



# SSICsim Fall 2014

SECONDARY SCHOOL INTERACTIVE CRISIS SIMULATION



## THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE, 1919

COMMITTEE BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Paris Peace Conference 1919 committee! I am immensely excited to meet you and watch you work collaboratively to bring about a new world order following the chaos brought about by World War One. Further, I am eager to witness debate and to see the resolutions you come up with!

The Paris Peace Conference 1919 committee is designed to discuss the settlement of peace following the chaos of WWI alongside delegates from various nations with the common goal of creating a new world order. Throughout the Paris Peace Conference, you will discuss issues such as assigning blame, dividing land and ensuring disarmament. The initial conference brought about tragedy within the world today.

I look forward to seeing all your hard work come across in debate and am excited to see you all actively participate in debate and the creation of resolutions. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

Regards,

Amanda Cutinha  
Director of the Paris Peace Conference 1919



## Introduction

### Background of World War One

World War One brought about global catastrophe. The war broke out in 1914 as a result of many long-term and short-term causes. The long-term causes consist of militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism. Militarism was the arms race which resulted from the great powers of the world competing against one another militarily. Every nation wanted the largest army, the most dangerous weaponry, or the largest ship. This competition needed an outlet to be showcased which played out in the war. Alliances also stimulated the war. Twenty years prior to the war, nations of Europe were making alliances which they thought would promote peace. These alliances would serve as a form of security. However, one argument between two nations can in numerous others. This is just what happened when a conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia led to World War I.

In the summer of 1914 there were two alliances. The Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy) stood opposed to the Triple Entente (Britain, France, and Russia). In addition to this alliance system, there was built-up rivalry between nations, specifically France and Germany. In 1871, the Franco-Prussian War occurred in which the Kingdom of Prussia, the North German Confederation and the South German states of Baden, Wurttemberg and Bavaria went to war against the Second French Empire. The collective powers of Prussia and Germany came out victorious against the French Empire. This event marked the unification of Germany and the downfall of Napoleon III. It was after this battle when the territory of Alsace-Lorraine, a major area of contention, was taken by Germany. Only after the conference was this land returned.

Imperialism was another issue. Powerful nations wanted to gain more colonies to build up national wealth and influence over their rivals. This global competition for land caused confrontations and conflicts in many places. In addition, nationalism played a major role in causing World War One. The belief that one's own nation or culture is superior to all others led European nations to compete and display their strength on a world stage. A short-term cause was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne in Sarajevo on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1914 by the Black Hand, a Serbian terrorist organisation.

### Alliances in the War

During World War One, there were two alliances; the Central Powers and the Allied Powers. The Allies predominantly consisted of Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy. Italy initially signed with Germany, but secretly allied with the Allied Powers. The US also joined the Allied powers later on after they failed to remain neutral. The allies ultimately comprised of 25 nations. The Central Powers on the other hand were Germany, the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria.

### The End of the War and Start of the Conference

On the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918, the First World War officially ended. By the end of autumn 1918, the Central Powers (consisting of Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria,



the Turkish Ottoman Empire and Germany) was becoming weaker against the coordinated and fully-supplied Allied powers (France, Russia, Britain & its empire, Serbia and the United States of America). Due to their exhausted resources, turmoil on the home front and the surrender of its weaker allies (Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire), Germany was forced to seek an armistice with the Allies in the early days of November 1918. On November 7, the German chancellor, Prince Max von Baden, sent delegates to Compiegne, France, to negotiate the agreement; it was signed at 5:10 a.m. on the morning of November 11. The Paris Peace Conference began shortly following the end of the war. It began in January 1919 and ended into 1920.

### **The Paris Peace Conference and Our Committee**

Although the Paris Peace Conference ended in 1920, the time frame for our committee will only be the first 6 months of the conference: January 1919 to June 1919. I have set this timeline following the wise words of famous historian Margaret MacMillan who, in her novel, *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World*, wrote “Officially, the Peace Conference lasted into 1920, but those first six months are the ones that count, when the key decisions were taken and the crucial chain of events set in motion. The world has never seen anything quite like it and never will again.”

The Paris Peace conference was challenging as it involved negotiating between individuals that had hidden agendas and different goals for the conference. It was especially difficult because the only example of establishing peace came from the Congress of Vienna, just over a century prior to the end of the First World War. It is important to note that although the Central Powers were not invited to the Paris Peace Conference, their presence will allow for a more interactive conference and possibly allow a better outcome than the initial conference. The topics we will be discussing include the controversial issue of assigning blame, the readjustment of borders as well as disarmament. These issues are the main issues experienced within the Paris Peace Conference.



## Key Topics

### The Treaty of Versailles

One of the major outcomes of the Paris Peace Conference was the controversial Treaty of Versailles. The Treaty officially blamed Germany for the war through the War Guilt Clause and weakened Germany militarily, economically and territorially through other clauses. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1919, the victors met in the Hall of Mirrors in The Palace of Versailles. Two Germans were called in and simply instructed to sign. The lack of compromise in the creation of the Treaty of Versailles gave the treaty the name ‘diktat’ by the German people, as they seemed to have no input on its terms.

It was highly important to create a solution that would establish a maintainable peace, as that was the aim of the conference. However, there were challenges to creating this peace that must be understood and appreciated in the simulation. One particular problem was the differing aims of the participants. Within the Big Three, there was a lot of disagreement on what would happen to Germany. France sought revenge and wanted to cripple Germany. This, France thought, would ensure peace as it would make Germany pay compensation for her aggression and thus, avoid future aggression. Britain also wanted to punish Germany. They put out a lot of anti-German propaganda throughout the war and intended to make Germany pay reparations. Germany was a main buyer of their goods and they needed to continue that relationship to improve their economy. On the other hand, America wanted a fair response for the Germans in order to achieve peace. The differences in just three opinions caused immense controversy and due to time constraints, did not necessarily bring about the best result.

The Treaty of Versailles consisted of 440 Articles. The first 26 articles of the treaty set out the covenant of the League of Nations. The remaining 414 articles discussed Germany’s punishment. We will focus specifically on the clauses mentioned below (general, financial, military, and territorial).

#### *General Clauses*

- The establishment of the League of Nations
- War Guilt clause (Article 231) Germany to accept blame for starting the war

#### *Financial Clauses*

- Reparations - Germany was to pay for the damage caused by the war. The figure of £6,600 million was set some time after the signing of the treaty.

#### *Military Clauses*

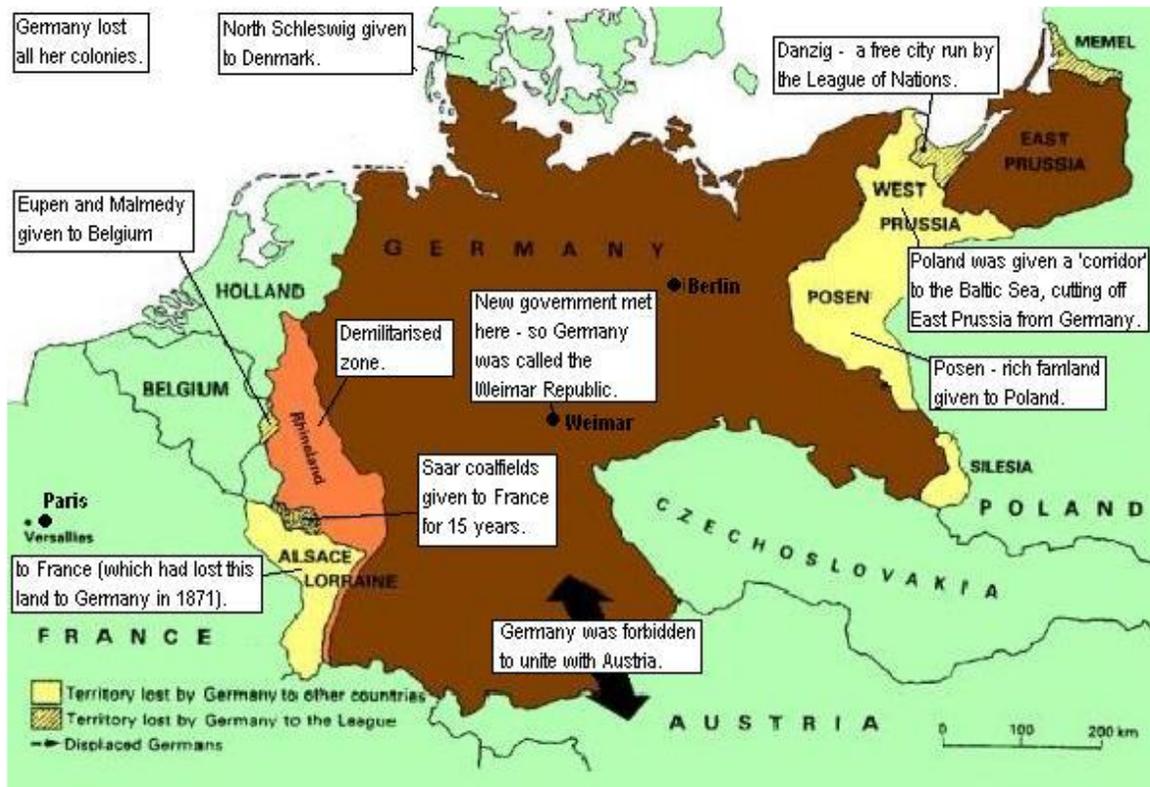
- Army - was to be reduced to 100,000 men and no tanks were allowed
- Navy - Germany was only allowed 6 ships and no submarines
- Air force - Germany was not allowed an air force
- Rhineland - The Rhineland area was to be kept free of German military personnel and weapons



### ***Territorial Clauses***

- Anschluss - Germany was not allowed to unite with Austria.
- Land - Germany lost land to a number of other countries; Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France, Eupen and Malmedy were given to Belgium, North Schleswig was given to Denmark. Land was also taken from Germany and given to Czechoslovakia and Poland. The League of Nations took control of Germany's colonies

***Figure 1: Territorial losses faced by Germany outlined in the Treaty of Versailles***



The most controversial clause in the entirety of the Treaty of Versailles was Article 231, also known as the War Guilt Clause. This clause stated that Germany had to accept full responsibility for the war.

### **The Readjustment of Borders**

Following the First World War, nations agreed that it was essential to punish nations by reassigning their territory to other, more 'deserving' nations. This sub-topic ties into the Treaty of Versailles with Germany being punished through the readjustment of their borders, as seen in Figure 1. Listed below are the nations that gained or regained territory following WWI as well as the nations that lost territory. What is notable are the differences between the victorious and the defeated nations – the Central Powers had a lot of land taken from them and given to more powerful nations. This is seen quite evidently in the transfer of Alsace and Lorraine to France in the Treaty of Versailles.

In addition to the loss of territory for the defeated nations, there were other major issues which resulted from the decisions made through the readjustment of borders. One issue was the lack of acknowledgement of ethnic groups, especially through the division of the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire was, at one point, a successful empire in the Middle East but was slowly declining in influence prior to World War One. As a weak empire entering the war, the Ottoman Empire fell apart during it. During WWI, the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers in their fight against the Allied Powers. When the war ended, the Allied Powers had won and the Ottoman Empire did not have the same success or influence as it had prior to the war. During the war, the British and French had a secret meeting known as the Sykes-Picot Agreement to discuss who got what land. The agreement was made even before the outcome of the war. Following the war, Britain and France went on to partition the land of this empire, placing artificial boundaries (placed in-between lands without looking into religious and ethnic groups). When these boundaries were instilled, ethnic and religious groups were neighbouring which created a lot of conflict in those regions. The Allies also attempted to partition present-day Turkey, but the Turkish leader, Mustafa Kemal, resisted. Turkey was the only nation created from the Ottoman empire – the rest served as colonies for the British and French Empire.

### **Disarmament**

Disarmament is one of the major issues within the conference. The major focus of disarmament was German disarmament, as they were deemed the ones responsible for the war and had a large amount of arms during the war. Within the Treaty of Versailles, there is an agreement set on the amount of weaponry, military, navy and army allowed for the German peoples. In addition, although not discussed in the initial conference, the disarmament of larger nations such as Britain, Japan and Germany were essential in creating a maintainable peace.

Influential examples of disarmament occurred in smaller disarmament conferences following World War One. Such conferences included The Washington Conference of 1922 and the London Naval Conference of 1930. It was within these conferences that limits were set on naval construction and ratios were put in place regarding a nation's armaments. While not a part of the Treaty, this is a major issue that needs to be discussed and is correlated with the goal of the Paris Peace Conference. As such, those smaller disarmament conferences will be incorporated by including disarmament and arms control as a topic at the conference.

This is a chance to explore your creativity based on your nation's military interests. Different disarmament conferences had differing ideas on how disarm; destroying guns and ammunition, preventing research on weaponry, rationing weaponry, capping the amount of individuals in armies and navies, etc. Nations who desired having larger fleets and armies sought methods in which they could attain the most weaponry possible.



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## Appendix 1: Country List & Profiles

### Country List

1. America
2. France
3. Britain
4. Italy
5. Japan
6. Ottoman Empire (Turkey)
7. Austria
8. Germany
9. China
10. Yugoslavia
11. Czechoslovakia
12. Poland
13. Bulgaria
14. Canada
15. Greece
16. Romania
17. Belgium
18. Netherlands
19. Portugal
20. Arab Delegation
21. San Marino
22. Lithuania

### Country Profiles

#### *The Big Five*

The Big Five are the most powerful and influential nations at the Conference, due to their wealth and stability. As such, they ruled much of the Paris Peace Conference and were the major players in the decisions being made. It is important to note that it was actually the Big Three (America, France and Britain) who were the most influential. However, the others (Japan and Italy) played a major role as well. Often, their views conflicted and it was difficult to reach a compromise.

#### *America*

President Woodrow Wilson was the major American delegate at the Paris Peace Conference. He strived to create a peace that could be easily maintained. His aims for the Conference were addressed in a speech he gave to Congress in which he outlined 14 Points he wished to follow. (This was famously known as Wilson's 14 Points). His major goal was the establishment of the League of Nations – a group of individuals which came together to solve the problems of the world. Wilson was very democratic and worked to create new world order. His



primary mistake was the alienation of the Central Powers in the establishment of the League of Nations. Additionally, he failed to lead nations within the League to act strongly which eventually resulted in the failure of the organization. In addition, Wilson did not believe in punishment, but rather in consequences. He did not want to cripple Germany, but instead wanted the nation to “learn its lesson” and rejoin the international community when it had.

### *Arab Delegation*

With the Allied victory came a disappointment for the Arabs when they were finally informed of Britain and France's decision regarding the future of Syria. T.E. Lawrence, the leader of the Paris Peace Conference delegation, made a point to express their view to the British government. The Arab delegation strongly desired a self-governed Arab state.

In an act of protest, he refused to accept medals from the King and wrote repeatedly to newspapers to promote Arab independence. Lawrence travelled with the Arab delegation to the Paris Peace Conference as Prince Feisal's translator. The goal for the Conference was to ensure that the Arab voice was not ignored by the Western leaders, especially regarding Syria.

### *Austria*

In the weeks and months following the armistice of Compiegne and German surrender, the Austro-Hungarian Empire fell apart. The central government simply ceased to exist in lands that were not part of the Habsburg hinterland. This created a vacuum of power, one that was quickly filled by brand new countries (Hungary, Czechoslovakia) and by the annexation of Austrian territory by existing countries like Romania. The once-mighty Austro-Hungarian Empire had finally collapsed. In 1916, Emperor Franz-Joseph I died of pneumonia. His death signalled the rapid decline of Austro-Hungarian rule in provinces that were neither Austrian nor Hungarian. However, all is not lost. From 1870-1913, the Austrian gross national product grew by 1.76% per year, as compared to Britain (1%) France (1.06%) and Germany (1.51%). In the eastern half of the empire, Hungary excelled in agricultural production, while in the western half, centred around Vienna and Prague, manufacturing was the major source of production. The fact that the Austrian heartland was never invaded, never bombed or looted means that industrial buildings and infrastructure have not been disturbed.

Austria is a nation whose empire has been swiped out from under them. This understandably leaves them in a position where the next step is far from obvious. Some Austrian citizens called for union with the Weimar Republic because Austria was no longer a viable state by itself, due to the fact that Austria had lost 60% of its territory and was known to all as the German Austrian republic; in southern Austria, majorities as much as 99% agreed with a union with the Weimar Republic. However on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1919, the Entente ratified a treaty that specifically prohibited an Anschluss. Austria should seek to maintain good relations with the Weimar Republic, as well as vote against movements which would prohibit a potential union between Austria and Germany.



### ***Kingdom of Belgium***

Belgium did not want war – yet war came to Belgium. In 1914, Belgian neutrality was completely ignored as Germany launched its invasion of the country as part of its wider plan to knock France out of the war early. What Germany did not count on, however, was the determination of the Belgian people which thwarted Germany's hope for a quick victory. Unfortunately, most of Belgium was placed under the boot of German occupation and the countryside was ravaged as Belgian fields had trenches dug throughout them. Not only did Belgian infrastructure crumble, but over 100,000 Belgian soldiers and civilians died as a result of the war and occupation. Ultimately, Belgium prevailed with the Allies and won the Great War – though now justice must be served.

Belgium is considered one of the principal victims of the war and thus should deserve a fair portion of any settlement that is reached. Belgium's economy is in ruins so some territory and cash reparations from Germany should be able to help repair the damage done. Likewise, Germany's colonies in Africa – notably German East Africa – could have parts partitioned off to be added among the Belgian Congo as part of Belgium's colonial network. Belgium's security must be preserved, so it is ideal if a new state could arise on the Rhine to act a buffer against future German threats.

It is important to remember the direction of King Albert, as there is much wisdom in his beliefs. A harsh settlement for Germany will only serve to enrage and spur revenge in future and the dethronement of the Habsburgs of Austria will only destabilize Central Europe. A vengeful peace is not preferable to a just peace as implied by the king – so it is within Belgium's interest to champion this cause even if others will not.

### ***Britain***

Prime Minister David Lloyd George was the major British delegate. He, to some extent, wanted Germany to pay for their actions by punitive measures. However, he knew that Germans were buyers of British goods and therefore saw the potential economic ramifications of imposing harsh consequences. In regards to division of territory, Lloyd George was a major player in dividing land without taking into consideration ethnic groups. Finally, with respect to disarmament, Britain was an immensely powerful nation and would later join the arms race, and build up their army and navy for combat.

### ***Bulgaria***

In the aftermath of its catastrophic defeat in the Balkan Wars, Bulgaria found itself in a vulnerable position, surrounded by enemies and divested of the support of the Great Powers. This hostility was most vicious in Russia and France, where Bulgaria was widely blamed for the 1913 dissolution of the Balkan League. From 1915 to 1918, the country sided with the Central Powers in the war, basing its external relations on the idea of retaliation to recover lost territory. By the time of the Conference, Bulgaria was in a more advantageous position. As Bulgaria had not declared war on the Soviet Union, they were perceived as the most sympathetic of the Axis powers. As well, since the Allies had no armed forces stationed in



Bulgaria, they would be powerless to prevent any national uprising that might arise, either Bolshevik or otherwise. In light of these circumstances, the Allies were more inclined to be lenient.

### *Canada*

In August of 1914, British declaration of war on Germany formally brought Canada into the First World War due to Canada's status as a dominion of Britain and Canadian Prime Minister Borden quickly declared Canadian support for the Empire. Canada suffered great losses over the course of the war, having lost almost 60, 000 soldiers, but the nation emerged from the war with a sense of pride for their country's significant contributions.

The Paris Peace Conference became a milestone in Canadian history and identity as an enrichment of Canada's national status. Borden's insistence that Canada have the same representation at the Conference as small European nations such as Belgium was ultimately successful, and two seats at the Conference were allocated to Canada.

The Canadian government at the time of the Paris Peace Conference did not seek any direct benefits in land (in Europe or elsewhere) or money from any of the Conference's resulting treaties and agreements, including the Treaty of Versailles. Canada did, however, seek to be represented as a nation separate from the British Empire in the Assembly of what would be the League of Nations. The League of Nations itself was to be an international organization founded on the principles of the preservation of peace and collective security.

### *China*

China plays a very interesting role in the Conference. They are a part of the nations listed as "needing to protect". This means that they are a vulnerable country going into the Conference and must stabilize, and strengthen through the duration of the Conference. They are a somewhat smaller power in the committee and therefore not much information is available for the circumstances of the country. Having said that, in the committee, A major goal for China is to gain independence, specifically, not to be overtaken by the Japanese and have them gain power as well as territory over them through the readjustment of borders. Another general goal is to attempt the gaining of territory if and to continue to strengthen their nation in any possible way. During the real Paris Peace Conference, China had wanted Germany's concessions on Shandong to be returned to them, which did not end up happening and caused enough conflict between the Western powers and China that the Chinese did not end up even signing the Treaty of Versailles. At the time of the Conference China does not have a very strong military base and do not have very much power in that regard. Despite lack of military power, they do still hold a firm importance on the Conference and in the global environment.



### ***Czechoslovakia***

As a country in this Conference that plays an important role, Czechoslovakia is a country that is very much needed in this Conference. They are in a similar position as the Yugoslavian delegation and may even share some interests in regards to their goals for the Conference. A main goal for Czechoslovakia is to gain territory. They are on the list of countries that need to protect and therefore are trying to have a significant role amongst the bigger, central powers of the Conference. As a country they are not only trying to gain territory from countries like Austria (eventually), but are also on a more defensive side throughout the Conference as well. Like many other countries on the “needing to protect list” they do not have a strong military base but do have allies that they previously have and develop that will help them gain not only military power but also territorial power. Due to their lack of military power they do not have a very significant global influence but do develop power over time. Their foreign policies during the Conference, revolves around the gaining of power as well as the gaining of territory especially over countries like Austria. These policies do effect the Conference and its happenings as well.

### ***France***

The major goal for George Clemenceau, the French delegate, was to cripple Germany in any way possible. Germany and France had a true rivalry and it was France’s pleasure to cause the downfall of the German nation. As well, France played a role in taking territory away from Germany and reclaiming Alsace and Lorraine, a territory fought over between the French and German peoples due to its rich soil and fertile farmland. France also wanted to limit German power so that they had no resources to fight France and France could show evident dominance over Germany. France took a catastrophic human losses in WWI, and also experienced the devastation of much of its northern regions. France had a smaller population and a smaller economy than Germany, and had been invaded by Germany before. So in addition to feelings of vengeance, there were quite legitimate security concerns at play.

### ***Germany (Weimar Republic)***

The fledging Weimar Republic was, originally, not allowed to participate in the Paris Peace Conference. The armistice that it signed with Entente forces made clear Germany’s unconditional surrender. Germany, the premier military/industrial power in Europe, had lost the Great War. From the onset, both the people it represented and the people who represented it hated the Weimar Republic. It was a source of national shame for Germans, who for the most part did not know of the calamitous situation of their soldiers on the Western Front. And yet, perhaps in this edition of the Paris Peace Conference, the Weimar Republic will become much stronger, more stable government governing a country not torn apart by an unconditional surrender. Germany lost roughly 4% of its population during World War 1. The victorious Americans, Belgians, French and British have occupied the valuable, industrial Rhineland. The Saarland, a region rich in coal (a resource necessary for industrial production), has been occupied by the French. These two occupations will seriously harm Germany’s economy, so it is imperative that the German delegate has these two regions near the top of their agenda



The Weimar Republic has the nation of Germany under its control. It may be a weakened Germany, bankrupted by 4 years of destructive warfare, but ever since the days of Frederick the Great of Prussia the German military has been the model military for the rest of the world to follow. In addition, the majority of German population is literate and skilled. The loss of manpower suffered by Germany was not only suffered by Germany: France, Britain, Austria and Italy also suffered dreadful losses during this war. Germany also has a very well developed infrastructure. (roads, railroads, etc.) The international power that Germany wields, however, is, rather understandably, not high. The international prestige of Germany was destroyed by the surrender at Compiegne, however Germany has all the potential and human resources needed to rebuild itself and reclaim its former place of glory amongst the great powers.

#### Greece

From the beginning of the First World War, Greece found herself somewhat caught between the Allied and Central powers. Constantine was married to Sophia of Prussia (Kaiser Wilhelm's sister), had been educated in Germany, and ardently believed the Central Powers would be victorious, while Venizelos was certain of an imminent Allied victory. Shifts in power in Russia gave rise to shifting Greek power throughout the war period as well, ultimately allowing Venizelos to assume control of the entire country and officially join the war against the Central Powers in 1916. The Greek military suffered the loss of approximately 5000 soldiers throughout the war before the allied victory.

From the Paris Peace Conference, Greece sought not only monetary reparations, but also the ceding of territory. More specifically, Venizelos hoped to gain land for Greece from various defeated powers such as the Kingdom of Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire.

Furthermore, Venizelos was strongly in support of Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points. These points included the freedom of navigation, trade, democracy and national self-determination, as well as the arresting of the creation of treaties made in secrecy, general disarmament, and the creation of the League of Nations.

#### *Italy*

Vittorio Orlando was one of the Italian delegates. Italy was very conflicted within the war at the time. As aforementioned, Italy initially signed with Germany but secretly allied with the Allied Powers therefore, they were seen as duplicitous in some respects. Italy had very specific desires for the Conference. They wanted to attain the territories promised to them within the Treaty of London which included South Tyrol, Trentino, the Dodecanese Islands and Trieste. However, they failed to take into account self-determination and as a result was not pleased with the outcome of the division of territory. When Italy was denied territories, it walked out of the Conference, but returned shortly after.

#### *Japan*

Japan was a major part of the Conference. Japan wanted to be recognized for its dominant position within China. Japan was also very greedy for land at this time. They desired the former German territories in China and the Pacific in order to increase its strength and dominance in this area. Japan wanted to secure this territory for security and economic strength and their emergence as an influential nation in the international community. It is important to note that



Japan did not support the principle of self-determination as they desired all this land. As well, race relations were an important concept to Japan. The intention of the Japanese was to secure equality of their nationals and the equality for members of the league of nations.

### ***Lithuania***

Lithuania paid special importance to the Wilsonian idea of self-determination. As a smaller nation at the Conference, Lithuania wanted to avoid annexation. As well, Lithuania paid special importance to race relations. The Ministry of Jewish Affairs grew out of wartime Jewish–Lithuanian deliberations, culminating in August 1919 at the Paris Peace Conference. Race relations was a pressing underlying issue at the Conference and Lithuania paid special attention to it.

### ***Kingdom of the Netherlands***

War may have ravaged Europe, yet thankfully the affects that the brutal Great War had on the Netherlands is minimal. While the threat was always constant, Dutch neutrality was preserved in the course of the war in part due to Dutch ability in trade and diplomacy. While not an active participant in the war, the Netherlands has a unique role to play in the Peace Conference due to its outsider position.

The Netherlands has had dealings with both sides – the Allies and Central Powers in the past and it is possible that the Dutch can serve to mediate between the two embittered sides. With the many changes now certain to happen in the global balance of power, the Dutch must remain resolute in its determination to maintain its sovereignty. Dutch control and security of the lucrative Dutch East Indies must be a top priority, so it is imperative that no new threats arise as the Central Powers will certainly lose assets which will strengthen others. The Netherlands has also so far refused to extradite Kaiser Wilhelm II of the German Empire to the Allies for a tribunal, a he remains in the country after fleeing Germany during the instability that wracked the country as the war wound down.

A new world order is rising; the Netherlands should play an active role in shaping it in order to preserve Dutch sovereignty and neutrality in the future. A second large war in future may not leave the Netherlands as unscathed as this time.

### ***Ottoman Empire (Turkey)***

After Entente forces occupied Constantinople in November 1918, the Ottoman Empire simply collapsed. The strains had been there for all to see throughout the years leading up to the First World War, and finally the centuries of Ottoman Turk suzerainty caught up with the beleaguered state. In the direct weeks that followed Ottoman surrender, Britain and France seized territory both to further their own empires and because they supported other countries claims to those territories. Palestine, Transjordan and Mesopotamia were taken by the British, Syria and the Lebanon to France, the Arabian Peninsula carved up into several different states (Hedjaz, Yemen, Nejd and the Arab States of the Persian Gulf) remaining territories in the Balkans (except for a minor sliver of territory next to Constantinople) were ceded to Greece (as well as



Smyrna on Anatolia) while the parts of eastern Anatolia that contained Trebizond were ceded to the Armenians. The land remaining was intended to be land for a Turkish State and a Kurdish State, with the intention to add these two states to the Allies sphere of influence. However this unconditional partition did not sit well with one of the only Turkish Generals to emerge from the First World War undefeated: Kemal Ataturk. Ataturk refused to cave in to allied demands and thus initiated the Turkish War of Independence, a war fought against mainly British and French proxies: the Greeks and Armenians. The Ottoman Empire as a state has collapsed, and its only goal in this Conference is to limit the amount of territory is partitioned and the manner in which the territory is partitioned in. Turkey, on the other hand, after victories against the Greeks and Armenians, is in a position of equal on the table of negotiations. While the delegate in charge of the Ottoman Empire will start as the Ottoman Empire, events in the not-to-distant future could change their position on its head. (Crisis updates may replace the Ottoman Empire with Turkey during the Conference, stay tuned!)

### *Poland*

The two Polish delegates in attendance at the Conference were Roman Dmowski and Ignacy Jan Paderewski. Although Poland did not exist as an independent state until 1918, its lands saw great combat and heavy human losses during World War I. American president Woodrow Wilson set out to spread democracy to the peoples under the control of the Central Powers, establishing Poland's liberation and rebirth as one of the primary aims of the war. Poland emerged from the war as an independent republic, standing in solidarity with the Allied cause.

### *Portuguese Republic*

Portugal may have started the war as a neutral power, though circumstance made it an active member of the Allies. German aggression towards Portuguese trade and its colonial possessions made conflict inevitable as a state of war began in 1916. Portugal fought valiantly against Germany in both Africa and on the Western Front. In total, over 80,000 Portuguese soldiers and civilians died in the conflict. Now with the dismemberment of the Central Powers imminent in the Peace Conference, Portugal has an opportunity to strengthen its position. Portugal did not suffer like the continental Allies who saw conflict occur in their very homelands – though Portugal did still pay a price. The burden of damaged Portuguese trade due to the U-Boat campaign and numerous deaths of the war could possibly be lessened by some reparations. The critical factor for Portugal must be the security of the colonial possessions of Angola and Mozambique in Africa. Both regions were targeted by the Germans even prior to the opening of hostilities and they remain vital for future development. Perhaps gains can be made in German Southwest Africa and German East Africa – which both border respective Portuguese territories and are sure to not remain in German hands.

Portugal finds itself in a position to make significant gains for a relatively small amount of suffering compared to the other nations that took part in the war for longer and in places closer to home. Surely, Portugal should be rewarded for its decision to forgo neutrality and actively take up the fight as it was forced to do so by German and Austro-Hungarian declarations of war.



### ***Romania***

Romania's primary motivation in entering the First World War itself was to seize Transylvania, initially with some success. However, after Romania's early territorial gains, the Central Powers began to push back until Romania's ultimate surrender to the Central Powers at the Peace of Bucharest in May of 1918. Following some 335,000 casualties throughout the time Romania was engaged in the war, and the loss of land to Bulgaria and the Central Powers due to the agreements of the Peace of Bucharest, Romania found herself worse off by the end of the war than she had been to begin with.

The Paris Peace Conference was an opportunity for Romania to regain control of lost territory and make economic progress through potential reparations. Romania's wartime alliances with the Allied Powers, particularly with Russia, have created a favourable situation for Romania whereby she could make up for some, if not most of her losses from the war.

The Romanian government at the time of the Paris Peace Conference was also in favour of Wilson's fourteen points, which included the freedom of navigation, trade, democracy and national self-determination, as well as the arresting of the creation of treaties made in secrecy, general disarmament, and the creation of the League of Nations.

### ***San Marino***

San Marino was mostly neutral during the war. As an agrarian society, San Marino desired modernization in any way possible. San Marino was recognized prior to the World War. They had strong ties to Italy and many of their decisions were made based on those of their allies. In addition, the signs indicating the rise of fascist Italy are more prevalent and San Marino must know which side they stand on. Self-determination is an important concept for San Marino as they've been heavily influenced by Italy and are solely asserting their own independence as shown through their neutrality when Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary in 1915.

### ***Yugoslavia***

The country of Yugoslavia is not a central power in this Conference but is still a very important country to the committee. As a country that needs to protect, they are in a position where they are trying to gain territory amongst the other countries involved. Not to mention, they must also be careful about the various issues and control the Italians have over them especially considering that they are a part of the big five countries that are participating in this Conference. Some of Yugoslavia's main goals are to contribute and be heard in this Conference. They are a country that came into existence after the First World War, and therefore are not as strong as the other countries in the Conference. Another main goal is to strengthen their ties with allies that can aid them in the Conference. Yugoslavia's military power is not strong and therefore need help from other countries, such as an allied victory to have any influence at all over the bigger powers. Different aspects of their foreign policy also had an impact on the Conference and various stances Yugoslavia took. For example, as before mentioned they were in a position to use self-defence especially against Italy as they were one of the more imminent threats to their country. Also, they are significantly more useful to allied countries like Croatia and Austria. Please note that Yugoslavia was product of the Treaty of Versailles.

