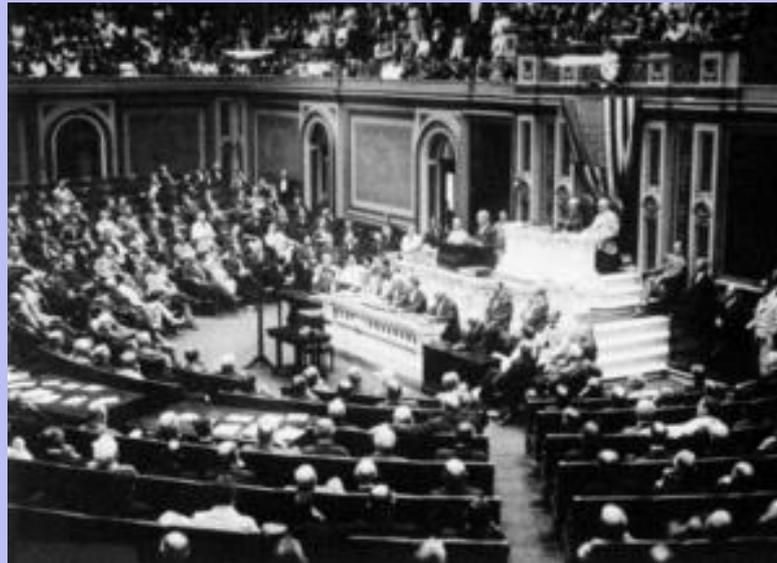


# Wilson's Fourteen Points To End All Wars



Primary content material obtained from History Alive!  
Photographs and Illustrations as cited.

- On January 8, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson went before Congress to explain his war aims.
- Although the war was still raging, he stated an ambitious program to make the world “fit and safe to live in.”
- He called his blueprint for peace the **Fourteen Points**.



# End Causes of War

- **The 1<sup>st</sup> goal of Wilson's peace plan was to eliminate the causes of wars.**



# Self-Determination

- A 2<sup>nd</sup> goal was to ensure the right to self-determination for ethnic groups so they could control their own political futures.



Street in Paris, France

# League of Nations

- The last goal called for setting up an international organization called the **League of Nations** to ensure world peace.
- Member nations would agree to protect one another's independence and territorial integrity.



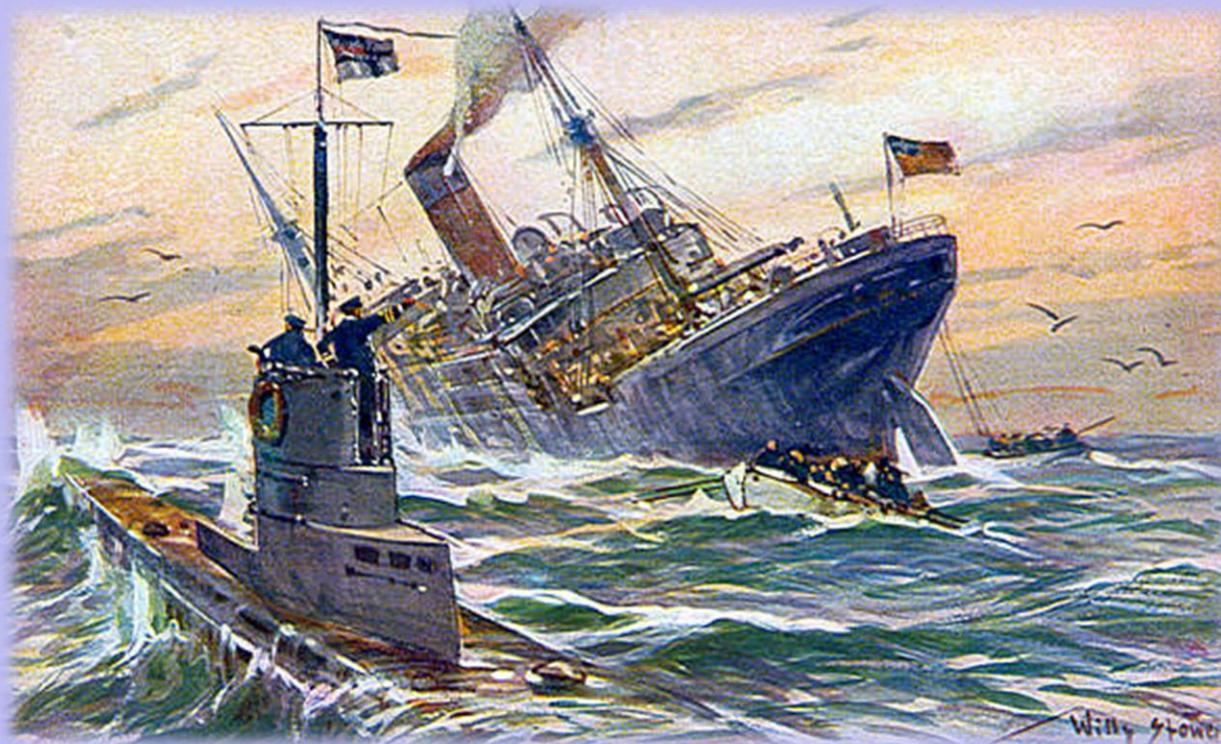
# Fourteen Points 1

- **Point One- Countries would not make secret treaties and alliances.**
- **Secret alliances had been a cause of WW I.**



# Fourteen Points 2

- **Ships would be able to travel freely in times of war.**
- **U-boat attacks on shipping had drawn the United States into WWI.**



# Fourteen Points 3

- **Free trade among countries would promote economic growth and reduce trade conflicts that could draw nations into war.**



# Fourteen Points 4

- Countries would reduce their stockpiles of weapons.
- Militarism had been a cause of WW I.



# Fourteen Points 5

- The desires of colonial peoples would be taken into consideration in creating a more peaceful world.
- Imperialism and competition for colonies had been a cause of WW I.



# Fourteen Points 6-13

- **Restoring land taken from countries by war would restore respect for international law.**
- **Redrawing borders on the basis of self-determination would reduce conflicts among ethnic groups.**



# Fourteen Points 14

- Countries would work together in the League of Nations to resolve conflicts before those conflicts escalated into war.



# The Treaty of Versailles

- The Treaty of Versailles negotiated in Paris redrew the map of Europe, granting **self-determination to some groups.**
- **Some Allies sought revenge on Germany, insisting on a war-guilt clause and reparations from Germany.**



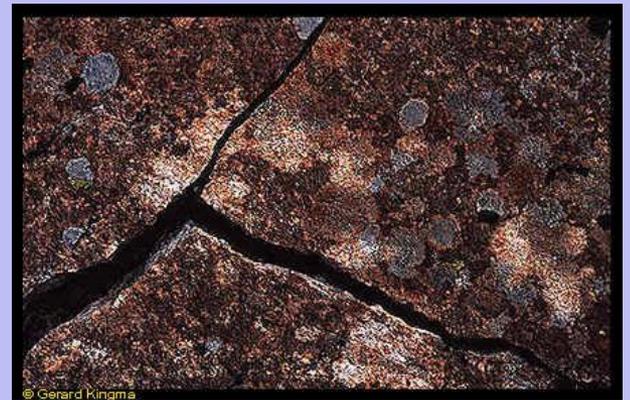
# The Big Four

- When the heads of the 4 major Allies—France, Great Britain, Italy, and the United States (The Big Four) – met in Paris for peace talks, they were more focused on self-interest than on Wilson’s plan.



# Wilson's Plan Crumbles

- France was concerned with security.
- France hoped to weaken Germany to the point that it could never threaten France again by greatly reducing its army.



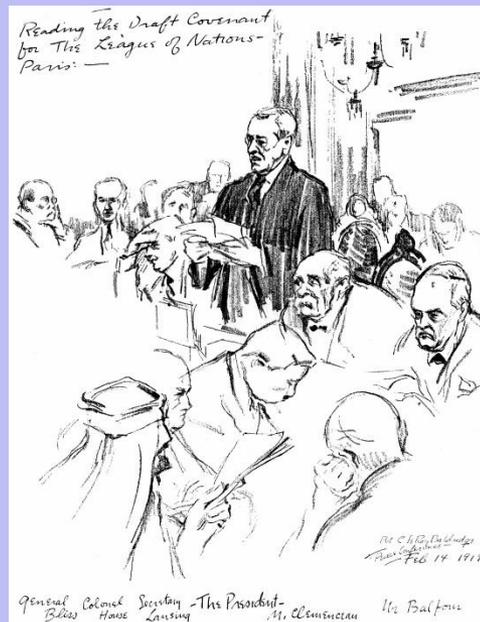
# “Hang the Kaiser”

- Lloyd George of England, insisted that Germany accept responsibility for starting the war by inclusion of the war-guilt clause.
- The treaty required Germany to pay \$33 billion in reparations to the Allies.



# League of Nations Charter

- Wilson hoped that including the League of Nations in the final treaty would make up for his compromises on other issues.
- He believed that by providing collective security and a framework for peaceful talks, the League would fix many problems the treaty had created.



# Collective Security

- Wilson believed that the League would maintain peace by providing **collective security** for its members.
- **Collective security** is a commitment by many countries to join together to deal with a nation that threatens peace.



# Ratifying the Versailles Treaty

- Wilson required a 2/3 majority vote from the U.S. Senate to ratify the treaty.



# Opposition

- **Reservationists, such as Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, were concerned with Article 10 of the League's charter. This article focused on collective security.**
- **It required member nations to work together, and even supply troops, to keep peace.**
- **Reservationists feared this would draw the U.S. into wars without approval from Congress.**



# Taking It to the People

- **President Wilson decides to gain public support directly by planning a nationwide speaking tour.**



# Wilson's Tour

- The president embarked on a 8,000–mile speaking tour of the West. He spoke up to 4 times a day.
- On September 25, 1919, the president collapses in Pueblo, Colorado.
- His doctor stopped the tour, and Wilson's train sped back to Washington D.C.



# **Assistant President – 1<sup>st</sup> American Woman President ?**

- **A few days after returning to the White House, Wilson has a major stroke that leaves him paralyzed (dying months later.)**
- **Wilson’s wife, Edith, is called the “assistant president,” for making decisions on behalf of her husband.**



First Lady Edith Wilson



President Wilson’s Funeral

# Partisanship defeats the Treaty

- In the end, Partisan politics and Wilson's refusal to compromise led to the treaty's rejection and ended Wilson's hopes for U.S. membership in the League of Nations.



# The Big Question ?

Could World War II have been avoided if nations of the world followed Wilson's 14 points?

