Portraying other empires as unfit to rule over subject populations

Encouraging self-determination

- Belgium
- Armenia
- Serbia

Wilsonianism

- USA enters war in April 1917
- 14 points speech January 1918 ‘a prescription for peace that reflected Wilson’s idealistic view of a future without war and also served the interests of the United States’ Keene 518

14 points

Establishes the principle of self-determination. E.g. ‘The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nation we wish to see safeguarded and assured should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development’

Provides for the creation of a League of Nations

Lenin and self-determination

- Russian Revolution is the collapse of a diverse empire
- ‘Self-determination’ promised to nationalities of Russian Empire
- ‘Self-determination’ as a way to attack European imperialism
- Is the Soviet Union an ‘Empire of Nations’?

Dividing the spoils

- Nationalism and promises of self-determination are used to stir up opposition within enemy empires
- E.G. Britain in the Ottoman Empire

Shaping the post-war world: empires to nation states

Empires to nations

- The dominant image of the post war world amongst the victorious powers is of the replacement of ‘despotic’ empires by self-determined, democratic, independent nation states