

FORM 5 HISTORY NOTES

There will be 3 Sub – strands covered

1. **Cooperation and Conflicts**
 - A. **International Cooperation**
 - i. League of Nation (LON)
 - ii. United Nation (UN)
 - iii. Commonwealth of Nation (CWN)
 - B. **Regional Cooperation**
 - i. Pacific Community
 - ii. Pacific Islands Forum
2. **Leadership – King Tupou I**
3. **Religion and Beliefs**

A. SUB-STRAND 1: CO-OPERATION AND CONFLICTS: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION/ REGIONAL ORGANISATION

1. LEAGUE OF NATIONS (LON)

In this MODULE you will learn;
The FOUR aims of the League of Nations
How many members the League had in 1919 and in the 1930s.
The names of THREE countries who weren't members of the League (and why).
The FOUR main members of the League.
FOUR strengths of the League.
THREE weaknesses of the League.
FOUR powers of the League.
EIGHT parts of the League's organisation. (Structure)
NINE successes of the League in the 1920s.
FOUR failures of the League in the 1920s.
TWO failures of the League in the 1930s – and their effect on the League.
SEVEN reasons why the League failed in the 1930s [**WAS DUMB**].

Background/Origins

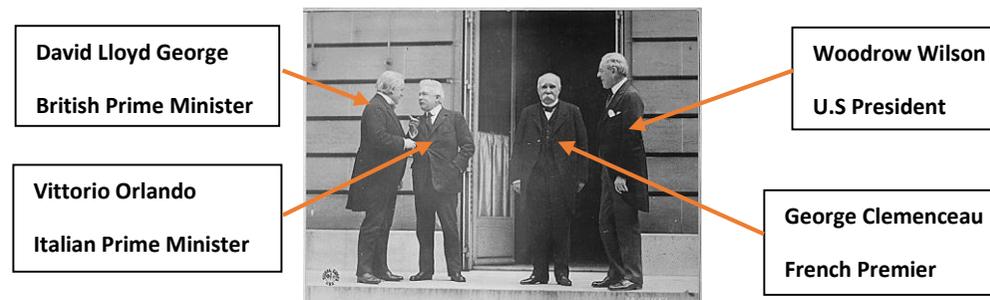
The League of Nation with acronym “LON” was an organization formed immediately after the Treaty of Versailles at Paris Peace Conference in 1919.

THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES (1919)



Treaty of Versailles was a treaty signed in June 1919 at the Palace of Versailles outside Paris. It was signed by the Allied Powers and Germany. The conference was dominated by the national world leaders known as the “**Big Four**” – David Lloyd George (PM of UK); George Clemenceau (PM of France); Woodrow Wilson (President of the US) and Vittorio Orlando (PM of Italy). The first three in particular made the important decisions. None of the defeated nations had any saying shaping the treaty and even the associated Allied powers played only a minor role.

“The Big Four”



The idea of the League came up with Woodrow Wilson in his 14 points where most of his 14 points were ignored and his last point was the establishing of the LON. After the WWI everyone wanted to avoid repeating the mass slaughter of the war that had just ended.

The terms of the Treaty of Versailles were announced in June 1919. The German politicians were not consulted about the terms of the Treaty. They were shown the draft terms in May 1919. They complained bitterly, but the Allies did not take any notice of their complaints. Germany had very little choice but to sign the Treaty.

The main terms were:

1. War guilt

Germany had to accept the guilt for starting the war.

2. Germany's armed forces

The German army was limited to 100,000 men.

Conscription (forced army service) was banned; soldiers had to be volunteers.

Germany was not allowed armored vehicles, submarines or aircraft.

The navy could build only six battleships.

The Rhineland became a demilitarized zone. This meant that no German troops were allowed into that area.

3. Reparations

Germany had to pay for the damage caused by the war. The exact figure was not agreed until 1921 when it was set at £6,600 million, an enormous amount.

4. German territories and colonies

- Alsace-Lorraine went to France
- Eupen, Moresnet and Malmedy went to Belgium
- North Schleswig went to Denmark (after a vote by the population)
- West Prussia and Posen went to Poland
- Danzig became a free city controlled by the League of Nations (giving Poland a seaport)
- Memel went to Lithuania
- Saar was controlled by the League of Nations (with a vote by the population to be held on the matter after 15 years)

- German colonies became mandates under the control of the League of Nations (in practice this usually meant Britain and France)
- Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became independent states (Germany had taken these states from Russia in 1918)

5. League of Nations

The League of Nations was set up as an international '**police force**'. The League was based on a Covenant (or agreement). The Covenant and the constitution of the League of Nations were part of the terms of the Treaty. Germany was not invited to join the League until it had shown that it could be a peace-loving country.

The League of Nations

The League of Nations was set up because President Wilson wanted this more than anything else.

He wanted the League to be a kind of 'world parliament', where nations would sort out their arguments. He hoped this would stop wars. But Wilson wanted to do more than just stop war; he wanted to make the world a better place. He wanted the League to do things to improve people's lives and jobs. He wanted to improve public health, and to end slavery.

Wilson also hoped that the League would persuade the nations to agree to disarmament – to put down their weapons. That would make war impossible. Finally, Wilson thought that the League of Nations could enforce the Treaty of Versailles, and persuade countries to keep the promises they had made.

Reactions to the treaty

How did Britain react to the Treaty?

- There was a mixed reaction.
- The terms were fair and should probably have been more severe.
- British newspapers suggested that Germany would no longer threaten world peace. Any complaints by the Germans were dismissed as trickery and play-acting.
- Prime Minister David Lloyd George was welcomed home as a hero. The king came out to meet him at the railway station, which was completely unheard of in British history.

How did France react to the Treaty?

- Had a mixed feeling/reaction.
- People celebrate that the war has finally over.
- People approved of the reparations that Germany had to pay.
- They also liked the fact that Germany's borders with France (the Rhineland) would be demilitarized. This meant Germany could not station any troops in this area.
- They appreciated that the coalmines of the Saar would bring prosperity to France instead of Germany.
- They believed that the League of Nations would be a powerful force for peace. It would protect France if Germany recovered and tried to act aggressively again.
- However, there was a strong sense that Germany still threatened France. Many French people looked at the terrible cost of the war and believed that France had suffered far more than Germany.

How did the USA react to the Treaty?

- USA reactions to the Treaty were generally negative.
- Many Americans felt that the Treaty was unfair on Germany.
- They felt that Britain and France were making themselves rich at Germany's expense and that the USA should not be helping them to do this. This was not really the case, but many Americans believed it.
- This was partly because American politics were deeply divided at the time. President Wilson led the Democratic Party. However, his rivals in the Republican Party dominated the US Congress. They used the Treaty as an opportunity to criticize Wilson. Wilson has to take some of the

blame for this as he made little effort to consult the Republicans about the Treaty.

- Felt that belonging to the League would drag the USA into international disputes that were not their concern. In the end, the Congress rejected the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations.

How did Germany react to the Treaty?

- Outraged and angry
- There were protests in the German Reichstag (Parliament) and out on the streets.
- It is not hard to see why Germans were outraged. Germany lost 10% of its land, all its overseas colonies, 12.5% of its population, 16% of its coal and 48% of its iron industry. There were also the humiliating terms, which made Germany accept blame for the war, limit their armed forces and pay reparations.

What do historians think of the Treaty?

Much criticism has been made of the Treaty because it was too harsh on Germany. On the other hand, historians have pointed out that Germany could have been treated a lot more harshly for several reasons:

Germany only accepted the Fourteen Points when it was clear they were losing the war.

In the harsh Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, the Germans took away 34% of Russia's population and 50% of its industry and made them pay 300 million gold roubles in reparations.

Clemenceau wanted the Treaty to be much harsher, with Germany broken up into smaller states, but Wilson stopped this happening.

The reparations payments cost Germany only 2% of its annual production.

Germany's main economic problem was not reparations but war debt, which it had planned to pay by winning the war and making other countries pay reparations.

In 1924, Germany received huge loans from the USA to help its economy recover.

The years 1924-29 were fairly prosperous for Germany. For example, Germany produced twice as much steel as Britain in 1925.

Some historians believe that the peacemakers did the best job they could, given the difficult circumstances they were in. Other historians believe the Treaty was a disastrous half measure. It damaged Germany enough to cause resentment. However, it left Germany strong enough to seek revenge.