

Paris Peace Conferences: who was there and what did they want?

- Discover: who was present at the Paris Peace Conferences Explore: what they trying to achieve : Skills: empathy + decision making



When the First World War ended there were many questions that needed answering and problems to be solved. The place chosen to sit down and plan the new world was a beautiful French Palace called Versailles, in a room known as the 'Hall of Mirrors'. Only the victors of the war were to be allowed to attend the Paris Peace Conferences, therefore defeated powers such as Germany, Austria—Hungary and Turkey were not allowed to have a voice in the discussions. The victors included, France, Britain, the USA and Italy but in reality, Italy was to have little influence over what was agreed. As you will see the 'BIG THREE' of France, Britain and the USA came to the meetings with very different aims and ideas. Agreeing upon a treaty would not be easy.

France



Georges Clemenceau

The French were the home side at Versailles. Their delegation team was led by premier, Georges Clemenceau, nicknamed, 'The Tiger'. After the German invasion of France in 1914, France had suffered terrible damage. Clemenceau, like most French people held a bitter hatred of Germany and wanted revenge. He wanted Germany to take the blame for the war, to pay for the damage caused and have it weakened economically and militarily so it could never attack France again.

He wanted revenge!

Britain



David Lloyd George

The British were led by prime minister, Lloyd George. He was under pressure from the British people who wanted to force a hard punishment on Germany. This was because many had seen loved ones killed in the war.

Privately, George was worried about the danger of weakening Germany too much. He feared a severe treaty could lead to future war and that communism may spread from Russia into Germany. George also had some selfish aims that included taking over Germany's African colonies, maintaining British naval supremacy and keeping Germany as a strong trade partner.

USA



Woodrow Wilson

The USA was spearheaded by their president, Woodrow Wilson. America had entered the war late and few Americans had been killed. Wilson was an idealist who wanted a fair peace and to create a better post-war world.

To encourage Germany to stop fighting in World War 1, Wilson had put forward a list his 14 Points. The 14 Points indicated that Germany would be treated fairly after the war. Other points included making a League of Nations to stop future wars, ending all empires and that the seas should be free. In sum he wanted a fair peace for ALL sides.

Germany



Germany had agreed to stop fighting after Woodrow Wilson's proposal called the 14 Points. Wilson believed Germany should be treated fairly once the war was over.

The German Kaiser had been replaced by the democratic Weimar Government. The new leaders would argue that Germany was not fully responsible for starting the war and that they should be treated according to Wilson's 14 Points.

However, Germany would not be allowed to attend and was at the mercy of France, Britain and the USA.