

Negatives of the Versailles Treaty

A. Treatment of Germany:

The Versailles Treaty had many problems especially when it came to the treatment of Germany. Under the terms of the Treaty, Germany was forced to take full blame for starting WWI, they had to:

- (1) completely disarm – meaning they couldn't have an air force, navy, or large army
- (2) give up territory – Germany lost ALL of its colonies and lost territory to Poland and France
- (3) pay \$33 billion in **reparations** – this is when a losing nation is forced to pay the winning nation for the cost of the war – to the winning Allied Powers.



Negatives of the Versailles Treaty

B. Self Determination:

Wilson's idea of *self-determination* – the right of peoples to have their own nation and government – also became a large problem. After the war, ethnic groups were able to form new countries. Some people in these new countries didn't want independence while others did not want to see new people moving into their land.



Negatives of the Versailles Treaty

C. USA Doesn't Sign:

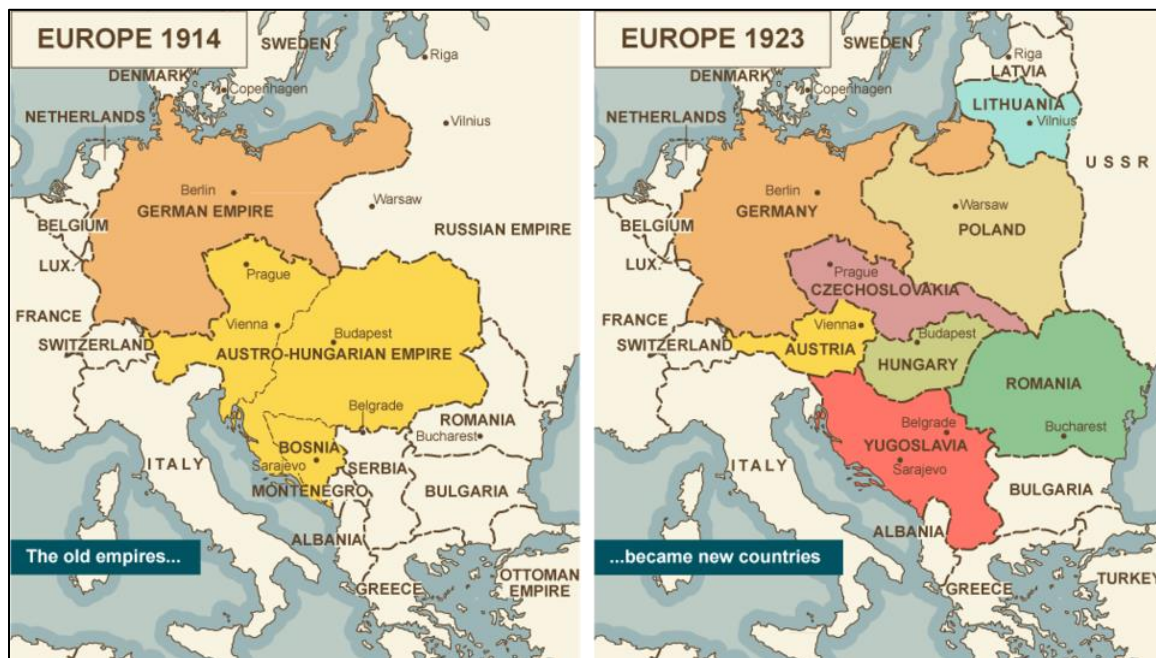
Many members of the United States Senate felt that if the United States were to sign the Treaty, and join the *League of Nations* – the international organization created by Wilson to solve problems – believing we would be pulled into another war. As a result, the US refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles. Because America did not sign it, and we were now the strongest nation in the world, there was no one to stand up to Germany 17 years later when their leader Adolf Hitler began to take over Europe.



Positives of the Versailles Treaty

A. Self Determination:

The concept of *self-determination* – the right of peoples to have their own nation and government – basically allowed different ethnic groups to form their own country. Countries such as Poland, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia were created out of lands that used to belong to Germany, Russia, and Austria-Hungary. Now at least the people of Europe will be ruled by someone from their own culture, not a foreign king.



Positives of the Versailles Treaty

B. League of Nations:

Secondly, the creation of a *League of Nations* – the international organization created by Wilson to solve problems – produced an organization that was supposed to keep another World War from happening. The League of Nations would allow all of the countries of the world to sit down and discuss their differences before tensions would reach the point of war.



Positives of the Versailles Treaty

C. American Power:

Lastly, the Versailles Treaty proved that America had become one of the strongest nations on earth. The countries of Europe looked to Woodrow Wilson to direct the peace talks after the war and the rest of the world looked to the United States for leadership in the post-war world.

