- During the winter of 1918, five peace treaties were hammered out. St. Germain with Austria, Trianon with Hungary, Neuilly with Bulgaria, Sevres with Turkey, and Treaty of Versailles with Germany.

- Wilson’s Fourteen end to secret treaties and diplomacy freedom of the seas, in peace and war; removal of trade barriers; reduction in arms; adjustment of colonial problems; evacuation of occupied territory; self-determination of nationalities, redrawing boundaries along national lines; an international political organization to end wars.

- The Fourteen Points were thus the fruition of the major movements of the past century: democracy, liberalism, and nationalism. He believed the war should end with a new type of treaty, settled in an atmosphere of mutual confidence.

- However, the French demanded reparations, and the British insisted on their naval power. Germany, unrealistically, expected the Fourteen Points, with reparations. Some 27 nations met, but decisions were made by the Big Four: Wilson, George, Clemenceau, and Orlando. Wilson insisted on a League of Nations, with its Covenant made part of the treaty, but the final result was a compromise of idealism.

- 3 Provisions of the Treaty of Versailles:
  o The French were adamant about security: Germany must be weakened. Alsace and Lorraine were returned; Saar coal was to go to France for 15 years; the Rhineland was to be demilitarized and occupied.
  o Poland got all Polish or Polish-German territory, plus the “Polish Corridor.” Upper Silesia also went to Poland; Danzig was made an international city.
  o Austrians and Sudeten Germans desired annexation to Germany, but Allies didn’t want to make Germany bigger.
  o Germany was stripped of its colonies, given as “mandates” to the victors.
  o The German fleet was to be seized, but German crews scuttled most ships.
  o The German armed forces were to be cut drastically, and denied heavy artillery, submarines.
  o Immense reparations were demanded, with no set total and no consideration of how Germany might pay. As a first payment, Germany lost all of its merchant navy and all property of German citizens abroad. (The French later agreed to limited reparations if Great Britain and the US would guarantee its border with Germany in a separate treaty; the US, turning isolationist, refused.)
  o To justify the reparations, Germany was blamed for the war in Article 231. “War Guilt clause”

- The treaties were concluded in three months because the Russians were not invited, the Germans not allowed a hearing. But Wilson made concessions to preserve his League of Nations. The Germans refused to sign until threatened.

- The other treaties were also concluded relatively rapidly, creating a new Eastern Europe with the victors picking up territory. Seven new independent states appeared: Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. Romania and Greece were enlarged and the Ottoman Empire disappeared, replaced by Turkey and with Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq as mandates under the League of Nations. “Cushion against Bolshevism”

- The Significance - Self-determination, based on language, was clearly represented in the new Europe. But populations were thoroughly inter-mixed, and most of the new nations had minority problems.

- The treaty tried to defuse the German menace, but it was too severe to conciliate the German and too lenient to destroy their power. Moderation would have been wise, since the new German Republic was loaded with the guilt of Versailles.

- The division of the Allies eventually made German repudiation of the treaty easier, especially in light of the newly rising fear of “Bolshevism.” US isolationism after rejecting the Treaty of Versailles also hurt prospects for peace, especially angering the French. (French security threatened due to rejection of Anglo-French-American treaty by America).

- The Treaty was a blow to monarchy, a victory for democracy, but it offered no solution to problems of industrialism and nationalism and no guarantees for economic security and international stability.

- League of Nations was established in Geneva: U.S. never joined, Constitutional issues, Political issues, Western authority in the League did not reflect the true situation in the world, was seen as a tool to maintain French and British authority in the world.