

Ending the War to End All Wars

Wilson’s Fourteen Points

January 8, 1918

1. Abolition of secret alliances.
2. Freedom of the seas in peace and war.
3. Removal of economic barriers between nations.
4. Reduction of armies to “the lowest point consistent with domestic safety”.
5. Adjustment of colonial claims in the interest of both the inhabitants and the powers concerned.
6. Restoration of Russia and a welcome for her in the society of nations.
7. The return of Belgium to her people.
8. Evacuation and restoration of French territory won be the Germans in 1871.
9. Readjustment of Italian borders along lines of nationality.
10. Opportunity for the peoples of Austria-Hungary for self-rule.
11. Restoration of the Balkan nations and free access to the sea for Serbia.
12. Protection of minorities in Turkey (Armenians).
13. An independent Poland.
14. “A general association of nations” to secure “mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.”

Directions: Use the two excerpts to fill in the chart, comparing Wilson’s 14 Points and the Treaty of Versailles

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| **Question** | **Fourteen Points** | **Treaty of Versailles** |
| What are the plans for reducing militarism? |  |  |
| How are independent nations created and treated? |  |  |
| What should be done about territory of the defeated nations? |  |  |
| Is anyone identified as being at fault for the war? How are they to be punished? |  |  |
| How is peace to be created and maintained? |  | http://images.nationalgeographic.com/wpf/media-live/photos/000/280/cache/versailles-palace-and-garden_28028_600x450.jpg  Treaty of Versailles  June 28, 1919   1. Germany will recognize the independence of Belgium. 2. In compensation for destroying France’s coal mines during the war, Germany gives her coal mines in the Saar Basin area, free of charge. 3. Germany will evacuate and restore to France all territories won by Germany in the war between the two nations in 1871. 4. Germany acknowledges and will respect the independence of Austria 5. Germany acknowledges and will respect the independence of Czechoslovakia 6. Germany acknowledges and will respect the independence of Poland. 7. Germany acknowledges and will respect the independence of the territories that were part of the former Russian Empire. 8. Germany renounces all rights and titles to overseas possessions. 9. Germany’s army is to be reduced and “devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory.” 10. The German government takes full and sole responsibility for the war and any damage caused by the war. 11. The German government is required to pay reparations for damage done to civilians and their property during the war (a total of $66,000,000,000) 12. Any trade agreement that Germany enters into with one of the Allied Powers will automatically apply to all Allied Powers. 13. “In case of any difference of opinion, the League of Nations will be called upon to decide.” |

**Analysis Questions:** *Answer in complete sentences.*

What is the biggest difference between the two documents? Why do you think they are so different?

Which later issues can be traced back to the flawed Treaty of Versailles? Would the full adoption of Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points have prevented these problems? Why or why not?