Impact of the Treaties Europe and Mandate System

- geo-political impacts were the creation of a number of new states in Central and Eastern Europe and the redrawing of the frontiers of Germany and France
- Economic impacts were the weakening of the German economy through territorial loss and reparations and the destruction of the free trade zone in eastern and central Europe which has existed before 1914
- Main impact of Versailles beyond Europe, in the colonies of the defeated powers, was the establishment of the mandate system; this was an attempt to make imperialism more progressive
- System did not work; ended up being a thinly disguised way to add territory to the empires of the victorious powers

The Impact of the First World War

- war caused death in mainly Europe and middle east
- soldiers on the western front died in millions in strategic stalemate
- war was far from the romanticized ideas of war that existed in 1914
- war destroyed the confidence and optimism of Europeans about their levels of education, and progress
- political landscape spectacularly altered with the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian, Russian, German and Ottoman empires
- monarchy was out, republicanism was in
- Europeans lost leadership of the world to the United States
- Hope for a better world came from Woodrow Wilson
- Bolshevik revolution in Russia challenged religion, property, family, democracy and individualism; threatened to spread and engulf Europe in a tide of revolutionary violence and anarchy
- Social structure of western society had been transformed
- Women received the vote; role in war guaranteed that they would continue to demand changes to social and economic structures that would satisfy their demands for equal treatment
- First mass media war in which governments unleashed masses of propaganda to raise the emotional commitment to the war