Objective: to analyze the short and long-term effects of the Treaty of Versailles. In particular, judge whether or not the Treaty of Versailles helped end tensions or made tensions worse in post-WWI Europe and Asia. By analyzing these connections, you should be able to judge whether or not the Treaty of Versailles was an effective peace agreement.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wilson’s 14 Points**  (proposed peace) | **Treaty of Versailles**  (actual peace treaty) |
| Who is responsible for the war? | Who is responsible for the war? |
| How to Rebuild Europe? | How to Rebuild Europe? |
| How should Germany be treated? | What happens to Germany? |
| Proposed land changes? | Proposed land changes? |
| Proposal to preserve the peace: | What is created to preserve the peace: |
| What do you think was the overall goal of the 14 Points? | What do you think was the overall outcome of the Treaty of Versailles? |

**Poster requirements:**

1. Write a paragraph that contains a thesis that makes an argument in response to the question – “Did the Treaty of Versailles helped end tensions or made tensions worse in post-WWI Europe and Asia?”

Thesis: Position: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Argument 1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting evidence: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting evidence: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Argument 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting evidence: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting evidence: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Woodrow Wilson’s “Fourteen Points” (1918)**

*Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points were first outlined in a speech Wilson gave to the American Congress in January 1918. Wilson's Fourteen Points became the basis for a peace program and it was on the back of the Fourteen Points that Germany and her allies agreed to an armistice in November 1918. The following is an excerpt from the speech and a summation of his 14 points.*

“We entered this war because violations of right had occurred which touched us to the quick and made the life of our own people impossible unless they were corrected and the world secure once for all against their recurrence. 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, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world as against force and selfish aggression. All the peoples of the world are in effect partners in this interest, and for our own part we see very clearly that unless justice be done to others it will not be done to us. The program of the world's peace, therefore, is our program…

We have no jealousy of German greatness, and there is nothing in this program that impairs it. We grudge her no achievement or distinctions of learning or of specific enterprise such as have made her record very bright and very enviable. We do not wish to injure her or to block in any way her legitimate influence or power. We do not wish to fight her either with arms or with hostile arrangements of trade if she is willing to associate herself with us and the other peace- loving nations of the world in covenants of justice and law and fair dealing. We wish her only to accept a place of equality among the peoples of the world, -- the new world, in which we now live, -- instead of a place of mastery.”

**Summary of 14 Points**

1. No more secret agreements ("Open covenants openly arrived at").

2. Free navigation of all seas.

3. An end to all economic barriers between countries.

4. Countries to reduce weapon numbers.

5. All decisions regarding the colonies should be impartial

6. The German Army is to be removed from Russia. Russia should be left to develop on her own.

7. Belgium should be independent like before the war.

8. France should be fully liberated and allowed to recover Alsace-Lorraine

9. All Italians are to be allowed to live in Italy. Italy's borders are to "along clearly recognizable lines of nationality."

10. Self-determination should be allowed for all those living in Austria-Hungary.

11. Self-determination and guarantees of independence should be allowed for the Balkan states.

12. The Turkish people should be governed by the Turkish government. Non-Turks in the old Turkish Empire should govern themselves.

13. An independent Poland should be created which should have access to the sea.

14. A League of Nations should be set up to guarantee the political and territorial independence of all states.

**Questions:**

1. What does Wilson say are the goals of the United States in working with Europe on the peace treaty?
2. What is Wilson's stated attitude toward Germany?

**Versailles Conference – Major Provisions**

*The Peace Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 June 1919 by Germany and the Allied powers at the Palace of Versailles.  Begun in early 1919 and completed in April after several months of hard bargaining, it was presented to Germany for consideration on 7 May 1919. The German government was given three weeks to accept the terms of the treaty (which it had not seen prior to delivery).*

**The punishment of Germany**

* Germany was required to admit total blame for starting World War I
* Germany was required to pay for the total cost of WWI, including homes and factories destroyed; ammunition; uniforms; and pensions for Allied soldiers. Allied leaders would not agree on a total amount or a timeline for payment. When the treaty was signed, estimates for reparations (repayment for war damages) were as high as $300 billion.
* Germany’s armies were limited in size, and the German naval fleet was turned over to Allies
* Germany’s colonial possessions were divided among the Allies. France gained control of the German border region of Alsace-Lorraine, mining rights in the Saar, occupation rights in the Rhineland for 15 years, and supervisory control over some German territories in the Middle East. Italy gained the Tyrol, a region inhabited by 2000,000 Germans.

**Other Territorial Changes**

* Austria-Hungary, Germany’s chief ally in WWI, was divided into 4 independent nations: Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia.
* 5 other independent nations were established along Germany’s border with the Soviet Union: Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

**An International Organization Established**

* Two international peacekeeping bodies were established by the treaty: the League of Nations and the World Court. League members were obliged to assist one another in stopping international aggression. The World Court was set up to mediate disputes between countries.

**Questions:**

1. What is the attitude towards Germany in the Versailles Treaty?
2. Why would France in particular want to punish Germany for it’s involvement in the war?