



International Youth Conference 2026

Group of 8

HISTORICAL CRISIS COMMITTEE

STUDY GUIDE

The Paris Peace Conference, 1919

Forging the World Anew



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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the IYC's historical crisis committee, Group of Eight. On behalf of the executive board, it is with great pride and anticipation that we invite you into one of the most consequential diplomatic conferences the world has ever known.

The Paris Peace Conference of 1919 was not merely a gathering of victors; it was the moment when a handful of nations sat down to decide the shape of the twentieth century. Empires had fallen, monarchies had crumbled, and over sixteen million lives had been lost in the Great War. The nations gathered at the Quai d'Orsay carried the hopes of their peoples and the weight of a world desperate for order. In this committee, you will not simply relive their debates; you will step into the shoes of the delegations that made them, weigh their impossible choices, and perhaps make a peace that history could not.

This year's G8 committee will challenge you to reconcile the irreconcilable: American idealism against French demands for security, British pragmatism against Italian territorial hunger, Japan's bid for recognition against the Western order's prejudices, and the defeated dignity of Germany against the fury of nations that had bled for four years. You will negotiate the fate of Germany, redraw the map of Europe, decide whether colonial peoples deserve the self-determination promised to Europeans, and lay the foundations of the first true international organisation. Every clause you draft, every compromise you make, and every principle you stand upon will ripple through the century to come.

One departure from the record deserves your attention from the outset. In history, Germany was handed the treaty and permitted only to protest in writing. In this chamber, Germany sits at the table as a full negotiating power with voice and vote. That single change is the question this committee exists to test: whether a peace negotiated could have held where a peace dictated did not. Delegates representing Germany carry no less responsibility than the Council of Four, and delegates representing the victors must now argue their terms to the face of the nation they intend to bind.

As duo delegations, your role is to embody your country's stance with nuance, ambition, and conviction. Coordinate closely with your co-delegate: divide research, split floor time, and ensure your delegation speaks with one voice. Every motion you raise, every bloc you form, and every speech you deliver will shape the course of our conference. Historical accuracy matters, but so does creative diplomacy — the peace you write need not be the peace we know.

This study guide serves as your foundation, but it is by no means your limit. Dive deeper. Explore the philosophies, the secret treaties, the forgotten petitions, and the national ambitions that defined 1919. Read Keynes. Read Wilson's speeches. Read the appeals of the delegations that were never heard. Understand not just what happened, but what could have.

We are thrilled to witness the intellect, diplomacy, and leadership each of you will bring to this chamber. Let the negotiations begin — and may you find in this committee not just victory in debate, but the harder wisdom of statesmanship.

Warm regards,

Vive la paix!

Nirvaan Jain, Chair of G8

Eshika Bhukhanwala, Vice Chair of G8



Agenda

Forging the World Anew: The Peace, the League, and the Fate of Empires

Timeline and Freeze Date

7 May 1919 — The Trianon Palace, Versailles

The draft Treaty of Versailles has been presented to the German delegation. No knowledge of events after this date exists for delegates. The terms have been written by the Council of Four but nothing has been signed. Italy has walked out over Fiume and returned in bad temper. Japan's racial equality clause has been defeated on a technicality. The Covenant of the League has been adopted in principle and tested in nothing. Bolshevik governments hold Hungary and, for the moment, Bavaria. The naval blockade of Germany has not been lifted. And for the first time, Germany sits at the table rather than outside the door. Every clause is contestable; every alliance is provisional; every decision taken from this moment forward may rewrite the century.

1. Introduction

In the winter and spring of 1919 the nations of the world assembled in Paris to decide their own future. The Great War had ended six months earlier, but the peace was still unwritten. Four empires had collapsed — the German, the Austro-Hungarian, the Russian and the Ottoman — and their ruins lay scattered across a continent that no longer knew its own borders. Some twenty million people were dead of war and of the influenza that followed it. Revolution was spreading westward like a fever. And yet, amid the ruin, a fragile hope emerged: that this time the powers might build a peace that would endure.

The conference opened on 18 January 1919 with delegations from thirty-two Allied and Associated nations. Real authority, however, rested with a far smaller circle. From late March the Council of Four — the United States, France, the United Kingdom and Italy — met privately, with Japan completing the Big Five. Around them clustered the Dominions of the British Empire pressing for separate standing, the reborn states of Eastern Europe pressing for existence, the ancient nations of Asia pressing for equality, the republics of Latin America pressing for recognition, and the petitioners of the colonised world pressing for the self-determination they had been promised.

The great powers did not agree. The United States arrived with the Fourteen Points and a conviction that a just peace was the only durable one. France, having lost 1.4 million men and watched its industrial north deliberately destroyed, wanted Germany rendered permanently harmless. The United Kingdom sought the narrow ground between the two: punishment enough for an electorate promised retribution, restraint enough to preserve a German market and prevent a Bolshevik collapse in the centre of Europe. Italy arrived with a secret treaty and left the room when it was not honoured. Japan came seeking recognition as an equal and was refused. And the smaller nations — Belgium, Serbia, Poland, China, the Hejaz — arrived with their own accounts of suffering and their own claims upon the future.

By the first week of May a draft treaty existed. Nothing about it was settled. The Italians were bitter, the Japanese humiliated, the Chinese preparing to refuse their signature. Colonial delegations were filing petitions no one intended to read. The blockade still held, and German cities still went hungry. And the largest question of all had not been answered: whether a peace written by the victors and imposed upon the vanquished could hold at all.



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That question is now yours to answer, and this committee gives you a means the historical delegates did not have. Germany is seated among you. The terms may be defended, contested, amended or rewritten. The world is watching. History is listening. What will your nation write?



2. Historical Background

2.1 The Great War and its Ruinous End

The First World War erupted in July 1914 after the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand at Sarajevo drew a network of alliances into general conflict. What the chancelleries of Europe expected to be a short, decisive campaign lasted four and a quarter years. It killed roughly nine million soldiers and seven million civilians and left tens of millions wounded, displaced or starving. Industrial warfare — machine guns, poison gas, submarines, tanks and aircraft — turned battlefields into killing grounds on a scale without precedent. The belligerent economies were exhausted, their debts astronomical, their populations bereaved to a degree that reshaped the politics of every combatant nation.

The war ended not with the conquest of Germany but with an armistice signed in a railway carriage in the Forest of Compiègne on 11 November 1918. At that moment German armies still stood on French and Belgian soil, and no foreign army had entered Germany. This fact matters enormously for what follows: it allowed the myth of the undefeated army betrayed at home to take root, and it left many Germans convinced they had accepted a negotiated peace rather than a surrender. Germany was nonetheless broken. Its navy had mutinied, revolution had swept away the Kaiser, and the British naval blockade continued past the armistice into 1919, so that a nation already short of food went on starving while the terms were drafted.

By the opening of the conference four empires had ceased to exist. The German Empire had become the Weimar Republic, a constitutional democracy scarcely three months old and already fighting communists in its streets. Austria-Hungary had disintegrated into successor states with undefined borders and thoroughly mixed populations. The Russian Empire had collapsed into revolution and civil war. The Ottoman Empire had been reduced to a rump in Anatolia with its Arab provinces under British and French occupation. The conference was charged not with ending a war but with rebuilding a world.

2.2 The Competing National Visions

The Allied nations arrived carrying conceptions of peace so different that they threatened the conference from the first week. The United States, having entered the war late and lost comparatively few men, came as a creditor rather than a debtor and as a moral arbiter rather than a wounded party. It brought a programme — open covenants, freedom of the seas, disarmament, self-determination, and above all a League of Nations — and a conviction that the old European system of secret alliances had caused the catastrophe and must be replaced outright.

France brought a wholly different memory. Twice in fifty years German armies had crossed its frontier. Its northern departments had been fought over for four years and then wrecked deliberately in the retreat of 1918: mines flooded, orchards felled, factories dynamited. French policy at Paris was therefore not about justice but about the permanent removal of German capacity — through demilitarisation, through the Rhineland, through reparations that would rebuild France while restraining Germany, and through binding guarantees from allies whom France did not entirely trust to remain engaged.

The United Kingdom occupied the middle ground and paid the political price for it. Its electorate had returned its government on promises to make Germany pay, and it could not appear lenient. Yet its own Treasury argued that a Germany stripped of the means to trade would drag the European economy down with it, and its strategists feared that a collapsing Germany would go Bolshevik. Britain therefore pursued severity in public and moderation in substance, while defending imperial interests: naval supremacy, the wartime acquisitions in the Middle East, and the cohesion of an Empire whose Dominions were now demanding a voice of their own.



Italy came with the secret Treaty of London of 1915 in hand and a domestic politics that had already outrun it, adding a claim to Fiume that the treaty never contemplated. Japan came seeking two things: confirmation of its wartime gains in the Pacific and at Shandong, and a statement of racial equality in the Covenant. It obtained the first and was refused the second. And Germany, when finally admitted to the room, came armed with the one argument the Allies found hardest to answer — that the armistice had been accepted on the basis of the Fourteen Points, and that the draft treaty did not resemble them.

2.3 The Conference Opens and Fractures

The conference opened at the Quai d'Orsay on 18 January 1919, a date chosen deliberately as the anniversary of the proclamation of the German Empire at Versailles in 1871. It was immediately overwhelmed by its own scale. Thirty-two delegations demanded to be heard; commissions multiplied; new states appeared claiming recognition. Business moved out of the plenary into the Council of Ten, and then in late March into the Council of Four, meeting in private with no secretariat and no agenda — an arrangement that produced decisions quickly and legitimacy slowly.

The spring brought crisis after crisis. An anarchist shot and wounded the French premier in February. Territorial commissions divided Central Europe along lines their own experts disputed. The Reparations Commission failed to agree a figure at all and left the sum to be determined later, an evasion that satisfied nobody. On 11 April the Japanese racial equality clause was carried by majority and ruled down for want of unanimity. On 24 April Italy walked out. On 28 April the Covenant was adopted. On 29 April the German delegation arrived and was housed behind wire.

On 7 May the treaty was placed before Germany. And it is here, with the ink dry and no signature upon it, that this committee begins — with one alteration to the historical record. The powers have agreed to hear Germany in the chamber rather than by written note. What follows is no longer settled.



3. The Immediate Situation

The treaty is drafted and unsigned. Germany is seated. Italy is resentful, Japan aggrieved, China preparing to refuse. The Covenant exists on paper and nowhere else. Bolshevik governments hold Budapest and Munich. The blockade has not been lifted.

11 April 1919 · The Racial Equality Clause is Defeated

Japan formally proposes the insertion of a racial equality clause into the Covenant of the League of Nations. Eleven of seventeen commissioners vote in favour and none votes against. The chair — the American president — nevertheless rules that an amendment of such consequence requires unanimity, and declares it not adopted. The ruling is procedurally unusual and universally understood as political: Australian opposition, British imperial anxiety, and American domestic racial politics made adoption impossible. Japan does not withdraw, but records the defeat as a permanent grievance.

24 April 1919 · Italy Withdraws over Fiume

Unable to secure Fiume, and having been publicly bypassed three days earlier when the American president appealed directly to the Italian people over the head of their government, the Italian delegation leaves Paris. The appeal misfires spectacularly: Italian opinion rallies behind its Prime Minister. The delegation returns in early May in a weakened and resentful posture, and the phrase 'mutilated victory' begins its career in Italian politics.

28 April 1919 · The Covenant of the League of Nations is Adopted

The plenary session adopts the Covenant, which will be written into every one of the peace treaties. Its machinery is untested and its enforcement rests entirely on the willingness of member states to act. Senate opposition in the United States is already open and organised. The Covenant is nonetheless the first serious institutional attempt in history to make collective security permanent.

29 April 1919 · The German Delegation Arrives at Versailles

A delegation of some 180 Germans arrives and is housed at the Hôtel des Réservoirs behind a wire fence, permitted out only under escort. The arrangement is deliberate and it is noticed: Germany has been summoned, not invited. The naval blockade remains in force and German cities continue to go hungry, seven months after the guns fell silent.

5 May 1919 · The Council of Four Approves the Final Draft

After weeks of amendment the draft treaty is closed at 440 articles. Neither the American nor the British delegation is satisfied with it; the French consider it too lenient. The pressure to conclude has overwhelmed the appetite to improve.

7 May 1919 · FREEZE — The Treaty is Presented, and the Chamber is Opened

In the Trianon Palace Hotel the draft treaty is presented to the German delegation. The German foreign minister delivers his reply seated — a deliberate breach of protocol read across the room as arrogance — and states that Germany will acknowledge defeat but not sole guilt. Fifteen days are allowed for a written response. It is at this moment that this committee convenes, and at this moment that it departs from the historical record: rather than receive a written protest, the powers have agreed to seat Germany at the table as a negotiating party. The treaty exists. Nothing has been signed. Everything is still open.

These six weeks are the hinge of the conference. Delegations enter at the precise moment when the peace has been written but not yet made binding, and when — for the first time — the nation it binds is present to answer it. A settlement this consequential and this contested can still be rewritten. It has been done before. It may be done here.





4. Committee Objectives

Delegations must determine:

1. **The German settlement.** Reparations and their calculation, the war guilt clause, territorial losses in the east and west, military restrictions, the Rhineland, the Saar and Danzig — now negotiated with Germany present rather than imposed upon it.
2. **The map of Europe.** The frontiers of Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Austria, Hungary and Romania, and the reconciliation of strategic necessity with the principle of self-determination.
3. **The colonial question.** The legitimacy, structure and duration of the mandate system, and the response to petitions from Arab, Chinese, African and Asian claimants who were promised a hearing.
4. **The League of Nations.** Its powers, its membership, its enforcement machinery, and whether Germany and the neutral states are admitted at the outset or held at a distance.
5. **The Bolshevik question.** Whether to intervene militarily in Russia, to quarantine the revolution behind a belt of new states, or to seek accommodation — while communist governments hold Hungary and Bavaria.
6. **Justice against reconciliation.** Whether the settlement should punish or rehabilitate, and whether an indemnity that cannot be paid is an indemnity at all.
7. **Equality of nations.** The Japanese racial equality clause and, beyond it, whether the new order will rest on the equality of its members or preserve the hierarchies of empire.
8. **The survival of the settlement.** Whether coalitions can be built strong enough to withstand Italian obstruction, German refusal, Chinese abstention and American Senate opposition.



5. Key Terms and Concepts

Term	Definition
Council of Four	The inner directorate of the conference from late March 1919 — the United States, France, the United Kingdom and Italy — meeting in private and taking the decisions that the plenary merely ratified.
Council of Ten	The earlier executive body, comprising two representatives each from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Japan. Superseded by the Council of Four for reasons of secrecy and speed.
The Fourteen Points	The programme set out by the American president in January 1918: open covenants, freedom of the seas, disarmament, self-determination, and a general association of nations. Crucially, it was the stated basis on which Germany accepted the armistice.
Article 231	The war guilt clause, assigning to Germany and her allies responsibility for all loss and damage caused by the war. Drafted as the legal foundation for reparations; received in Germany as a moral verdict.
Self-Determination	The principle that peoples should determine their own political allegiance. Applied energetically to the former Habsburg and Ottoman lands of Europe and almost not at all beyond them.
The Mandate System	The framework under Article 22 of the Covenant by which former German and Ottoman territories are administered by other powers on behalf of the League, in three classes according to their supposed readiness for self-government.
The Racial Equality Clause	The Japanese amendment affirming the equality of nations and the just treatment of their nationals. Carried by majority vote on 11 April 1919 and ruled not adopted for want of unanimity.
Reparations Commission	The body to be charged with fixing the final German liability. No figure appears in the draft treaty — an omission Germany regards as an open-ended charge and the Allies as a necessary compromise. (For chairs: the sum would be fixed in 1921 at 132 billion gold marks. This is unknown to delegates.)
The League of Nations	The permanent organisation for collective security and arbitration proposed in the Covenant, comprising an Assembly, a Council and a Secretariat, to be seated at Geneva.
Sykes-Picot Agreement	The secret Anglo-French understanding of 1916 partitioning the Ottoman Arab provinces into spheres of control. Published by the Bolsheviks in 1917 and irreconcilable with British promises to the Arabs.
Treaty of London (1915)	The secret treaty by which Italy was induced to join the Allies, promising Trentino, Trieste, Istria and much of Dalmatia. It did not promise Fiume.
The Blockade	The Allied naval blockade of Germany, maintained after the armistice of November 1918 as leverage to compel signature. Its continuation into 1919 is a live moral and humanitarian question at the conference.
Bolshevism	The revolutionary movement in power in Russia since 1917 and, in the spring of 1919, in Hungary and briefly in Bavaria. The unstated fourth participant in every negotiation at Paris.



Term	Definition
Cordon Sanitaire	The proposed belt of new states across Eastern Europe intended to seal the Bolshevik revolution away from Germany and the West.
Dominion	A self-governing nation of the British Empire — Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa — claiming and winning separate representation and separate signature at Paris.



6. The Delegations

Twenty-four national delegations constitute this committee. Each is represented by two delegates: a head of delegation who carries national policy on the floor, and a supporting delegate who manages commissions, drafting and coalition-building. Both share one country, one position and one vote. The Big Five hold agenda-setting authority. Germany sits as a full negotiating power. The smaller states hold moral authority, procedural leverage and, in a divided chamber, the decisive votes.

1. The United States of America

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the President of the United States. Supporting Delegate — the Secretary of State and Chief Advisor.*

Priorities. Ratification of the Fourteen Points as the philosophical basis of the peace; the creation of the League of Nations above all other outcomes; self-determination for European peoples; open covenants openly arrived at; freedom of the seas; reparations calculated by capacity to pay rather than by vengeance.

Position. The United States is the moral centre of the conference and a centre under siege. It arrives as the world's largest creditor and its youngest great power, having entered the war late and lost comparatively few lives. That distance is both its authority and its weakness: European delegations resent being lectured by a nation that did not bleed. Its influence is further constrained by a Senate increasingly hostile to entanglement — every concession made in Paris must be defended in Washington. The American delegation must decide how much of its idealism to trade away to secure the League, and whether a League without American membership is worth having at all.

2. The French Republic

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prime Minister of France, President of the Peace Conference. Supporting Delegate — the Marshal of France, Supreme Allied Commander.*

Priorities. Absolute security against a third German invasion; the permanent demilitarisation of the Rhineland and, ideally, its detachment from Germany as a buffer state; reparations sufficient to rebuild the devastated north and service enormous war debts; strict and enforceable limits on German armed forces; binding Anglo-American guarantees of French borders.

Position. France chairs the conference and speaks for a nation that has bled itself white. Its position is shaped by memory rather than theory: 1.4 million French dead, ten northern departments deliberately wrecked by retreating armies, and two invasions in fifty years. French public opinion demands not justice but permanent safety. Yet France cannot enforce a settlement alone — it must temper its ferocity enough to keep Britain and the United States bound to the peace. France is the voice of hard realism against Wilsonian idealism, and the voice of a nation that will not forgive.

3. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Supporting Delegate — the Foreign Secretary.*

Priorities. Preservation of the Empire and of naval supremacy; a German settlement severe enough to satisfy an electorate promised that Germany would pay, but restrained enough to preserve German trade and prevent a Bolshevik collapse in Central Europe; consolidation of wartime gains in Mesopotamia and Palestine; a continental balance of power in which no single state dominates.

Position. The United Kingdom is the pragmatic hinge of the conference, swinging between American principle and French vengeance. It arrives fresh from an election won on promises of retribution, yet its own Treasury warns that a ruined Germany means a ruined European market. Britain must therefore appear severe while acting moderately — a posture that invites accusations of hypocrisy from every direction. Its command of detail, its diplomatic depth, and its



willingness to revise its position mid-negotiation make it the most flexible of the great powers, and the most difficult to pin down.

4. The Kingdom of Italy

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prime Minister of Italy. Supporting Delegate — the Foreign Minister.*

Priorities. Full execution of the secret Treaty of London of 1915 — Trentino, South Tyrol, Trieste, Istria and a substantial share of Dalmatia; possession of Fiume, which the London Treaty never promised but which Italian nationalism now treats as sacred; a recognised Mediterranean sphere; unambiguous standing as an equal among the great powers.

Position. Italy is a delegation besieged from both directions. It withdrew from the conference on 24 April after the American president appealed over its head directly to the Italian public, and it has returned in an uncertain and wounded posture. At home, the narrative of a 'mutilated victory' is already hardening into a political movement. Italy must choose between maximalist demands that risk further isolation and a compromise that may topple its government. Its weakness is also its leverage: a peace signed without Italy is a peace that visibly failed.

5. The Empire of Japan

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Chief Delegate and Elder Statesman. Supporting Delegate — the senior diplomat responsible for the Racial Equality proposal.*

Priorities. Confirmation of Japan as a great power in fact and in protocol; permanent possession of the former German Pacific islands — the Marshalls, Carolines and Marianas; transfer of Germany's Shandong concession to Japan rather than its return to China; revival of the racial equality clause in the League Covenant; consolidation of Japanese primacy in East Asia.

Position. Japan represents a nation that has done precisely what the West demanded of a modernising power — industrialised, allied, fought, and won — and has been humiliated for its trouble. Its territorial claims are largely conceded; its claim to equality of standing is not. The defeat of the racial equality clause on 11 April, carried by a majority yet ruled down on a procedural technicality, is understood in Tokyo as a statement about the permanent limits of Japanese acceptance. The delegation must decide whether to press the question again, to bank its territorial gains quietly, or to begin laying the foundations of an order that does not depend on Western goodwill.

6. The German Reich

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Foreign Minister of the Weimar Republic. Supporting Delegate — the head of the German economic and legal counter-delegation.*

Priorities. Rejection of Article 231 and of the doctrine of sole war guilt; reparations fixed at a definite, calculable and payable sum rather than an open-ended charge; retention of territorial coherence, above all in Upper Silesia, Danzig and the corridor to the sea; preservation of the industrial base without which no reparation can ever be paid; immediate lifting of the naval blockade; admission to the League of Nations as a founding member rather than a probationer.

Position. Germany arrives defeated but not destroyed, and it knows the difference. Its armies were never driven from French and Belgian soil; its territory was never invaded. The republic that must now sign is not the empire that made the war — the Kaiser has abdicated, the government is socialist and constitutional, and it argues that punishing the new Germany for the old is both unjust and self-defeating. Its strongest instrument is the armistice itself: Germany laid down arms on the explicit basis of the Fourteen Points, and it will argue clause by clause that the draft treaty betrays that bargain. Its second instrument is refusal. Germany can decline to sign, and the Allies would then have to resume a war their exhausted populations will not support. Its third is time: the blockade still starves German cities, and every week of delay makes the moral position of the Allies harder to defend. The delegation must convert defeat into leverage — building alliances with the sympathetic (Britain's economists, the Dominions, the neutral and smaller powers) while avoiding the defiance that would unite the conference against it.



7. The Dominion of Canada

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prime Minister of Canada. Supporting Delegate — a senior Cabinet minister.*

Priorities. Separate signature and separate representation distinct from Britain; independent membership of the League of Nations; formal recognition of Canadian sacrifice — over 60,000 dead at Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele and the Hundred Days; moderate reparations that permit the revival of transatlantic trade; a voice in Pacific and imperial questions.

Position. Canada arrives to convert battlefield sacrifice into diplomatic standing. Its central battle at Paris is not territorial but constitutional: the right of a Dominion to sign a treaty in its own name. Winning that argument makes Canada a nation in international law for the first time. It must balance loyalty to Britain against the assertion of independence, and it leads a Dominion bloc that can swing between the great powers on questions of reparations, mandates and League structure. Its voice is smaller than the Big Five's, but it speaks for a country being invented at this table.

8. The Commonwealth of Australia

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prime Minister of Australia. Supporting Delegate — the External Affairs advisor.*

Priorities. A permanent mandate — not a temporary trusteeship — over German New Guinea and the adjacent Pacific islands; unyielding opposition to the Japanese racial equality clause in defence of Australian immigration policy; a substantial share of reparations; secure imperial trade routes; severe terms for Germany.

Position. Australia is the most combative small power at the conference. Its Prime Minister led the destruction of the Japanese racial equality proposal, driven by domestic anxieties about Asian immigration that he states with a bluntness that embarrasses London. Australia rejects the mandate system's language of trusteeship, wanting outright annexation of the Pacific islands it occupies. A nation of five million, it uses Empire representation and sheer force of personality to punch far above its weight — and to obstruct anything it regards as a threat to its racial and territorial position.

9. The Dominion of New Zealand

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prime Minister of New Zealand. Supporting Delegate — a senior imperial advisor.*

Priorities. A mandate over German Samoa; a share of reparations reflecting per-capita losses that stand among the heaviest of any combatant nation; participation in an imperial Pacific security framework; recognition of both Māori and settler contributions to the war effort.

Position. New Zealand is a loyal Empire voice with a specific and concentrated territorial interest. It works closely with Australia on Pacific mandates but holds a more moderate line on questions of race and immigration, and it is more willing to accept the League's trusteeship language. Its reliability makes it a dependable Dominion vote; its claim on Samoa gives it a concrete stake that it will not trade away.

10. The Union of South Africa

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prime Minister of South Africa. Supporting Delegate — the Statesman and principal architect of the League framework.*

Priorities. A mandate over German South-West Africa; a leading role in drafting the Covenant and the mandate system; moderation on reparations in the belief that a recovered Europe serves imperial commerce; recognition of South African campaigns in Africa; standing among the senior Dominions.

Position. South Africa carries an influence out of all proportion to its size, because its supporting delegate is the intellectual author of the mandate system and one of the principal drafters of the League Covenant. The delegation combines Boer political experience with genuine institutional ambition. It argues publicly for restraint towards



Germany — warning that an unpayable indemnity will wreck the European economy — while pressing hard and unsentimentally for its own mandate over the German colony on its northern frontier.

11. British India

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Secretary of State for India, for the Government of India. Supporting Delegate — a Maharaja representing the Princely States.*

Priorities. Recognition of India's contribution — over 1.3 million men deployed and some 74,000 dead; independent membership of the League of Nations; movement towards constitutional reform and eventual Dominion status; a share of reparations; relief from wartime economic burdens.

Position. India's presence at Paris is unprecedented and will be cited by Indian nationalists for decades — a colony seated among sovereign states, signing a treaty in its own name. Yet its representation is filtered through British administration, and its delegates speak for the Raj as much as for Indians. The massacre at Amritsar on 13 April casts a long shadow over every claim the delegation makes about imperial partnership. India must convert wartime service into constitutional advance while a very different nationalist movement gathers at home.

12. The Kingdom of Belgium

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Foreign Minister of Belgium. Supporting Delegate — the head of the Belgian reparations commission.*

Priorities. Absolute priority in the reparations queue; compensation for the deliberate destruction of Belgian industry and the deportation of Belgian labour; territorial adjustment at Eupen-Malmedy; release from the enforced neutrality imposed by the treaties of 1839; confirmation of Belgian administration in the Congo and a share of German East Africa.

Position. Belgium holds the strongest moral claim of any nation at the conference. It was invaded without provocation in August 1914 in violation of a neutrality the powers themselves had guaranteed; its cities were burned, its civilians shot, its factories systematically stripped. 'Poor little Belgium' was the rallying cry that brought Britain into the war, and the delegation intends to collect on it. Belgium demands to be paid first, before France and before Britain, and it wields its status as the war's most sympathetic victim to press for terms far beyond what its size would otherwise command.

13. The Portuguese Republic

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Foreign Minister of Portugal. Supporting Delegate — the Portuguese Ambassador in Paris.*

Priorities. Reparations for military and colonial losses; guaranteed retention of Angola and Mozambique; a share of German East Africa along the Mozambican frontier; recognition of Portuguese service on the Western Front and in the African campaigns; security against South African territorial ambition in southern Africa.

Position. Portugal is a minor contributor pressing for recognition proportionate to a sacrifice few of the great powers noticed. It fought in Flanders and defended its African colonies against German incursion at real cost. Its diplomatic weight is slight, but it controls Atlantic islands — the Azores and Cape Verde — whose strategic value to British naval planning gives it a hearing it could not otherwise command. Portugal's true anxiety is not Germany but its own allies: it fears a settlement in which African territory is redistributed at Portuguese expense.

14. The Kingdom of Greece

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prime Minister of Greece. Supporting Delegate — a senior diplomat of the Greek mission.*

Priorities. Smyrna and its Anatolian hinterland; Western and Eastern Thrace; the Dodecanese; a leading share in the partition of Ottoman territory; realisation of the Megali Idea — a Greek state embracing the Greek populations of the eastern Mediterranean.



Position. Greece is represented by one of the most personally persuasive figures at the conference, a statesman whose friendships with the British and American leaderships open doors closed to larger delegations. Its claims rest on Greek populations scattered across Anatolia and Thrace, and they are vast — vaster than Greece can hold without sustained military commitment and great-power backing. The delegation must judge how much to ask for. Its diplomatic position has never been stronger; the question is whether the ambitions it secures on paper can be defended in the field.

15. The Kingdom of Romania

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prime Minister of Romania. Supporting Delegate — the head of the Romanian territorial commission.*

Priorities. Full execution of the secret Treaty of Bucharest of 1916 — Transylvania from Hungary, Bukovina from Austria, Bessarabia from Russia, and the whole of the Banat; recognition as the dominant power of the lower Danube; a substantial share of reparations.

Position. Romania is regarded across the conference as its most exhausting negotiator. Its claims are enormous and overlapping, drawn from four different neighbours, and it advances them with a stubbornness the great powers find close to intolerable. Its credit is also damaged: Romania made a separate peace with Germany in 1918 and re-entered the war only in its final days, which the Allies have not forgotten. Its demands are maximal; its leverage is thin; and its most valuable card is its position as a barrier against the Bolshevik regime now installed in neighbouring Hungary.

16. The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Serbian Prime Minister. Supporting Delegate — the Croatian specialist on Adriatic claims.*

Priorities. International recognition of the new South Slav state; the Adriatic coast against Italian claims in Dalmatia, Istria and Fiume; frontiers with Austria in Carinthia and Styria, with Hungary in the Vojvodina, and with Bulgaria and Albania; reparations for Serbian devastation, proportionally the heaviest suffered by any belligerent.

Position. The Kingdom is so new that it has not settled on the name history will give it. It is an amalgamation of pre-war Serbia — which lost a staggering share of its population to war and typhus — with the South Slav lands of the collapsed Habsburg monarchy and with Montenegro. Its defining struggle is with Italy over the Adriatic, a contest in which American support for self-determination is its principal asset. The delegation must fight that battle abroad while managing the unresolved tensions between Serbs, Croats and Slovenes at home.

17. The Republic of Poland

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prime Minister of Poland. Supporting Delegate — the head of the Polish National Committee.*

Priorities. A viable and defensible Polish state with secure access to the Baltic; Danzig, Upper Silesia and Poznań; a defensible eastern frontier against the Bolshevik advance; guarantees for Poles left outside the new borders; a share of reparations and of German rolling stock and industrial plant.

Position. Poland has been restored after 123 years of partition, and everything about it is provisional — its borders, its government, its army, its survival. Its western claims require a corridor to the sea that will sever East Prussia from the rest of Germany, guaranteeing German revisionism for a generation. Its eastern border is being decided not in Paris but on a battlefield, in an active war with Soviet Russia. Poland enjoys explicit American sympathy — its restoration is the thirteenth of the Fourteen Points — and enthusiastic French support as the anchor of a barrier against both Germany and Bolshevism. Its leverage is unusually strong for a state still under construction.

18. The Republic of Czechoslovakia

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia. Supporting Delegate — a senior member of the National Council.*



Priorities. Recognition and consolidation of the Czechoslovak state; the historic frontiers of Bohemia including the German-speaking Sudeten districts, argued on strategic and economic rather than ethnic grounds; the Teschen coalfield against Polish claims; Slovakia against Hungarian claims; retention of the Habsburg industrial base; League membership.

Position. Czechoslovakia is the model successor state, and it knows how to present itself as one — a democracy, a natural ally, the westernmost outpost of Slavic Europe against both German revanchism and Bolshevik expansion. Its diplomatic corps is the most skilful of the small delegations. Its central difficulty is that its strongest argument is also its weakest: it asks for the mountain frontier that alone makes the country defensible, while conceding that the people living along it are German. That contradiction — strategic necessity against self-determination — will be pressed hard by anyone who wishes to embarrass the Wilsonian order.

19. The Republic of China

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Chief Chinese Plenipotentiary in Paris. Supporting Delegate — the Foreign Minister.*

Priorities. Direct return of the Shandong concession to China rather than its transfer to Japan; abrogation of the Twenty-One Demands of 1915; the beginning of the end of the unequal treaties and of extraterritoriality; recognition of China as a sovereign equal; League membership.

Position. China entered the war on the Allied side and sent nearly 140,000 labourers to France in the expectation that participation would purchase respect. Its case on Shandong is argued with a clarity and command of English that impress every delegation that hears it — and it is losing anyway, because the great powers need Japanese cooperation more than they need Chinese goodwill. If Shandong goes to Japan, the consequences will not stay in Paris: Chinese students and intellectuals will take to the streets, and a generation will conclude that the Western order offers China nothing. China may yet refuse to sign the treaty altogether — a protest without precedent among the victorious powers.

20. The Kingdom of Hejaz

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prince of the Hashemite house, commander of the Arab Revolt. Supporting Delegate — the British liaison officer and Arabist advisor.*

Priorities. An independent Arab state or federation from Aleppo to Aden, as understood from the wartime correspondence with the British High Commissioner in Egypt; recognition of the Arab Revolt as a belligerent contribution rather than a colonial auxiliary; repudiation of the Sykes-Picot partition; negotiated limits on the commitments of the Balfour Declaration in Palestine.

Position. The Hejaz delegation carries into the conference room a set of British wartime promises that cannot all be kept — because they contradict a secret Anglo-French partition agreement and a public declaration on Palestine made to a third party. The Prince cuts an arresting figure at Paris, dignified and unhurried, arguing that Arabs fought as allies and should be treated as such. His claims will be answered with the mandate system, which divides Arab lands between British and French administration under League supervision. The delegation's task is to force that contradiction into the open before the map is drawn.

21. The Kingdom of Siam

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Prince and Foreign Minister of Siam. Supporting Delegate — the senior Siamese diplomat in Europe.*

Priorities. Revision of the unequal treaties imposed by the Western powers in the nineteenth century, above all extraterritorial jurisdiction and the ceiling on Siamese tariffs; recognition as a sovereign equal; League membership; conversion of the small Siamese expeditionary contribution into lasting diplomatic credit.

Position. Siam is one of only two fully independent Asian states at the conference. It declared war on Germany in 1917 and sent a modest force to France precisely in order to be present at this table. Its diplomacy is patient and unglamorous:



it seeks no territory, only the removal of legal privileges that foreign nationals enjoy on Siamese soil. The delegation plays a long game, and the relationships it builds here will yield treaty revisions over the following decade.

22. The Republic of Brazil

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the President-elect of Brazil. Supporting Delegate — the Brazilian Foreign Minister.*

Priorities. Standing as the leading power of Latin America and its spokesman at the conference; a non-permanent seat on the Council of the League; retention of the German merchant vessels seized in Brazilian ports; compensation for coffee stocks impounded in Germany; a permanent voice in the new international order.

Position. Brazil was the only South American state to declare war on Germany and to send naval and medical units to the Allied effort, and its delegation intends to convert that distinction into permanent standing. Its diplomacy at Paris is ambitious, well-briefed and unexpectedly successful: it secures a rotating Council seat and establishes itself as the natural spokesman for Latin America in international forums. Its head of delegation will negotiate here and take office as president immediately afterwards, making Paris the foundation of a presidency.

23. The Republic of Liberia

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the President of Liberia. Supporting Delegate — the senior Liberian diplomat in Europe.*

Priorities. Access to development loans and relief from crushing external debt; guarantees of territorial integrity against encroachment from French and British West Africa; recognition as a sovereign African republic; founding membership of the League; a voice on the application of the mandate system in Africa.

Position. Liberia's presence is itself an argument. It is an independent African republic, founded in 1847 by freed American slaves, seated at a conference that is in the same breath distributing the rest of Africa among European administrators under the language of trusteeship. Its material power is negligible and its finances are precarious. Its instrument is visibility: as a founding member of the League it acquires a permanent platform, and it can force the conference to answer, on the record, why the principle of self-determination stops at the Mediterranean.

24. The Republic of Haiti

Delegation. *Head of Delegation — the Haitian Minister Plenipotentiary, diplomat and poet. Supporting Delegate — the secretary of the Haitian mission.*

Priorities. Affirmation of Haitian sovereignty; a defined end to the American military occupation in place since 1915; access to reconstruction finance and relief from customs receivership; League membership; common cause with other small and non-European states on questions of equality and self-determination.

Position. Haiti's position is the sharpest contradiction at the conference: it is an Allied nation currently under the military occupation of another Allied nation. The occupation has brought forced labour, censorship and armed suppression of resistance. The delegation must press for its end using the very language of self-determination that the occupying power has made famous — without provoking the great power that controls its customs revenue. Haiti is the second-oldest republic in the Americas and the first Black republic in the world, and it attends Paris to insist that this still means something.



7. Timeline: January to 7 May 1919

Period	At the Conference	Beyond Paris
Early January 1919	Delegations converge on Paris; preliminary organisation at the Quai d'Orsay.	The Spartacist rising in Berlin is suppressed, 5–12 January. The Russian Civil War intensifies.
18 January	The conference opens in plenary session — the anniversary, chosen deliberately, of the proclamation of the German Empire in 1871.	Bolshevik forces advance across Ukraine and the Baltic.
Late January – February	The Council of Ten organises the commissions; drafting of the Covenant begins.	The German National Assembly convenes at Weimar on 6 February. The blockade continues.
19 February	An assassination attempt is made on the French premier; he survives and returns within a week.	Communist agitation spreads through Central Europe.
March	The Council of Four supplants the Council of Ten; negotiation moves behind closed doors.	A Soviet republic is proclaimed in Hungary on 21 March.
Late March – early April	The Fiume dispute reaches crisis. The American delegation threatens departure.	A Soviet republic is proclaimed in Bavaria on 6 April.
11 April	The Japanese racial equality clause is defeated on a ruling that unanimity is required.	British troops fire on a crowd at Amritsar on 13 April; the news reaches Europe slowly.
24 April	Italy withdraws from the conference over Fiume.	The German government prepares its delegation for Versailles.
28 April	The Covenant of the League of Nations is adopted in plenary session.	The Bavarian Soviet nears collapse; Hungary's endures.
29 April – 5 May	The German delegation arrives and is quarantined. The Council of Four closes the draft at 440 articles.	Allied intervention forces remain in Russia; withdrawal is under discussion.
7 May 1919	FREEZE. The treaty is presented at the Trianon Palace — and Germany is seated as a negotiating party.	Europe waits. The blockade has not been lifted.



8. Moderated Caucus Topics

The German Settlement

- **Topic:** Reparations, Capacity to Pay, and the War Guilt Clause
- **Alternate:** Military Restrictions, the Rhineland, and the Duration of Occupation

The Map of Europe

- **Topic:** The Frontiers of the New Eastern European States
- **Alternate:** Strategic Borders against Ethnic Self-Determination

Colonies and Mandates

- **Topic:** The Mandate System — Trusteeship or Annexation by Another Name
- **Alternate:** The Distribution of Former German and Ottoman Territories

The League of Nations

- **Topic:** Enforcement Powers, Council Composition, and Founding Membership
- **Alternate:** The Racial Equality Clause and the Principles of Admission

The Bolshevik Question

- **Topic:** Intervention, Quarantine, or Accommodation in Revolutionary Russia
- **Alternate:** Containing Communism in Hungary and Central Europe

Justice and Reconciliation

- **Topic:** The Carthaginian Peace — Punishment against Stability
- **Alternate:** The Blockade, Famine Relief, and European Economic Recovery

The Unheard Claimants

- **Topic:** The Arab Question, Sykes-Picot, and the Middle Eastern Mandates
- **Alternate:** Shandong, Chinese Sovereignty, and the Unequal Treaties

The Survival of the Settlement

- **Topic:** Terms Germany Can Be Brought to Sign
- **Alternate:** Italian Reintegration and American Ratification



9. Crisis Mechanics

9.1 Duo Delegation Rules

- Every country is represented by two delegates in partnership. They share one national position and cast one vote, and each is accountable for what the other says on the floor.
- Duos may divide labour: one may lead in formal debate while the other works the commissions, drafts, and builds blocs. Both must remain briefed.
- Only one delegate of a duo may hold the floor at a time.
- If partners publicly contradict one another on national policy, the Chair may impose a loss-of-standing penalty on the delegation.
- Private directives require the signatures of both members of the duo to take effect.

9.2 Germany at the Table

- Germany is a full member of this committee with the right to speak, to move, to amend and to vote.
- Germany may sponsor and co-sponsor working papers and draft resolutions on the same terms as any other delegation.
- Germany may not, however, unilaterally strike the treaty from the agenda: the draft of 7 May remains the working text unless the committee amends or replaces it by vote.
- German refusal to sign remains available as a diplomatic instrument, and carries real consequences the Chair will adjudicate — including the resumption of hostilities, the continuation of the blockade, and the political collapse of the Weimar government.
- Delegations may negotiate privately with Germany. Doing so is legitimate but politically costly if exposed to an electorate expecting severity.

9.3 General Rules

- The Chair will introduce crisis updates — German domestic unrest, Bolshevik advances, nationalist agitation, colonial petitions, press leaks — in proportion to the actions delegations take.
- Orders involving military force require a super-majority and carry risk: mutiny among war-weary troops, agitation at home, and loss of standing abroad.
- Historical plausibility is enforced. The technology of 1919 only: telegram, telephone within a city, printed press, rail and ship. No radio broadcasting, no aviation at scale, and no knowledge whatsoever of events after 7 May 1919.
- Delegations may request private meetings through the Chair by written note stating the purpose.



10. Sample Draft Resolution

Title. *Framework Resolution on the German Settlement and the Constitution of the League of Nations*

Sponsors. The United States, the United Kingdom, and the Dominion delegations

Signatories. Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Siam

Preambulatory Clauses

- *Recalling the sacrifices of the Allied and Associated Powers between 1914 and 1918,*
- *Reaffirming that the armistice of 11 November 1918 was concluded upon the basis of the Fourteen Points,*
- *Deeply concerned by the humanitarian condition of the civilian populations of Central Europe,*
- *Alarmed by the establishment of revolutionary governments in Hungary and Bavaria,*
- *Acknowledging the claims to representation advanced by peoples not presently self-governing,*
- *Noting the presence of the German delegation as a negotiating party to this settlement,*

Operative Clauses

9. Affirms the responsibility of the belligerent governments of 1914 for the initiation of hostilities, while distinguishing the former Imperial Government from the constitutional Republic now representing the German people;
10. Directs an Inter-Allied Reparations Commission, with German technical representation, to fix a definite total liability not later than 1 May 1921, calculated by capacity to pay over a defined term of years;
11. Establishes a demilitarised zone extending fifty kilometres east of the Rhine, with Allied occupation for fifteen years subject to review at five-year intervals conditional upon compliance;
12. Provides for plebiscites under League supervision in Upper Silesia, the Saar Basin, and North Schleswig, the results to be binding upon all parties;
13. Recognises the sovereignty of the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Czechoslovakia, and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, with frontiers as determined by joint territorial commissions;
14. Constitutes a system of mandates under Article 22 of the Covenant, with mandatory annual reports to a Permanent Mandates Commission and a defined path to self-government;
15. Establishes the League of Nations at Geneva, comprising an Assembly, a Council, and a permanent Secretariat, and provides for the admission of Germany upon fulfilment of specified conditions;
16. Calls for the immediate lifting of the naval blockade and the organisation of famine relief for the civilian populations of Central Europe;
17. Requests the Chair to convene direct consultations on the disposition of Fiume and of the Shandong concession.



11. Guided Unmoderated Caucus Prompts

18. Can a peace founded on sole war guilt ever be accepted by the party it condemns — and if not, what should replace the doctrine?
19. Germany accepted the armistice on the basis of the Fourteen Points. Does the draft treaty honour that bargain, and what follows if it does not?
20. Should reparations be fixed by German capacity to pay or by the scale of the damage done? What happens to a settlement built on a sum that cannot be collected?
21. Should the League possess military enforcement powers, or would that make it a great-power alliance under a new name?
22. If self-determination governs the frontiers of Poland and Czechoslovakia, on what principled ground is it withheld from Arabs, Africans and Asians?
23. Is the racial equality clause a procedural amendment or a test of whether the new order is legitimate at all?
24. Should the blockade be lifted before Germany signs, or is it the only instrument that guarantees signature?
25. Should the powers intervene in Russia, contain the revolution behind a belt of new states, or open relations with the Bolshevik government?
26. How should the smaller Allied nations combine to secure claims the great powers regard as secondary?



12. Bibliography and Further Reading

- MacMillan, Margaret. *Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World*. Random House, 2001. The standard modern account and the best single starting point.
- Keynes, John Maynard. *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*. Macmillan, 1919. Written by a member of the British Treasury delegation who resigned in protest; the most influential contemporary critique.
- Sharp, Alan. *The Versailles Settlement: Peacemaking after the First World War, 1919–1923*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.
- Boemeke, Feldman and Gläser, eds. *The Treaty of Versailles: A Reassessment After 75 Years*. Cambridge University Press, 1998. Essential for the German perspective.
- Goldstein, Erik. *The First World War Peace Settlements, 1919–1925*. Longman, 2002.
- Shimazu, Naoko. *Japan, Race and Equality: The Racial Equality Proposal of 1919*. Routledge, 1998.
- Manela, Erez. *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism*. Oxford University Press, 2007. Indispensable for the colonial delegations.
- Steiner, Zara. *The Lights That Failed: European International History 1919–1933*. Oxford University Press, 2005.

13. Research Links for Delegates

The links below are reputable, accessible online resources for background reading, primary sources, and position paper preparation.

Overviews and Reference

- Office of the Historian, US Department of State — <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1914-1920/paris-peace>
- Encyclopaedia Britannica, Paris Peace Conference — <https://www.britannica.com/event/Paris-Peace-Conference>
- Library of Congress research guide — <https://guides.loc.gov/treaty-of-versailles>
- National WWI Museum and Memorial, the Fourteen Points — <https://www.theworldwar.org/learn/peace/fourteen-points>

Primary Documents

- Treaty of Versailles, full text (Yale Avalon Project) — https://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/versailles_menu.asp
- The Fourteen Points (US National Archives) — <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/president-woodrow-wilsons-14-points>
- Covenant of the League of Nations (Avalon Project) — <https://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/parti.asp>
- Foreign Relations of the United States, Paris Peace Conference — <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1919Parisv01>
- Keynes, The Economic Consequences of the Peace (Gutenberg) — <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/15776>



Archives

- British Online Archives, Paris Peace Conference collection — <https://britishonlinearchives.com/collections/86/paris-peace-conference-and-beyond-1919-1939>
- United Nations Archives at Geneva, League of Nations records — <https://archives.ungeneva.org/documents-concerning-the-peace-conference-1919-paris-and-versailles-2>



14. Appendix: Quick-Reference Glossary

- **Armistice of Compiègne.** The cessation of hostilities signed 11 November 1918, concluded on the stated basis of the Fourteen Points.
- **Anschluss.** Union of Austria with Germany, forbidden by the settlement despite the Austrian Assembly having voted for it.
- **Big Five.** The United States, France, the United Kingdom, Italy and Japan.
- **Danzig.** The Baltic port, overwhelmingly German in population, to be made a Free City under League protection with Polish access — the compromise satisfying neither party.
- **Diktat.** The German term for a dictated peace, and the central charge of German politics against the settlement for the next twenty years.
- **Dominion.** A self-governing nation of the British Empire claiming separate representation and signature at Paris.
- **Fiume.** The Adriatic port, modern Rijeka, contested between Italy and the new South Slav kingdom; the cause of the Italian walkout.
- **Plebiscite.** A popular vote to determine sovereignty over a disputed territory; proposed for Upper Silesia, the Saar and North Schleswig.
- **The Polish Corridor.** The strip of territory granting Poland access to the Baltic and severing East Prussia from the rest of Germany.
- **Quai d'Orsay.** The French Foreign Ministry on the Seine; the principal seat of the conference.
- **The Saar.** The coal basin to be placed under League administration for fifteen years, with its output assigned to France, and its future decided by plebiscite.
- **Successor States.** The nations emerging from the collapse of Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire.
- **Trianon Palace Hotel.** The hotel at Versailles where the draft treaty was presented to Germany on 7 May 1919.
- **Weimar Republic.** The German constitutional republic established after the Kaiser's abdication in November 1918 and named for the town where its assembly met.

— End of Study Guide —

Vive la paix!