

The Treaty of Versailles

A play concerning the post World War I Peace Conference held in Paris, from January to April in 1919.

CHAPTER 1: A POSSIBLE PEACE IN PARIS

NARRATOR #1:

The Paris Peace Conference opened on January 18, 1919, in an atmosphere of tension and excitement. (Cheers). Paris was crowded by delegates representing the Allies. Over a thousand persons were sent to Paris, including the seventy delegates representing the twenty-seven victorious nations. The great powers were France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, and the United States. In the beginning of the Paris Peace Conference, each of the great powers sent two representatives to the meetings, these members formed the Council of Ten. It was in the Council of Ten that all major discussions and decisions were started. However, the Council of Ten proved to be too big to handle discussions in a confidential (secret) manner. As a result of this, the heads of state (the leaders) from the great powers formed the Council of Four (the Big Four) and in this group all final decisions were made.

NARRATOR #2:

The general feeling among those present was one of optimism. They came to Paris in the Winter of 1919 with the idea that they were not only preparing for Peace but, for an everlasting Peace.

NARRATOR #3:

Of course, representing the United States, was their president Woodrow Wilson, who attracted much attention. A special chair decorated with gold was provided for his use.

President Wilson was tall and thin with a strong, clear voice and American accent. He wore wire rim glasses and looked very much what he was –a combination of professor, lawyer, and politician.

He was an excellent speaker and writer, concise (brief) and to the point.

President Wilson was widely cheered by the European crowds who admired (liked) his ideas concerning a **League of Nations** (representatives from each country would meet to settle problems at the problems at the conference table opposed to the battlefield).

NARRATOR #4:

David Lloyd George, Great Britain's, Prime Minister had quite a powerful reputation, he had lots of energy and his powers of speech and actions were well known. He was never more brilliant than at the Paris Peace Conference.

He had all the gifts of statesmanship required for this occasion. George won the last election in England on the promise that, ***"We shall squeeze the orange until the pips squeak."*** ([*English Accent*](#))

NARRATOR #1:

George Clemenceau, the famous Prime Minister of France, was nicknamed "The Tiger", he was short and sturdy with eyes that glowed like furnaces.

Although he was seventy-seven, he spoke with great energy, skill and determination, just like a human machine-gun.

No question about it, he was truly out for revenge. Plus, he also wanted lasting security for France. Clemenceau feared that sooner or later Germany with its 60 million people would again attack France with its 40 million unless the Germans were permanently weakened.

NARRATOR #2:

Last but not least, we come to Vittorio Orlando, the Premier of Italy. Orlando is short and rotound (a nice way of saying fat). He has thick white hair and good size white mustache partially covering his lips. Orlando did not speak English and often found it difficult to participate in much of the discussions even with the help of a translator. He had a quick mind and analyzed information very quickly. In addition, he had a temper which, when aroused, would flame.

NARRATOR #3:

It was in this Council of World Leaders that the major decisions of the peace treaty were made. There were many other diplomats present in Paris that winter, representatives of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Belgium, and many others.

CHAPTER 2: THE UNINVITED**NARRATOR #4:**

This draws our attention to two very obvious countries which were not in attendance.

GERMANY:

Yes I say! Germany, we the leader of the Central Powers, were not even invited. From January to April, while the Allies decide OUR FATE – what were we forced to do, sit, and wait. That's NOT how WE thought it would work under the conditions of President Wilson's Fourteen Points.

RUSSIA:

And what about us, we weren't invited either, even though we had been one of the Allied powers at the start of the war. Our revolution had taken us out of the conflict and we are now locked in a Civil War of our own.

BOLSHEVIK RED:

The Civil War is between the ruling group, the Bolsheviks, and all the other groups who oppose the Bolsheviks government. **Why have you the Allies, who were once our friends sided with the groups who opposed the Bolsheviks?** While the Allies decide the fate of Germany, we Russians continue our struggle against the forces of Capitalism in our homeland.

CZAR LOYALIST:

These barbaric Bolsheviks have turned Russia upside down. We are the legitimate power of Russia. We want to return the Czar and old order back in place and with your help we can do so.

WHITE RUSSIAN:

Nyet! Do NOT listen to this fool who poses to speak on behalf of the Russian people. We, the White Russians are and should be the legitimate power of Russia. The Czar's days are done. It is time for Russia to move towards a more democratic and capitalistic future. Not only are we good for the Russian people we are good for the Western Powers. We pledge to continue the practice of democratic principles through our Duma (Congress) and using capitalist methods will modernize Russia.

BOLSHEVIK RED:

Nyet! Nyet! Nyet! This is all nonsense. The Whites will only further enslave the Russian peasants, proletariats (industrial city workers). As our leader and great comrade Lenin has proposed for the Russian people: "Peace, bread and land... Now!" This is the only true future for Russians... for the world! Da! Da! Workers of the world, unite!

NARRATOR #4:

The various fighting Russian groups continue to shout at one another as the Russian Revolution and Civil War continues. Out from the Russian rumble comes this voice.

RUSSIA: (Ordinary Russian)

As you can tell, we Russians are having a difficult time sorting things out right now. However, we must thank you for canceling the Brest-Litovsk Treaty (named for the city where the treaty was signed between Germany and Russia, in 1917). Germany dealt with us in a much harsher (meaner) manner, you are being far kinder to Germany than she was at that time to us.

CHAPTER 3: THE GREAT POWERS HAVE GREAT DIFFERENCES**JAPAN:**

When Italy, Great Britain, France and the United States formed the Council of Four, Japan was excluded (not included) because our head of state (leader) was not present, but the Japanese agenda (list of wants) was heard. As you all recall we had secret agreements with the British and French. We were promised and allowed to seize (take) during the war, all German island possessions in the North Pacific and German territory in China. Of course we are looking for more.

UNITED STATES:

(STANDING UP – RAISING HIS VOICE) **The United States promised NO SECRET TREATIES. That was one of President Wilson's 14 POINTS.**

JAPAN:

Wait a minute! The Imperial Japanese army and navy are now in possession of the German holdings. You must remember, we only agreed to join the conflict (war) on the side of the Allies, if we would receive these new colonial possessions. We assisted the Allies in the Mediterranean Sea against the German U-Boats (submarines) because of a promise made by the British and the French. **You agreed! YOU CAN'T BACK OUT OF THAT AGREEMENT NOW!!!**

NARRATOR #1:

At this time, the members who did not agree started shouting: Wilson and the other Americans objected to what the Japanese wanted, along with the Chinese delegation – who did not want the Japanese to have control over any part of their land.

JAPAN:

You Americans have your Monroe Doctrine, (type of treaty) in which you demand all European and Asian nations stay out of America's business in that side of the world. Well, why can't we, Japanese have a similar doctrine for the Far East. Our area includes: Korea, Port Arthur and now the city of Tsingtoa and Shantung Province (former Chinese areas).

NARRATOR #2:

The British and French held firm to their secret treaties, the Japanese got what they were promised in the secret treaty. As a result, the Chinese were extremely mad, the entire Chinese delegation got up and walked out leaving Paris that spring saying, "We will leave the judgment of the decision to History."

NARRATOR #3:

Needless to say, due to Wilson's proposal that there be NO SECRET TREATIES, and that ALL NEGOTIATIONS BE MADE PUBLIC, Wilson and the other Americans present were very upset.

Oh, course the Italians were very pleased with the outcome of the Japanese secret treaty controversy.

ITALY:

Let us remind you, we also were promised land in return for our support of the Allies. We expect to receive the former possessions of the Brenner Frontier region, the city of Fiume and the Dalmation Coast. All this land had been promised to us by the British and the France, when the three of us signed the Treaty of London.

UNITED STATES: (Wilson)

Wait a minute, this violates (goes against) the principle (idea) of self-determination. We have just created the new nation of Yugoslavia for the Southern Slavs. The city of Fiume and the Dalmation Coast are inhabited (lived in) by Slavs and rightfully this area belongs to Yugoslavia. Does Italy wish to create enemies of her newest neighbor even before Yugoslavia becomes a reality?

GREAT BRITAIN: (Balfour, another British representative)

The British government is very sympathetic to the Italian problem. If, Mr. Orlando's claims are not recognized, there is a good chance his government might fall. Possibly, the Italian army might revolt holding Mr. Orlando personally responsible, because the promised of the Treaty of London were not kept.

ITALY: (Orlando)

Wait a minute! The entire eastern coast of Italy is at the mercy of whoever controls the other side of the Adriatic Sea. These areas must be given to Italy for strategic reasons.

UNITED STATES: (Wilson)

I, as President of the United States, cannot participate in a Peace Conference that uses different principles (guidelines, rules) for each participant. All participants should have to abide by the same principles. We can not distribute (pass out) territory on the basis of strategic frontiers. You are speaking as though we are the masters of Europe. We are not! We are responsible to the peoples of Europe and I am fearful of doing them wrong by making a tragic mistake!

FRENCH: (Clemenceau)

The French government fears that our Italian friends will commit a deplorable act which they will regret if they break from the rest, over this issue.

ITALY: (Orlando)

If, Italy is not given the city of Fiume it will cause great discontent (disappointment) to our people. We have already expressed considerable reservations about Mr. Wilson's Fourteen Points and we demand that the provisions of the secret Treaty of London be kept.

NARRATOR #4:

It was Wilson's feeling that "Italy is demanding territory only to satisfy her ambitions". He plainly distrusted and disliked the Italian demands. The Italians withdrew from the Paris Peace Conference in protest of Wilson's attitude. The British and French felt Wilson was being obstinate (stubborn) and attempted to appease (give in) Italy, but, Italy replied-

ITALY: (Orlando)

Italy regrets that the principle of self-determination, used until now only against enemy governments, is today, for the first time being used against a government which has been and remains, a loyal friend of the great American republic --- The Italian Government.

NARRATOR #1:

There was clearly nothing to be done and the Italian delegation left the conference and returned to Rome.

GREAT BRITAIN: (George)

We feel to break with Italy is a grave decision, but to break with the United States would be disaster for the peace of the world.

NARRATOR #2:

Vittorio Orlando's government fell in June and shortly thereafter, new Italian representatives returned to the Paris Peace Conference. The question of Fiuma was not resolved until 1920 when Italy receives the city from the new nation of Yugoslavia.

CHAPTER 4: BALKANS – SIMPLY COMPLICATED

NARRATOR #3:

It was this conflict, over the various parts of the Fourteen points, which would fuel nearly every argument between the Allies at the Paris Peace Conference.

YUGOSLAVIA:

We are pleased and happy to have our Pan-Slavic State free from Austrian, Ottoman or Italian rule. Truly Wilson's principle of self-determination as part of his 14 points will shine best with our new state. Well... perhaps... And yes, while it is quite true that we disagree and distrust one another, it is best that we rule over each other... and yes even if that means we fight from time to time. then be ruled by outsiders.

NARRATOR #4:

The old crafty politician and Serbian Prime Minister Pasic speaks in a slow but very calculating manner. He speaks simply, but those present suspect he is thinking much more than what he is saying.

SERBIA: (Pasic)

Don't worry Supreme Council of four, we Serbians will make sure everything works just fine. Yes, just fine.

BRITAIN: (George turns to Wilson and says):

We British are a bit weary of these Balkan folks. These are people who never trust anyone, never reveal their true intentions and never take advice.

USA (Wilson questions Serbia):

How do we know your plans will not complicate the idea of lasting peace?

SERBIA:

Gentleman, for the Serbs everything is simple; for the Croats everything is complicated.

CROAT (Trumbic with lofty confidence):

Excuse me! Please Council of Four... do NOT waste your time listening to this Serbian man, when you can listen to a Croatian like myself. I mean... you are NOT going to compare the Croats, Slovenes and Dalmatians whom for centuries of artistic, moral and intellectual communion with Italy and Austria have made us truly members of the "West," unlike these half-civilized Serbs.

SERBIA: (Sarcastically)

Yes, these Croats are so smart that they fought on the side of the Austrians... the Central Powers... with the losers. The Council of Four should recognize that we fought on the side of the Allies... the winning side... and thus we Serbs should have a strong position in the new entity called Yugoslavia by which we prefer to call Greater Serbia.

CROAT: (Sarcastically):

Indeed! Serbia did fight on the side of the Allies... the Eastern side... the side of Russia... which the Council of Four recognizes today as a complete mess. So too should the Council consider what a mess Serbia would make if given too much authority in the Balkans.

BOSNIA:

Look! We have historical maps here to show which Slavic group should have legitimate rule over areas in the Balkans.

SERBIA:

NO! NO! Those maps are wrong. Allow us to show you accurate maps of the traditional Balkan borders.

CROAT:

What a joke! Those maps are NOT real. Please, examine the maps we have brought.

USA (Wilson):

Oh, this is all so confusing. Has the Balkans ever been free of conflict?

BRITAIN (George):

Bloody well said, Woody! We British are actually quite indifferent to the area. To be quite honest we really know quite little about these feuding little buggers. It's a bit annoying, isn't it?

USA (Wilson):

Yes, I can see how it can give someone an aneurism (stroke – vein explodes in the brain). We should move on to other areas of concern.

FRANCE (Clemenceau):

No! No! Wait a minute! We French are very concerned on the Balkan situation. We would like to see a strong nation to the south of Germany. It will keep Germany in line and from being aggressive toward France.

BRITISH (George):

Bloody well... As long as they don't muddle (mess around) in our naval trading affairs in the Mediterranean. Hmmm... and we suppose a strong Serbia would keep the Italians in check as well. Hmmm... very well then. It works for Britain. What do you say President Wilson? Is it good for America?

USA (Wilson):

That is NOT the question. The question is whether it is good for the world... whether it can keep a lasting peace. These people of the new Yugoslavia should be able to apply one of my 14 points... the principle of self-determination. That is how the issue should be resolved.

YUGOSLAVIA:

It is a bit strange but rather typical that outsiders who know little about us Slavic Balkans should decide so much of our fate (future). They think just because we speak a common language that we are the same nationality. The Big Four seem to know little about the Slavic people. Yes, we speak a similar language but we write with a different alphabet (Cyrillic and Latin), have different Christian beliefs (Catholic and Orthodox), as well as having non-Christians (Muslims) and there are countless other differences.

NARRATOR #1:

To make matters worse, all these different people are scattered and mixed throughout the region making neatly drawn boundaries an impossible task. The Big Four lumped the Slavs altogether with Serbia left in charge of Yugoslavia. Next, the Big Four turned their back to the area. How could they leave people together who had come to fear each other?

UNITED STATES: (Wilson)

The Fourteen Points, which I announced during the last days of the war, were solemn public pledge to the United States Congress and to the people of the world.

The Fourteen Points, address what are considered to be the underlying causes of the war: First: the nationalistic tension; Second, arms buildup (Militarism); and Thirdly, the alliance system – these are the problems which led to the international conflict.

We must abide (stick to) the Fourteen Points which allow for self-determination (self rule) and the rights of small countries.

CHAPTER 5: AFRICANS POINT OUT A HYPOCRITICAL PEACE

NARRATOR #3:

Patiently waiting among a long list of delegates from various nations, designers of recently conceived (thought of) Pan-African Congress decided now was the time to speak their cause since Wilson spoke about his 14 points and self-determination. The great American black intellectual WEB DuBois and Senegal Foreign Minister Blaise Diagne asked to be heard.

UNITED STATES: (Wilson)

(Irritatingly surprised) Thank you for your support of the 14 points. (Grudgingly accept) Yes, I suppose the Council of Four will allow you to now present your proposals.

NARRATOR #4:

President Wilson was no friend of racial equality in his home country and likely would not be in Paris. Dubois, the black American intellectual, knew this about Wilson but wanted to use the opportunity (chance) to express the feelings of non-whites, particularly Africans.

NARRATOR #1:

While Dubois and other members of the Pan American Congress were given the opportunity to speak in Paris, they did NOT speak directly to the Big Four. In an obvious demonstration of disrespect, the main figures (Wilson = USA, George = Britain, Clemenceau = France and Orlando = Italy) were NOT present when the Pan Africans members made their address in Paris. (Big Four gets up and walks outside to take a break) While minor delegates of the Big Four did hear the concerns of the Pan Africans, it was as if the Pan Africans spoke to no one.

W.E.B. DUBOIS: *(Stands up and speaks to the “minor delegates” (empty desks) sitting in for the Big Four)*

I would like to thank the Supreme Council for allowing myself and members this Pan African group to address both the council and speak to the world here today. We would like to express our enormous hope for President Wilson’s 14 Points and particularly the point of self-determination. We hope it will be universally applied to all people of the Earth and not merely Europeans and whites. We ask the Big Four to boldly decide against being hypocrites (say one thing but do another).

BLAISE DIAGNE (Senegal Foreign Minister):

Now is the opportunity for all of mankind, not just Europeans or whites... but all of mankind to make a lasting peace. Thus, we call for an end to Imperialism that has caused so much anguish and suffering for all of Africa.

W.E.B. DUBOIS:

Let Africans determine their own future. Members of our group and I have traveled at great cost and difficult to speak here today. We hope you kindly consider our plea... the plea of Africans. SELF DETERMINATION FOR ALL OF MANKIND! Thank you.

NARRATOR #2:

The Big Four returned from a break now that the Pan-Africans were done speaking.

BRITAIN (George to Wilson):

No doubt your DuBois chap is an articulate (speaks well) one. Yet, his ideas are a bit troublesome and quite radical, if you know what I mean?

USA (Wilson):

You say “Your DuBois”... While he does come from America, I can assure he does NOT speak for the American government or the American people.

BRITAIN (George to Wilson):

Well then, perhaps DuBois should experience further “traveling difficulty”, if you know what I mean.

USA (Wilson):

Hmmm...? A most interesting suggestion.

NARRATOR #3:

Years later the US government would NOT give WEB DuBois a passport to travel abroad for some 15 years. The US government claimed it was to keep DuBois “safe” if he remained in the US. On the other hand, DuBois claimed he was NOT allowed to travel because he was black and would embarrass and prove wrong American claims of being the most free and most democratic country in the world. So it went.

CHAPTER 6: NO MIDDLE GROUND IN THE MIDDLE EAST

NARRATOR #4:

The next issue addressed was the Middle East. Much was to be decided now that the Ottoman Empire disbanded (was no more) and became what is today Turkey. It fell under the leadership of the Ottoman General Kemal. He established a Muslim secular state (separation between religion and state). Numerous Arab groups once under the rule of the Ottomans were present and ready to address the Council of Four.

SYRIA (Syrian Central Committee):

Greetings! I come before you to speak on behalf of Syrian Arabs who seek their own independence...

USA (Wilson – an expert aide to the President hands him a piece of paper. Wilson looks up with disappointment and says): Excuse me sir, where have you lived for the past 35 years?

SYRIA (Syrian Central Committee – Caught off guard):

I beg your pardon... ah, well... I have lived in... I have lived in Paris.

USA (Wilson):

Not Syria, correct? How can you expect to speak on behalf of Syria when you have NOT lived there in 35 years?

NARRATOR #1:

Just then the British (George) and French (Clemenceau) broke from a private huddle and began to try to sway USA (Wilson)...

BRITAIN (George):

Well! Well! Well! It appears good old self-determination is NOT able to work in this case. The Arab nationalists are either imposters (fake) or quite unorganized.

FRENCH (Clemenceau):

Yes, we the French along with the British propose the Middle East be turned over to us as mandates (a mandate is an area that is administered (ruled) by another country until it is ready for independence)

BRITAIN (George):

As our mandates, we will look over the area until it is fit for independence... (leans over to Clemenceau and softly says) which hopefully will never be the case around Mosul.

FRENCH (Clemenceau softly to George):

Yes, is this where all the oil is at which you promise to split with the French once it is discovered?

BRITAIN (George whispers back to Clemenceau):

By God Frenchy, YES! Bloody well indeed! Now it is in our interest to settle this matter fast before the American start asking to many questions and then want to get a piece of the oil pie in the Middle East.

FRENCH (Clemenceau):

Wee! Wee! We will speak in certainty on the area and hopefully persuade the Americans that we are capable of handling the areas as mandates.

NARRATOR #2:

Although the British and French knew little about the area they still knew more than the American delegation and were able to sound convincing.

BRITAIN (George):

My good friends of America... We the British and French have had extensive experience in the Middle East and would serve best to hold the area as mandates. Through our British foreign ministers such as the infamous Lawrence of Arabia, we have obtained a deep sense of understanding for the area.

FRENCH (Clemenceau)

(Whispers to George first) we prefer you NOT bring up that untrustworthy fool of yours... Lawrence of Arabia.

(Then speaks aloud to Wilson) Yes, we stand in solidarity with our British ally and suggest a quick resolution (fix) to this matter.

CENTRAL SYRIAN COMMITTEE (Outburst):

Excuse me, but this council claims I am inappropriate to lead Syria. Well, at least I am, in fact and by blood, Syrian. What the British and French are presenting here is a lie! It is more European Imperialism and will only lead to a disastrous (bad) future.

USA (Wilson):

We will NOT allow outburst from small delegations. You can be assured America will work to guarantee and protect the interest and rights of locals in this area. This we promise you.

IRAQ (Shia):

How can we, the ancestry of Mesopotamia... the oldest human civilization... be sure that America will be able to protect what they know so so so little about?

NARRATOR #3:

The British and French used their strong positioning at the meeting to influence the matter on the Middle East.

BRITISH (George):

Our British and French foreign ministers and expert officials in the area have drawn up the borders for what will be our mandates in the Middle East. Allow us to present this new map.

FRENCH (Clemenceau):

As can be seen, we, the French, will administrate Syria, Lebanon and the British will have mandate over Palestine, Jordan and Mesopotamia, which will be called Iraq.

USA (Wilson):

Well... OK. Sounds good. Whatever brings about lasting peace.

IRAQ:

Sounds good? It actually sounds bad. The British, French and Americans expect the impossible from the people of this new Iraq, which until the British drew the borders never existed. It would be best if it were 3 countries instead of one, since there are 3 major ethnic groups in the region.

BRITISH (George):

Having a mandate over 3 countries instead of one is much more work and will delay independence to the locals.

USA (Wilson):

Yes, what the British claim seems to make sense.

IRAQ:

This makes little sense. We are NOT sure the British are seriously interested in relinquishing (letting go) of its mandate of Mesopotamia. We know they are interested in oil which is found in abundance in the region around Mesopotamia or as the British would like to call it: Iraq. Now, expecting the Kurds up in Mosul, the Shia down in Basra and the Sunni in Baghdad to live under one flag is the same as putting Croatians, Bosnian Muslims and Serbians under the same Yugoslavian flag. This might last for a while but it will eventually crumble and cause greater harm in the future.

NARRATOR #4:

The matter seemed to be settled. The British and French had got their way. Yet, as they learned more about their new mandates, they began to realize the Middle East would be much more work for them.

NARRATOR #1:

And before all was settled, an international group of Zionist (Jews in favor of forming a Jewish nation – homeland) came to speak to the Supreme Council on the issue of Palestine.

ZIONIST (Weizmann):

Gentleman, I come before you to claim what is only just and right for the Jewish people as it pertains (relates) to President Wilson's point of self-determination. As it is well known, for centuries Jews have lived in harsh conditions as a minority in Eastern Europe and Russia. While other Jews have enjoyed the more liberally accepting Western Europe and America, we feel we can only be justly treated, if we had a nation of our own.

ZIONIST (Herzl):

Jews of the world are prepared to buy Uganda in Africa from the British and call it our home.

ZIONIST (Weizmann):

Nonsense! Disregard that man's proposal. Although he is an old Zionist, he is NOT the authority on Zionist opinion. Now instead, we Jews propose "The land without people – for the people without land." The land we speak of is: Palestine.

BRITAIN (George):

Bloody well! I rather like the idea. Yes, the return of the Jewish Kingdom to the Holy Land. (Recollecting with laughter) I say... I can report today more Jewish kings from my Bible studies as a child, than I can kings of British history. Isn't that a kicker?

SYRIA:

Excuse me! Although I am NOT Palestinian, I am an Arab. Since there is NO Palestinian delegation (group) at these meetings, I can faithfully report to you that my Palestinian neighbors would be most upset by what is being considered.

IRAQ (Sunni):

Hear! Hear! We, as other Arabs in the region, could not agree more with the spokesman from Syria.

JORDAN:

Yes, as a matter of fact, there are few things that unite us Arab nationalists, but the idea of a Jewish state in Palestine is certainly one. We do NOT like this idea and most surely will protest it alongside our Palestinian Arab brothers.

NARRATOR #1:

Again, the British were reminded of how hard the Middle East would be to have as a mandate. Some British considered dropping Palestine as a mandated region while they still could.

ZIONIST (Weizmann):

The Arab Nationalists blow only hot air. I have spoken with Feisal, the leading Syrian authority. He is contemptuous (disrespect & disregard) of the Palestinian Arabs who he doesn't even regard as Arabs!

ARAB NATIONALISTS:

Lies! These are Lies!

ZIONIST (Weizmann to British and USA):

Look, the creation of a Jewish State is favorable to areas where Jews are currently a minority. Just ask the people of Poland, Russia and the rest of Europe.

EASTERN EUROPE (Class chorus says)

Give the Jews a state! We don't want them in our state!

BRITISH (Balfour):

OK, I declare the Jews a right to immigrate to Palestine. Yet, I also declare that the rights to the existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.

ARAB NATIONALISTS:

The Balfour Declaration is a diplomatic insult. It puts the rights of the small number of invading Jews ahead of the Palestinians who will make up 80% of the population, not to mention have been native to this land for nearly 2,000 years. As Arabs, we will NOT recognize the Balfour Declaration!

BRITISH (Winston Churchill to Zionists):

Look... perhaps we should go about all this a bit more slow and low key. The build up of a Jewish State should be slow and gradual. "We won't mind it, but we won't speak of it." Got it, my Zionist friends?

NARRATOR #2:

So it went. Despite the obvious problems unresolved over the Middle East a "peace", albeit quite flawed, was reached.

NARRATOR #3:

The “Fourteen Points” which so many referred to and believed in was proving hard to actually implement (put into action).

CHAPTER 7: HARSH GERMAN PUNISHMENT

NARRATOR #4:

Most interestingly, it was the belief that these “Fourteen Points” would be the basis for the peace treaty, which led to Germany agreeing to the armistice in the first place.

GERMANY:

If, you’ll recall our telegram of Oct. 5, 1918, which read, “In order to avoid further bloodshed, the German Government requests to bring about an immediate armistice on land, on water, and in the air.” The German Government sent that telegram on the belief that peace negotiations would follow the program laid down by the President of the United States, in his message to Congress of January 8th, 1918, in which his Fourteen Points were heard for the first time.

NARRATOR #1:

By agreeing to base their negotiations on Wilson’s Fourteen Points, it is obvious that the Germans referred to the “impartial justice” clause which stated that there would be “no discrimination” by the Allies, between the winners and losers. In short Wilson proposed (wanted) a “**Peace Without Victory.**”

UNITED STATES:

We need a peace that pays no favorites and knows no standard both the equal rights of all peoples concerned.

NARRATOR #2:

The only problem was that all the Allies had different ideas of what the peace treaty should contain. The Allies could not forget the loss of life and property they had experienced over the last four years.

GREAT BRITAIN:

How dare the Germans approach the American President instead of the European Allies! President Wilson, by asking the Germans to accept your Fourteen Points, you are assuming that we accept them. But for your information, we totally reject the doctrine (idea) of freedom of the seas, furthermore, we have serious concerns about your other Points as well.

UNITED STATES:

If this Peace Conference doesn’t make peace on the basis of the Fourteen Points, **just what in the world do you expect to base a peace settlement on!**

FRANCE:

We, Frenchman are here for one reason and one reason only, and that is to punish Germany! If you will remember, it was on this very day, forty-eight years ago, on January 18th, 1871, (at the end of the Franco-Prussian War) a German army of invasion was standing on our French soil and proclaimed (said) it part of the German Empire.

The theft of two French provinces (areas similar to our countries) was the first germ of decay that lead to the deaths of millions over the last four years. Born of injustice it has ended in disgrace and shame for Germany. So, let it be know, we are assembled here in order to repair the evil that the Germans have done and to prevent it from happening again. We hold in our hands the future of the world.

NARRATOR #3:

And the French had a clear picture of what that future should look like.

FRANCE:

We insist that the Alsace-Lorraine region be returned. We want the entire iron ore district of Lorraine and the entire coal district of Germany, - the Saar Valley. We also hope that an area on both sides of the Rhine River will be taken away from German control. This will be a neutral area between France and Germany. The Rhineland will be occupied by French troops until all the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles, which we are determining, are fulfilled. We want Germany to pay for the damages inflicted on us as a result of this war.

GREAT BRITAIN:

Yes, both France and ourselves, the British, have assured our people that the Germans would pay for everything.

UNITED STATES:

NO! As one of the Fourteen Points! No annexations, no reparations!

CHAPTER 8: FROM BIG LEAGUE TO LITTLE LEAGUE**NARRATOR #4:**

This is what Wilson wanted – but, Wilson was the only leader on the Council of Four who did not have the full and unreserved (unquestioning) backing of the people of his own country.

Back in the United States, former President Theodore Roosevelt, who lost to Wilson in the election of 1913, was saying in speeches, - Our Allies, our enemies and Mr. Wilson, himself, should all understand that Mr. Wilson has **NO authority to speak for the American people at this time.**

SENATOR HENRY CABOT LODGE (Republican)

As we all know, President Wilson has every right to negotiate (discuss & create) treaties, but only Congress can ratify it (make official). And the Senate will NOT ratify the treaty! The arrogant Democratic President did NOT take any Republicans with him to the Peace Conference. This is NOT only an insult, but wrong.

PRESIDENT WILSON (Angry):

How dare you Republicans play a political game when lasting world peace is at stake! Have you no care for people of the world who crave lasting peace?

SENATOR HENRY CABOT LODGE (Republican):

We crave what is best for the American people and what is constitutional (legal). Article X of the Treaty of Versailles requires all members of your League of Nations to respond collectively to security issues. This means the US military will be in the power of the League of Nations... That is, to foreign powers! The Senate will NOT accept this! Perhaps the Senate could amend (change) Article X so that the US Senate could decide when the US military would be used by the League of Nations in collective security situations?

PRESIDENT WILSON (Stubbornly):

NO! If the Republicans want to play this game, they can. History will never forgive them. Peace is at hand and they refuse it. How can they claim to be doing what is best for America when they refuse Americans lasting peace? If they don't want to deliver lasting peace to Americans, then I will.

NARRATOR #4:

Upon Wilson's return from Europe, the exhausted President embarked on a national train tour giving speeches across America about the need to support the Treaty of Versailles which included the League of Nations. Wilson was slowly winning the opinion of the American public, however in Pueblo, Colorado Wilson's grueling schedule caught up with him. The President suffered a severe stroke (aneurism) and was never the same. The speech tour was cancelled and so was Wilson's hope to have the American public pressure the Senate to ratify the treaty. The Senate voted against joining the League of Nations. And without the backing of a strong force like the United States, the League of Nations went from "big league" to the "little league."

CHAPTER 7: HARSH GERMAN PUNISHMENT (CONTINUED)

NARRATOR #1:

When Germany finally had a chance to respond to the Treaty of Versailles, they argued this issue of war guilt, in which, they and Austria were forced to accept total responsibility for the war.

GERMANY:

The events leading to the outbreak of war are not yet sufficiently (completely) known. All the governments concerned (involved) have not made the truth public.

We refuse to accept the Allies decisions at this time. You can not be, at the same time, both prosecutor and judge.

The German government has itself initiated (started) an investigation into the causes of the war. We expect the Allied governments to do the same. Until the investigation is complete we refuse to accept the responsibility of guilt.

Furthermore, concerning reparations, since you have not yet decided on the total amount – You are asking us to sign a ‘blank check’ and we must protest!

NARRATOR #2:

Great Britain response was...

GREAT BRITAIN:

Germany protest all you like, it will do you no good! We, the British, along with the other allies, judged you guilty even before you came here with these arguments. You will pay 5 billion dollars in reparations within two years, and an unnamed amount, at a later date.

NARRATOR #3:

The unnamed amount became an additional 33 billion dollars before the Allies were through.

NARRATOR #4:

The response from the Allies was as follows...

FRENCH:

Germany, you will return the Alsace-Lorraine region to its rightful owner, the French Republic. You may keep the Rhineland but it will be demilitarized (no military troops) from this date forth. The Rhineland will be occupied by Allied troops for an unspecified time. In addition, we will take all the coal from your mines in your Saar Valley, for the next 15 years.

GREAT BRITAIN:

Belgium will take the areas of Malmedy and Montejoie.

Denmark will take northern Schleswig, the area you took from them during one of your wars of unification (this return is an example of self-determination).

There again will be the nation of Poland, we will return to them the provinces of West Prussia, Posen and Upper Silesia. (Poland had been divided up in 1795 by Prussia, Russian and Austria – this is another example of self-determination).

Your port cities on the Baltic Sea, namely Danzig and Memel will be declared free cities, in order to give the new nations of Poland and Lithuania free and open access to the sea. (The area became known as the Polish Corridor – a problem because it separated Germany into two parts one on each side of the Polish Corridor) And

you must respect the independence of your fellow German country Austria and promise never to unite with one another.

JAPAN:

All your colonies are to be divided among the victors as mandates (a mandate is an area that is administered (ruled) by another country until it is ready for independence) from the League of Nations.

Great Britain will take Tanganyika, Africa.

France will get Togo and the Cameroons, in Africa.

The country of South Africa will help herself to Southwest Africa.

Australia will seize New Guinea (Just north of Australia)

New Zealand will occupy the former German Samoa (North of New Zealand)

And we, the Japanese, will take control of your Chinese holdings.

CHINESE: (Outburst!)

This is an outrage. You are all hypocrites! Down with the imperial powers! Down with Japan! China is for Chinese to rule, not outsiders! This peace is flawed. You make NO PEACE, but only a start to a future war!

ITALY:

Germany you will abolish a conscription army draft. You are also forbidden to maintain a reserve army. You will be limited to battleships of no more than 10,000 tons and no submarines are allowed. The manufacture of heavy artillery, tanks, military airplanes and poison gas are forbidden.

GERMANY:

You have taken everything! We must protest! What is left for Germany? We have no choice but to sign. What does Germany get from the Treaty of Versailles???

(German marching music should play, if possible a recording of Hitler's voice).

THE END