

14 Points

In a speech before Congress on January 8, 1918, Wilson laid out his “14 Points,” an ambitious blueprint for ending WWI that emphasized “national self-determination” for both small and large nations, and included the creation of a cooperative League of Nations to peaceably resolve all future disputes.

In 1919, Wilson attended the Paris Peace Conference with hopes that the 14 Points would form the backbone of the Treaty of Versailles. But Wilson’s ideas met fierce resistance from the Allies, who were more interested in punishing Germany than pursuing an idealistic plan for world peace.

Directions: Read each summary of the 14 points and explain what it actually means. When finished, answer the question below the table.

Summary	What it means
1. Open diplomacy without secret treaties	
2. Economic free trade on the seas during war and peace	
3. Equal trade conditions	
4. Decrease armaments among all nations	
5. Adjust colonial claims	
6. Evacuation of all Central Powers from Russia and allow it to define its own independence	
7. Belgium to be evacuated and restored	
8. Return of Alsace-Lorraine region and all French territories	
9. Readjust Italian border	
10. Austria-Hungary to be provided an opportunity for self-determination	
11. Redraw the borders of the Balkan region creating Roumania, Serbia, and Montenegro	
12. Creation of a Turkish state with guaranteed free trade in the Dardanelles	
13. Creation of an independent Polish state	
14. Creation of the League of Nations	

1. Would you consider the failure of the 14 Points one of the factors leading to the outbreak of World War II just two decades later? Why?

a.