

Chapter 28 section 4

A flawed peace

After winning the war, allies dictate a harsh peace settlement that leaves many nations feeling betrayed

The allies meet and debate

Key leaders come together

- group of leaders known as the big Four dominate peace talks
 - ~US president Woodrow Wilson
 - ~French ruler Georges Clemenceau
 - ~David Lloyd George of Great Britain
 - ~Vittorio Orlando of Italy

Wilson's plan for peace

- Wilson proposes Fourteen Points—outline for lasting world peace
- calls for free trade and end to secret alliances, military buildups
- promotes self-determination—right of people to govern own nation
- envisioned an international peace-keeping body to settle world disputes

The Versailles treaty

- Britain, France oppose Wilson's ideas; want to punish Germany
- allies, Germany sign accord. Treaty of Versailles, in June 1919
 - ~creates League of Nations—international organization to keep peace
 - ~blames Germans for war, forces Germany to pay damages to nations
 - ~League to rule German colonies until deemed ready for independence

A troubled treaty

The creation of new nations

- Versailles treaty, other peace accords change the look of Europe
- Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Ottoman Empire all lose land
- former Ottoman lands in Southern Asia turn into mandates
- new countries created in southeastern Europe; Russia gives up land

“A peace built on quicksand”

- Treaty of Versailles creates feelings of bitterness on both sides
- German people feel bitter and betrayed after taking blame for war
- American never signs Treaty of Versailles
 - ~many Americans oppose League of Nations and involvement with Europe
- some former colonies express anger over not winning independence
- Japan, Italy criticize agreement; gains less land than they want