



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.6.1**

The Treaty of Versailles

Specific Objective: Analyze the aims and roles of world leaders in negotiating the terms of the Treaty of Versailles; Analyze the influence of Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points; Analyze the causes and effects of U.S. rejection of the League of Nations.

Read the summaries to answer questions on the next page.

The Fourteen Points

During World War I, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson drew up a proposal for postwar peace that was known as the Fourteen Points. It included:

- general suggestions for **encouraging peace**, such as an **end to secret treaties**
- specific recommendations for changing borders and creating new nations, based on the principle of national **self-determination**—allowing people to decide for themselves under what government they wished to live
- a call for “a general association of nations” that would peacefully negotiate solutions to world conflicts, Wilson’s **Fourteenth Point**, which led to the creation of the **League of Nations**

Negotiating the Treaty of Versailles

The Fourteen Points were the basis for talks that led to the 1919 Treaty of Versailles.

- The talks were attended by delegates from Allied and neutral nations.
- Germany and its allies were not allowed to participate.
- Most negotiations were made by the so-called **Big Four**: **George Clemenceau**, premier of France—wanted Germany to be punished; **Vittorio Emanuele Orlando**, premier of Italy—sought territory for Italy; **David Lloyd George**, prime minister of Great Britain—worked for compromise; **Woodrow Wilson**, U.S. president—had to abandon many of his Fourteen Points.

Terms of the Treaty

- The League of Nations, an international peace organization, is established; Germany and Russia are excluded from membership.
- Germany returns the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine to France, gives up its overseas colonies, reduces its army in size, is forbidden to buy or make weapons, and to have submarines or an air force, is assigned sole responsibility for the war, and must pay the Allies \$33 billion in wartime reparations.

The United States Rejects the League of Nations

In November 1919, the U.S. Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles. The League of Nations was the main sticking point. Some Americans were concerned that membership in the League would diminish the right of the United States to make its own decisions. More importantly, the treaty required each member nation to support the boundaries of other member nations—a requirement that many feared could lead to U.S. involvement in future European wars.

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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 U.S. president Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points were**
 - A the basis for determining German reparations.
 - B a charter for the League of Nations.
 - C an outcome of the Treaty of Versailles.
 - D a plan for postwar peace.

- 2 Which statement *best* summarizes the idea of national self-determination as it was presented in Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points?**
 - A Strong national boundaries strengthen national unity.
 - B Voter participation in a democracy is the best way to encourage peace.
 - C All people have the right to independence from colonial rule.
 - D People should be able to decide on their type of government.

- 3 The Big Four who negotiated the Treaty of Versailles represented France, Great Britain, the United States, and what other nation?**
 - A Germany
 - B Italy
 - C Russia
 - D Spain

- 4 Which of the following did the Treaty of Versailles require of Germany?**
 - A payment of damages to its overseas colonies
 - B a public apology to the Allies
 - C acceptance of sole responsibility for the war
 - D division into two states: West Germany and East Germany

- 5 The *main* purpose of the League of Nations was to**
 - A keep the peace and prevent future wars.
 - B regulate commercial and economic competition.
 - C impose sanctions on aggressive nations.
 - D achieve international cooperation in governing colonies.

- 6 What is the *main* reason that Americans rejected the League of Nations?**
 - A They objected to Germany's membership.
 - B They believed the financial aid it provided would burden the U.S. economy.
 - C They feared it could lead to future U.S. involvement in European wars.
 - D They did not want to help rebuild postwar Europe.