled Senate. In both bodies, as well as in his own Democratic Party, Wilson faced stiff opposition.

A handful of senators believed that the United States should not get entangled in world politics or involved in world organizations. Known as "irreconcilables," these isolationist senators opposed any treaty that had a League of Nations folded into it. They particularly disliked Article 10 of the League covenant. Article 10 called for mutual defense by the signers of the treaty, a pledge that each nation would "respect and preserve . . . the territorial integrity and existing political inde-pendence of all the Members of the League."

A larger group of senators, led by Henry Cabot Lodge and known as "reservationists," were opposed to the treaty as it was written. Some wanted only small changes, while others demanded larger ones. For example, many felt

Article 10 could lead the United States into a war without the consent of Congress, which was unconstitutional. Reservationists believed that the language of the article was too vague and demanded that it not contradict the power of Congress to declare war. But with some changes, the reservationists were prepared to vote for the Treaty of Versailles. They knew that polls indicated that the American people favored the League of Nations.

Wilson had compromised in Versailles, but he was not ready to compromise in Washington, D.C. When the Senate delayed its ratification vote, Wilson took his case directly to the people. The League of Nations had become his personal crusade. Even though he was ill and weak, he set himself the grueling task of crossing the country and giving 32 addresses in 33 days. But his health failed on September 25, 1919, in Pueblo, Colorado. He was rushed back to Washington, D.C., but suffered a debilitating stroke a few days later. As the Senate prepared to vote on the treaty, Wilson lay close to death, barely able to speak.

The Senate Rejects the Versailles Treaty In November 1919, one year after the war ended, a treaty revised to eliminate the complaints of the reservationists reached the Senate for a vote. Wilson would not compromise and told his Democratic supporters to vote with the irreconcilables against it. They did, and it was defeated. Next, the Senate voted on the treaty without any changes. The Democrats voted for it, but the combined strength of the irreconcilables and reservationists defeated it. Once more it was voted on, this time with only modest changes. Again, Wilson told his followers to vote against it. Although some Democrats voted for it, the combination of Wilson Democrats and irreconcilables defeated the treaty.

The problem was not that most of the Senate was isolationist. Except for the irreconcilables, most senators wanted the United States to participate in world affairs. They differed slightly on what form that participation would take. However, at a moment that demanded compromise, Wilson and his opponents refused to put aside personal and political differences for the good of the country. The tragedy of the failed votes was that without full American support, the League of Nations proved unable to maintain peace among nations.

## $\checkmark$ Checkpoint What reservations did Henry Cabot Lodge and his

 followers have about the peace treaty?
## Vocabulary Builder

contradict-(kahn truh DIHKT) $v$. to go against

## Comprehension

1. Terms and People For each item below, write a sentence explaining why it is significant to the end of World War I.

- convoy
- Fourteen Points
- self-determination
- League of Nations
- Henry Cabot Lodge
- reparations
- "irreconcilables"
- "reservationists"


## 2. NoteTaking Reading Skill:

Sequence Use your timeline and chart to answer the Section Focus Question: How did Americans affect the end of World War I and its peace settlements?

## Writing About History

3. Quick Write: Create an Effects Diagram Predict at least three problems that could stem from the Treaty of Versailles. Create a diagram showing these effects.

## Critical Thinking

4. Summarize Describe America's contributions to the Allied war effort.
5. Express Problems Clearly What problems did the peace treaties solve? What problems did they create?
6. Draw Conclusions Why did the United States Senate ultimately reject the peace treaty and the League of Nations?

## Summary of the Fourteen Points

## Woodrow Wilson:

## The Fourteen Points

In a speech to Congress on January 8, 1918, President Wilson laid out America's war aims and his vision for peace after the war. His speech included fourteen key points upon which he believed that the peace following the war must be based. However, not all of Wilson's ideas were adopted at the Paris Peace Conference.

What we demand in this war, therefore, is nothing peculiar to ourselves. It is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, [and] determine its own institutions. . . . The program of the world's peace, therefore, is our only program; and that program, the only possible program as we see it, is this:

1. Open covenants ${ }^{1}$ 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. Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants.
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 and associating themselves for its maintenance.
4. Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.
5. A free, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined. . . .
6. 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.
7. Make no secret diplomatic agreements.
8. Allow freedom of the seas in peace and war.
9. Remove as many economic trade barriers as possible between countries.
10. Reduce stockpiles of military armaments to lowest point needed for domestic safety.
11. Adjust colonial claims, giving more weight to the views of the colonized peoples.
12. Evacuate and restore Russian territories seized during the war.
13. Restore and protect Belgium's sovereignty.
14. Restore French territory and settle the debate over Alsace-Lorraine.
15. Adjust Italy's boundaries according to the nationalities of populations living there.
16. Allow the peoples of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire to choose their own governments.
17. Redraw boundaries of Balkan states based on nationalities and historical allegiances.
18. Separate the Ottoman Empire into independent countries according to nationality; guarantee all nations access to the Dardanelles.
19. Restore and protect Poland as a sovereign state with access to the sea.
20. Establish an association of nations to provide collective security and to ensure peace.

## Thinking Critically

1. Make Inferences Why does President Wilson think that the Fourteen Points are "the only possible program" for the world's peace?
2. Synthesize Information Which of the Fourteen Points introduced the idea of the League of Nations?
3. covenant (KUHV uh nuhnt) $n$. formal agreement.

V President Wilson giving a speech in 1916

