

POWER AND AUTHORITY IN THE MODERN WORLD 1919 – 1946

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PEACE TREATIES WHICH ENDED WORLD WAR I AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

CONTEXT OF 1919:

- Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated on the 9th of November 1918
- World War I had ended on the 11th of November 1918
- Allies (Britain, France, US, Italy, Japan) had won the war over the central powers
- Economies were in ruin due to perils of total war → civilians faced food shortages post 1918
- British election campaigns → influenced by public's vote of revenge against Germany

THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE:

- 18th January 1919 – June 1919 → Palace of Versailles
- Meeting of the Allied powers to set out peace terms for Central powers
- 32 nations represented + no one from the central powers invited
- 'Big Four' took charge of negotiations → until Italy left
 - US President Woodrow Wilson
 - French PM George Clemenceau
 - British PM David Lloyd George
 - Italian PM Vittorio Orlando

	INTENTIONS
WOODROW WILSON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wanted peace "to make the world safe for democracy" - Wants no empires - 14 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - League of Nations - Reduction of Military worldwide - NOT imposing harsh settlement on Germany
CLEMENCEAU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revenge on Germans for loss of lives + property destruction - Determined to protect France from a German invasion
LLOYD GEORGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wanted to agree with Wilson - Public opinion called for revenge on Germany - Still wanted Germany and Britain to maintain trade relations
VITTORIO ORLANDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Just wanted territory it was promised - Left on 24th of April

TREATY OF VERSAILLES:

	SETTLEMENT
MILITARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Army reduced to 100 000 volunteers - No tanks, air force or submarines - Navy limited to 6 major vessels - Rhineland was demilitarised
ECONOMIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article 231 → war guilt clause

- Hyperinflation due to war reparations (Article 231) and occupation of the Ruhr
- Threats from the right wing:
 - Kapp Putsch 13th March 1920:
 - Right Wing uprising
 - Army refused to suppress the revolutionists
 - Occupation of the Ruhr by France and Belgium in 1923 to demand reparations:
 - Workers on strike
 - German economy collapsed
 - Hyperinflation
 - Stresemann becomes chancellor
 - Munich Beer Hall Putsch 8th – 9th November 1923 (failed)
 Hitler still believed that he was the future power of Germany
 (J. Toland, Adolf Hitler)

GOLDEN YEARS OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC (1925-1929):

- Years of prosperity and growth
- Gustav Stresemann (1923-1929)
 - Attempts to fulfil the TOV → angers elite
 - Recovers the German economy through loans from the US
 - Dawes Plan 1924 & Young Plan 1929
 - Political stability
 - SPD dominates the Reichstag
- Still issues in the constitution
- Proportional representation made coalitions necessary
- Hindenburg elected president in 1925
- Treaty of Locarno 1925 → recognised Germany's new borders & admitted Germany into the League of Nations

COLLAPSE OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC (1929-1933):

- Great Depression 1929
 - Stresemann's economic plans had Germany tied up in US loans
 - Unemployment rates rose by 200% & production dropped by 31%
- Conservative manipulate public since they are still in power due to Ebert-Groener Pact
- Hindenburg advises Muller to utilise Article 48
 - Hitler becomes chancellor in 1933

TIMELINE OF COLLAPSE:

- 1930: Muller wants to employ Unemployment Benefit Scheme and is denied employing Article 48 by Hindenburg and in turn is forced to resign. Brüning is appointed chancellor.

- Draft Charter written in 1944
- Charter signed on 26th June 1945
- Un officially begins operations on 24th October 1945
- Organisation:
 - General Assembly → all member nations
 - Security council → 15 members, 5 permanent (USA, Russia, Britain, France, China), has VETO powers, need all to agree to take aggressive action (e.g. War on Terror)
 - Secretariat → Secretary General is the chief administrative officer and UN public figurehead
 - Other associations → UNESCO, WHO, WTO, UNICEF, FAO
 - Compared to the LON, the UN has been more successful due to actions to prevent conflict and peace keeping forces
- Success:
 - Sierra Leone (Civil War)
 - WHO eliminates smallpox
 - Ended Syrian occupation of Lebanon in 2005
- Failures:
 - Middle East → Israeli occupation 1948, Iraq invasion 2003-2011, Syrian civil war
 - Africa → Sudan 2013
 - Genocides → Rwandan Civil War 1994, Bosnia (Srebrenica), Rohingya, Uyghur
 - Civil War → Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan