

- Dec 4, 1918, SS *George Washington* to FR
 - Most important cargo = POTUS
 - Wilson's view = making peace as important as winning war
 - NOTE: intend = only few weeks
- On Jan 18, 1919, Paris Peace Conference convenes
 - Delegates = 27 nations & 5 nationalities
 - Presided over by Five Powers
 - But "Big Four" dominated
 - Decisions made unilaterally
- Primary focus = Fourteen Points.
 - It = Wilson's blueprint for post-war world
 - 1-5 = general principles
 - Next 8 = specific territorial readjustments
 - 14th = League of Nations
 - NOTE: Wilson feared Ger want revenge
 - Result = "peace without victory"
- Wilson blocked by Allies
 - Europe paid & wanted "return"
 - IT PM Vittorio Orlando
 - Focus= territorial promises must be kept

- Brit PM David Lloyd George
 - Focus = British Empire
- FR PM Georges Clemenceau
 - Focus = Reparations, Restitution & Guarantees
- Lloyd George & Clemenceau knew Wilson = weak
 - 1) At home, Wilson NOT king
 - Article 2, Section 2, Clause 2
 - Vs. Henry Cabot Lodge
 - Wilson's fatal mistake
 - 2) PLUS, knew Wilson's price = League
- Initial meetings between "Big Three" = preliminary conference
 - Clemenceau = Wilson's greatest challenge
 - Sought vindication for FR suffering
 - Lloyd George = less of a challenge
 - Developed cordial relationship
 - Plus, Brit = relatively good position
 - Did pay hefty price
- Process = Jan-May
 - Big three form "New World"
 - May 7th – Ger delegation called in

- NOTE: Ger FM Ulrich von Brockdorff-Rantzau

— Of treaties, Treaty of Versailles = most infamous.

- Terms = vengeful
- Ger lost land & population
- Rhineland = demilitarized; Saar = occupied
- Lost Brest-Litovsk, colonies, & foreign investments
- Army reduced; Navy handed over
- Merchant marine reduced
- PLUS = open-ended reparations
- Worst = Article 231

— Treaty also creates League of Nations

- Mission = international co-operation, peace & security
- Power rested in three “branches”
 - 1) the Assembly
 - 2) the Council
 - 3) Court of International Justice
- Members pledged
- League would fail

— NOTE: claim = “Just and durable peace without victory”?

- Reality = interest only in spoils of war

- Proof :
 - 1) Leaders not tried - Wilhelm II, Hindenburg, Ludendorff
 - 2) Brit blockade maintained
- Reaction = Ger outrage; “Carthaginian” peace
- John Maynard Keynes & *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*
- Only nation pleased = France
- Ger delegation agreed needed revision
 - Drafting response challenging terms
 - Brockdorff-Rantzau focused on Article 231
 - Allies dug in heels
 - Intercepts = Ger unlikely to accept
 - Clemenceau threatens force
 - Foch ordered to prepare 42 divisions
 - June 16th, Ger given week to sign
 - Brockdorff-Rantzau returns to Weimar
 - Cabinet & peace delegation resigns
 - Ebert asks Hindenburg
 - Ebert recommends Weimar ratifies
 - Peacemakers tensely wait
 - Word arrives - 6:41pm

- Ger attitude = June 21st
 - Act of defiance at Scapa Flow
 - Admiral Ludwig von Reuter
 - June 18th issues orders
 - 11:20am June 21st = signal sent
 - 54 of 74 vessels sunk by 5pm
- June 28th = signing in Hall of Mirrors
 - NOTE: 1871 = 2nd German Reich
 - Almost derailed
 - FM Hermann Müller & Minister Johannes Bell
 - Carloads of dignitaries arrive
 - At 3pm, called silence
 - Clemenceau orders “Bring in the Germans”
 - Proceedings opened
 - Müller & Bell sign
 - 3:45pm – proceeding formally closed
 - Ger people cried injustice
 - It = *Diktat*
 - Ger reps = “November criminals”

- “We must never forget it is only a scrap of paper. Treaties based on violence can keep their validity only so long as force exists. Do not loose hope! The resurrection day comes.”

- Austro-Hungarian Empire = ceased to exist
 - Bound disintegrated by war’s end
 - Dual-monarchy severed Oct 31, 1918 by Hungarians
 - Nov 11 – Karl I recognizes people & renounces power
 - Empire divided
 - Sept 10, 1919 - Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye
 - June 4, 1920 - Treaty of Trianon
 - Southeast Europe redrawn
 - Austria & Hungary each reduced
 - Czechoslovakia & Yugoslavia created; Poland restored
 - Allies committed to minorities
 - Wilson’s 10th Point
 - Absorption of blocks German & Hungarian people
 - Austria & Hungary allowed limited armies
 - Austria faced greatest challenge
 - Article 88
 - NOTE: idea of *Anschluss*?

- Ottoman Empire

- Aug 10, 1920 - Treaty of Sevres
 - Ends hostilities with Allies

- Turkish War of Independence & Turkish-Armenia War = complications
 - Result = July 24, 1923 -Treaty of Lausanne
 - It partitions Empire
 - Turkish Straits = resolved separately

- Last thoughts