

## Chapter 6: Terms of the Paris Peace Treaties, 1919 – 1920

### 6.1 CHALLENGES FACING THE PEACEMAKERS

- It was difficult to have achieved a more satisfactory settlement than the Treaty of Versailles
- Favoured a policy of self-determination
- Needed to ensure that the newly created nations had sufficient economic resource to remain independent
- Difficulty in ensuring fair territorial divisions
- The World War I victors were capitalistic democracies – feared the threat posed by Russian communism

### 6.2 THE VERSAILLES TREATY (GERMANY)

- Imposed Article 231 – blamed the war on German aggression

#### Territorial losses — an overview

- Lost 25 000 square miles of territory and 7 000 000 people
- Hitler wanted these Germans back in Germany – caused World War II?
- Went against the 14 Points' call for self-determination
- Loss of natural resources

#### Territorial losses to France

- France got Alsace-Lorraine
- Alsace-Lorraine consisted of 2 000 000 people and 75 % of Germany's iron ore
- Originally belonged to France but was annexed in 1870

#### Territorial losses to Poland

- Received the Polish Corridor – this separated East Prussia from Germany
- Poland was created from parts of Russia, Austria-Hungary and Germany

#### Demilitarisation of the Rhineland

- The Rhineland was a natural defensive line for Germany
- Demilitarisation of the Rhineland – to defend France from a German attack
- France continually felt insecure
- The British were unwilling to accept a treaty to protect France

#### Disarmament of Germany

- No conscription for Germany
- Army was restricted to 100 000 men and only 4 000 officers
- Germany was banned from having tanks, heavy artillery and air force
- Navy was restricted to 36 ships and 15 000 men
- Germany was banned from having battleships and submarines
- Very harsh due to German pride in its long military history

#### Reparations

- Reparations fixed at 132 000 000 000 gold marks or 6 600 000 000 pounds to be paid till 1988
- Germany itself had not been invaded and its resources remained intact
- Germany could have paid the reparations
- During the Great Depression, the lack of an empire was seen as a disability

- This loss of colonies only applied to Germany
- Germany was excluded from the League of Nations
- This humiliated Germany, robbing it of its great power status
- Called for the trial of the Kaiser and other war criminals
- Germany was forced to accept the Treaty and were given only 15 days to reply
- Germany rejected the presence of foreign troops in Germany

### 6.3 THE TREATY OF SAINT GERMAIN – AUSTRIA

- Austria-Hungary lost territory to Czechoslovakia, Italy, Romania and Poland
- Created the new Austrian republic
- Austria-Hungary lost over 15 000 000 people in the war
- The Austro-Hungarian population now stood at 6 000 000 people
- Austria had only 25 % of its pre-war area and 20 % of the population
- Resulted in the creation of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia
- Not allowed to unite politically or economically with Germany
- Demilitarisation
  - Army restricted to 30 000 men,
  - Air Force and Navy abolished
  - No conscription allowed
- Had to pay reparations – went bankrupt by 1922

### 6.4 THE TREATY OF TRIANON – HUNGARY

- Hungary lost 75 % of its pre-war territory and 66 % of its people
- Army restricted to 35 000, conscription is banned
- Hungary is not allowed an air force, the use of poison gas, flamethrowers and tanks
- Hungary had to pay reparations and went bankrupt by 1922 with an economic collapse

### 6.5 THE TREATY OF NEUILLY – BULGARIA

- Bulgaria lost territory to Yugoslavia and Greece
- Army limited to 20 000 men
- The Navy was severely reduced with submarines not being allowed
- The Air Force and other military schools was shut down
- Paid reparations of 100 000 000 pounds for reparation

### 6.8 THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPACT OF THE MANDATE STRATEGY

#### Establishment of the mandates

- The mandate system was introduced to transfer enemy colonies to another country
- The mandates were divided in three groups: from the most politically advanced (Class A) to the less advanced (Class C)

#### Impact of the mandates

- The mandates concealed old fashioned imperialism
- This alienated countries like Japan, Italy and Germany who resented their lack of an empire – they felt that an empire was necessary for economic survival