

**Historical Context:**

On June 28, 1919 – seven and a half months after the horrific fighting of World War I ended on November 1918 – the Treaty of Versailles was signed by the victorious Allied nations of Great Britain, France, Italy, and the United States as well as the defeated Germany. The framers of the treaty hoped that it would stabilize Europe and ensure that another catastrophic war would never happen again. But just over two decades later, the flames of war consumed Europe again.

**Task:**

Was the Treaty of Versailles a good settlement to ensure the peace and help Europe recover from the war?

**Part A**

**Short-Answer Questions**

*Directions:* Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

**Document 1**

*Selected points from Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points (Jan., 1918)*

- 1) Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view
- 3) The removal, so far possible, of all economic barriers....
- 6) The evacuation of all Russian territory and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing; and more than a welcome, assistance also of every kind that she may need and may herself desire.

1) **How did President Wilson hope to support Russia?**

2) **Do you think Wilson's ideas would help preserve the peace and make Europe a better place?**

**Document 2**

National aspirations must be respected; people may now be dominated and governed only by their own consent. "Self determination" is not a mere phrase. It is an imperative principle of action, which statesmen will henceforth ignore at their peril. This war had its roots in the disregard of the rights of small nations and of nationalities which lacked the union and the force to make good their claim to determine their own allegiances and their own forms of political life. Covenants (Agreements) must now be entered into which will render such things impossible for the future; and those covenants must be backed by the united force of all nations that love justice and are willing to maintain it at any cost...

**excerpt from speech by Woodrow Wilson to Congress Feb.11, 1919**

3) **How would this idea of Wilson benefit the minority populations (Slavs, Poles, Serbs, etc.) existing within European countries?**

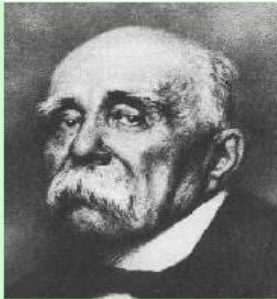
### Document 3

The Treaty includes no provision for the economic rehabilitation of Europe - nothing to make the defeated Central Powers into good neighbors, nothing to stabilize the new States of Europe, nothing to reclaim Russia; nor does it promote in any way a compact of economic solidarity amongst the Allies themselves; no arrangement was reached at Paris for restoring the disordered finances of France and Italy, or to adjust the systems of the Old World and the New.

**John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of Peace*, 1920**

4) What economic problems were not solved with the Versailles Treaty?

### Document 4



**Georges Clemenceau**

He was the Prime Minister of France.

He wanted **revenge**, and to **punish** the Germans for what they had done.

He wanted to **make Germany pay** for the damage done during the war.

He also wanted to **weaken** Germany, so France would never be invaded again.

#### Source A

America is far away, protected by the ocean. Not even Napoleon himself could touch England. You are both sheltered; we are not.

Georges Clemenceau, debating with Wilson and Lloyd George on 27 March 1919. Wilson had pressed Clemenceau for 'moderation'.

5) Why do you think Clemenceau wants to punish Germany so much?

6) Do you think his arguments are valid?

### Document 5



**Woodrow Wilson**

He was President of America.

He was a History professor. He wanted to **make the world safe**. He wanted to **end war** by making a **fair peace**.

In 1918, Wilson published '**Fourteen Points**' saying what he wanted.

He said that he wanted **disarmament**, and a **League of Nations** (where countries could talk out their problems, without war).

He also promised **self-determination** for the peoples of Eastern Europe.

#### Source B

We entered this war because violations of right had occurred which touched us to the quick and made the life of our own people impossible unless they were corrected and the world secure once for all against their recurrence. What we demand in this war, therefore, is nothing peculiar to ourselves. It is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world as against force and selfish aggression.

Woodrow Wilson, speaking to Congress on 8 January 1918, introducing his 'Fourteen Points'.

7) How do Wilson's goals differ from Clemenceau's goals?

8) Would Wilson's goals help ensure peace?

Document 6



**David Lloyd George**

He was Prime Minister of Great Britain.

He *said* he would '**make Germany pay**' – because he knew that was what the British people wanted to hear.

He wanted '**justice**', but he **did not want revenge**. He said that the peace must **not be harsh** – that would just cause another war in a few years time. He tried to get a '**halfway point**' – a compromise between Wilson and Clemenceau.

He **ALSO** wanted to expand the British Empire, maintain British control of the seas, and increase Britain's trade

**Source C**

We want a peace which will be just, but not vindictive... Above all, we want to protect the future against a repetition of the horrors of this war.  
Lloyd George speaking to Parliament (1919) before he went off to the Conference.

**Source D**

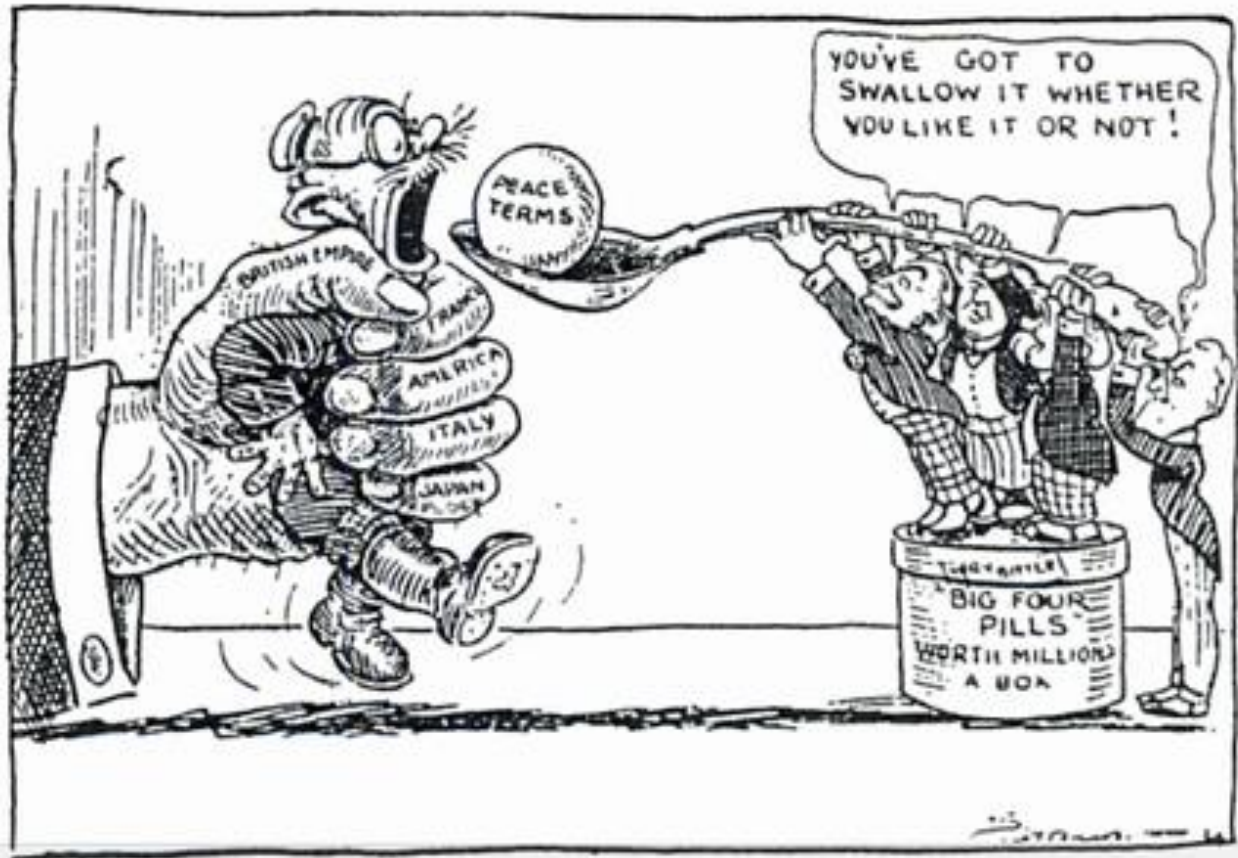
We propose to demand the whole cost of the war from Germany.  
From a speech by Lloyd George, made in December 1918, during an election campaign.

**Source E**

Lloyd George says that Woodrow Wilson can think and talk of nothing but his League of Nations. Wilson will only take any interest in talks if everything centres on the League. He has started to annoy Lloyd George by talking of matters that have already been settled as though they were still open for discussion.  
From the diary (March 1919) of Frances Stevenson, Lloyd George's private secretary.

9) There seems to be a contradiction in source C and D above. What is the contradiction?

10) Can Britain expect both elements?



DER TAG!

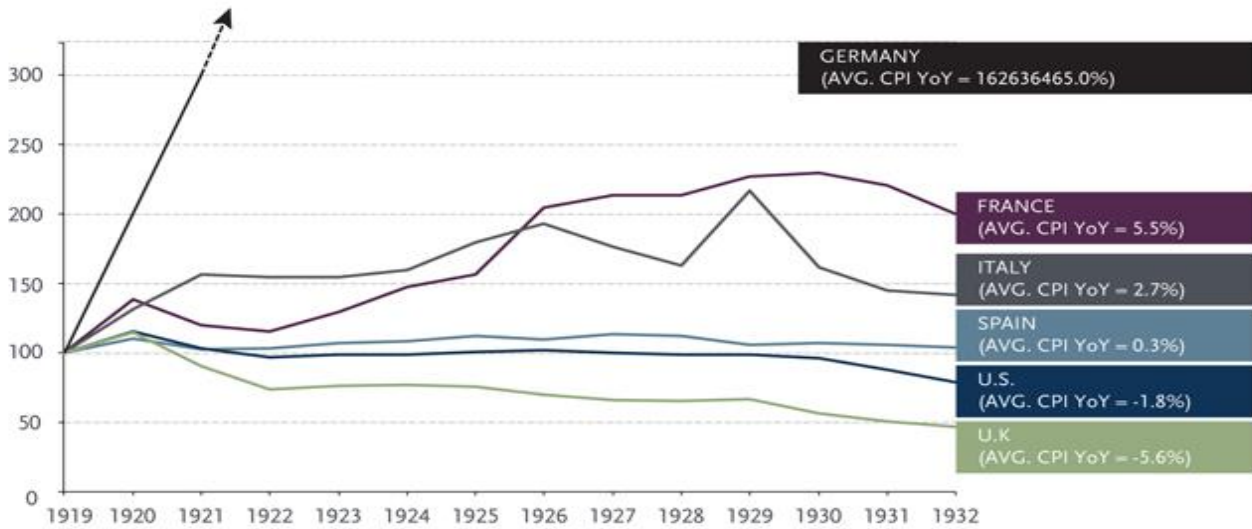
11) Who is being forced to swallow the pill?

12) Who is doing the forcing?

**Document 8**

**INFLATION IN THE POST-WWI PERIOD\***

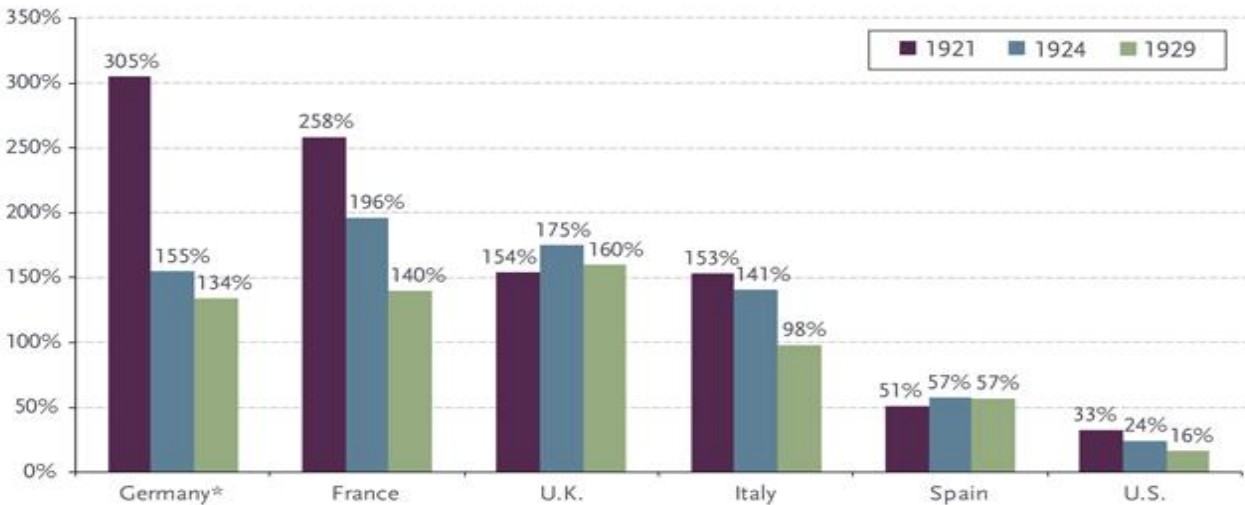
Unsustainable debt and frantic printing of money lead to a period of severe hyperinflation in Germany. At the height of the crisis in 1923, one U.S. dollar was worth 4 trillion German marks.



Source: Reinhart and Rogoff, Guggenheim Investments. \*Note: Inflation for the above countries is the respective Consumer Price Indices normalized at 1919 levels.

**EUROPEAN DEBT AFTER THE GREAT WAR**

In the years following World War I, European nations were buried in debt. Germany, slapped with punitive war reparations, routinely defaulted on its payments even after several restructuring efforts were attempted in 1920s.



Source: Reinhart and Rogoff, Guggenheim Investments. \*Note: German debt to GDP ratio includes reparation obligations.

13) According to the graphs above, which countries emerge from WWI in the best economic shape?

14) According to the graphs above, which country is in the worst economic shape?

**Document 9**



15) Why would this German couple cart their German Marks around in a wheel barrow?

**Document 10**



Left: Children are stacking German Marks like building blocks while the woman above is loading Marks in the furnace.

16) How do these pictures support the data in the graphs on the previous page?

## Document 11

### Treaty of Versailles (June 28, 1919)

Read each provision below and decide whether it supports peace and helps Europe recover from the war or not.

**Article 22.** Certain communities formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire have reached a stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be recognized with the assistance of a Western power until such time as they are able to stand alone.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Supports peace and recovery because | Does not support peace and recovery because |
|-------------------------------------|---|

#### Alsace-Lorraine:

Article 51. The territories which were ceded to Germany on February 26, 1871 [Franco-Prussian War], and the Treaty of Frankfurt of May 10, 1871, are restored to French sovereignty as from the date of the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Supports peace and recovery because | Does not support peace and recovery because |
|-------------------------------------|---|

**Article 119.** Germany renounces in favor of the Principal Allied Powers all her rights and titles over her overseas possessions.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Supports peace and recovery because | Does not support peace and recovery because |
|-------------------------------------|---|

**Article 156.** Germany renounces, in favour of Japan, all her rights and title [Chinese colonies]... which she acquired in virtue of the Treaty concluded by her with China on March 6, 1898 [Treaty System]

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Supports peace and recovery because | Does not support peace and recovery because |
|-------------------------------------|---|

**Article 159.** The German military forces shall be demobilised and reduced as follows

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Supports peace and recovery because | Does not support peace and recovery because |
|-------------------------------------|---|

**Article 160.** By a date which must not be later than March 31, 1920, the German Army must not comprise more than seven divisions of infantry and three divisions of cavalry.

The Army shall be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory and to the control of the frontiers.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Supports peace and recovery because | Does not support peace and recovery because |
|-------------------------------------|---|

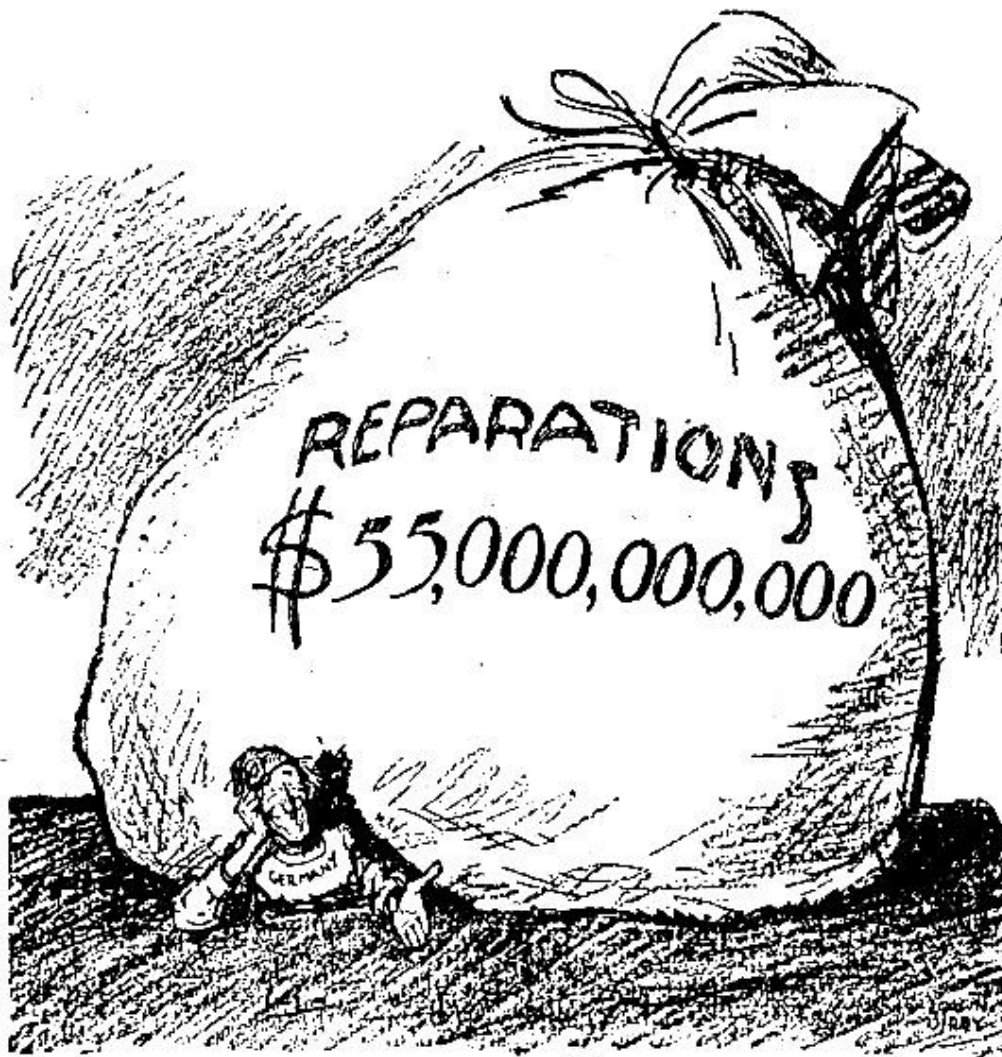
**Article 231.** Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied Governments have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Supports peace and recovery because | Does not support peace and recovery because |
| <br><br><br>                        | <br><br><br>                                |

**Article 232.** The Allied Governments recognize that the resources of Germany are not adequate to make complete reparation for all such loss and damage, however, they require that Germany will make compensation for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied Powers and to their property during the period of the war.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Supports peace and recovery because | Does not support peace and recovery because |
| <br><br><br>                        | <br><br><br>                                |

**Document 12**



“Let’s see you collect it.”

—New York World.

17) What impact did paying war reparations have on Germany according to the cartoon?



## Document 13

Germany will make its last reparations payment for World War I on Oct. 3, settling its outstanding debt from the 1919 Versailles Treaty and quietly closing the final chapter of the conflict that shaped the 20th century.

Oct. 3, the 20th anniversary of German unification, will also mark the completion of the final chapter of World War I with the end of reparations payments 92 years after the country's defeat.

The German government will pay the last installment of interest on foreign bonds it issued in 1924 and 1930 to raise cash to fulfil the enormous reparations demands the victorious Allies made after World War I.

The reparations bankrupted Germany in the 1920s and the fledgling Nazi party seized on the resulting public resentment against the terms of the Versailles Treaty.

The sum was initially set at 269 billion gold marks, around 96,000 tons of gold, before being reduced to 112 billion gold marks by 1929, payable over a period of 59 years.

Germany suspended annual payments in 1931 during the global financial crisis and Adolf Hitler unsurprisingly declined to resume them when he came to power in 1933.

But in 1953, West Germany agreed at an international conference in London to service its international bond obligations from before World War II. In the years that followed it repaid the principal on the bonds, which had been issued to private and institutional investors in countries including the United States.

**David Crossland, "Germany Set to Make Final World War I  
Reparation Payment," ABC News.com, Sept. 29, 2010**

18) According to the article, what was one impact the reparations had on Germany?

## Part B

### Essay

#### Directions:

- Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Use evidence from at least 6 documents to support your response.
- Include additional related information.

#### Historical Context:

On June 28, 1919 – seven and a half months after the horrific fighting of World War I ended on November 1918 – the Treaty of Versailles was signed by the victorious Allied nations of Great Britain, France, Italy, and the United States as well as the defeated Germany. The framers of the treaty hoped that it would stabilize Europe and ensure that another catastrophic war would never happen again. But just over two decades later, the flames of war consumed Europe again.

**Task:** Using information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, write an essay in which you:

Was the Treaty of Versailles a good settlement to ensure the peace and help Europe recover from the war?  
*Be sure to include specific historical details.*

## DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION GENERIC SCORING RUBRIC

### Score of 5:

- Thoroughly addresses all aspects of the *Task* by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least 6 documents
- Incorporates information from the documents in the body of the essay
- Incorporates relevant outside information
- Richly supports the theme or problem with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Is a well-developed essay, consistently demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization
- Introduces the theme or problem by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple restatement of the *Task* or *Historical Context* and concludes with a summation of the theme or problem

**Score of 4:**

- Addresses all aspects of the *Task* by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least **6** documents
- Incorporates information from the documents in the body of the essay
- Incorporates relevant outside information
- Includes relevant facts, examples, and details, but discussion may be more descriptive than analytical
- Is a well-developed essay, demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization
- Introduces the theme or problem by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple restatement of the *Task* or *Historical Context* and concludes with a summation of the theme or problem

**Score of 3:**

- Addresses most aspects of the *Task* or addresses all aspects of the *Task* in a limited way, using some of the documents
- Incorporates some information from the documents in the body of the essay
- Incorporates limited or no relevant outside information
- Includes some facts, examples, and details, but discussion is more descriptive than analytical
- Is a satisfactorily developed essay, demonstrating a general plan of organization
- Introduces the theme or problem by repeating the *Task* or *Historical Context* and concludes by simply repeating the theme or problem

**Score of 2:**

- Attempts to address some aspects of the *Task*, making limited use of the documents
- Presents no relevant outside information
- Includes few facts, examples, and details; discussion restates contents of the documents
- Is a poorly organized essay, lacking focus
- Fails to introduce or summarize the theme or problem

**Score of 1:**

- Shows limited understanding of the *Task* with vague, unclear references to the documents
- Presents no relevant outside information
- Includes little or no accurate or relevant facts, details, or examples
- Attempts to complete the *Task*, but demonstrates a major weakness in organization
- Fails to introduce or summarize the theme or problem

**Score of 0:** Fails to address the *Task*, is illegible, or is a blank paper

| Documents/arguments that support <b>IN FAVOR</b> of the Treaty of Versailles | Documents/arguments that support <b>AGAINST</b> the Treaty of Versailles |
|--|--|
|  |  |