The Versailles Conference

- Make the area west of the Rhine a puppet French state (buffer)
- To acquire the Saar region as financial compensation
- Wanted a firm alliance with UK and USA written into the peace agreements against further German aggression

Aims of Orlando and Italy
- Simply to achieve the territorial gains that had been promised to them in the Treaty of London
- Broader concepts such as self determination were not looked upon favorably
- Italy was insistent with these goals and walked out of the conference when its rights to the territories in question were denied

Japan
- Wanted recognition for its dominant position in China, as well as possession of the former German territories in China and the Pacific
- Not in sympathy with self determination
- Wished to acquire a larger empire – for reasons of security and economic strength
- Felt entitled to former German possessions
  - They had captured them
  - Reward for continuity with war
- Japan wished to take her [Germany’s] place as one of the major powers
- Sought recognition through a statement recognizing racial equality in the peace settlements

General Issues for Discussion:
- Treatment of Germany
  - The Austro-Hungarian empire
  - The ottoman empire
  - Russia
  - Non-European states

General Ideas for Change:
- Higher level of conduct
- Something better to emerge from the war
- Long term and idealistic
- Collective security

German Aims
- Asked for an armistice in October 1918 based on the terms of Woodrow Wilson’s 14 points and his speech in January 1918 – “peace without victory”
- Had not been defeated or invaded – could have expected some form of compromise peace where no one dominated
- Expected to attend peace negotiations