

Shaping the Peace

- Even before the war had ended, President Woodrow Wilson had been thinking about a plan for peace. He presented his plan, called the Fourteen Points Plan to Congress in January 1918.
- After the war was over, the "Big Four" met in Paris to decide what to do about the Central Powers. Who was part of the "Big Four"? France → Georges Clemenceau, USA → Woodrow Wilson, Great Britain → David Lloyd George, Italy → Vittorio Orlando
- After difficult negotiations, the Big Four came to an agreement called the Treaty of Versailles.

Compare the key points of Wilson's 14 Points to the key points of the Treaty of Versailles in the chart below:

Wilson's Fourteen Points	Treaty of Versailles
Germany should be welcomed as a free country to trade & strengthen its economy like other free countries	Germany must pay war debt/reparations for their responsibility of the destruction & lives lost during the war
No expansion of territory for the winning powers	German colonies are divided & France controls an area of Germany rich in materials
Self rule of independent people throughout the world	Self Rule for people that live within the areas controlled by the Central Powers. People in areas controlled by allies will not get self-rule
reduction of militaries throughout Europe	Germany must disarm. Other countries are allowed to expand as they see needed
Formation of the League of Nations	Formation of the League of Nations, which was based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Wilson believed that the creation of a "League of Nations" was his most important point.

What was the League of Nations?

an organization of nations from around the world that would meet together to discuss world problems
 could require nations that were disputing an issue to sit down & discuss the problem peacefully