

2. Woodrow Wilson (USA)

Information on leader: 	○ Lawyer ○ President of Princeton University (1902-1910) ○ President of United States (1913-1921)
Main aims:	○ To achieve a fair & lasting peace (he was an idealist) ○ Wanted to end war by setting up a League of Nations (based on his 14 points of peace) ○ 6 key principles of Wilson's 14 points of peace: ● Setting up a League of Nations ● Disarmament ● Self-determination for the people in Europe ● Freedom for colonies ● Freedom of the seas ● Free trade ○ To identify the general causes of the conflict and then devise remedies ○ Wanted to ensure Germany wasn't destroyed/ punished too harshly ○ Thought that punishing them too harshly would only cause them to want revenge, thus creating another war in the future ○ Doesn't want Germany to be blamed for the war ○ He hated the War Guilt Clause
Reasons for these aims:	○ America was not badly affected by the war (unlike Britain & France) ○ Was not part of the war until April 1917 ○ No American territory invaded ○ Only few lives were lost (civilian fatalities were less than 800) ○ Woodrow Wilson believed that it was due to long term tension built up between the countries that caused the war ○ The war was not solely due to Germany ○ The war had provided profitable trading & business opportunities for American manufacturers, merchants & financiers ○ So it would be in their interests to ensure that Germany isn't punished too harshly
To what extent were his aims achieved in Versailles	<u>Satisfied with:</u> ○ Covenant of the League of Nations was to be included in all peace treaties ○ Disarmament of defeated powers ○ Rhineland was still a part of Germany ○ thus, Germany would still remain a major economic power & be able to do business with the US ○ Germany wasn't burdened with an overly high reparation figure in the Treaty ○ Recreation of an independent Poland & 2 entirely new successor states – Yugoslavia & Czechoslovakia <u>Not satisfied with:</u> ○ The principle of free navigation of the seas were abandoned (at the insistence of Britain) ○ Britain, France & Japan had rewarded themselves with Germany's former colonies even though they were officially mandated territories ○ There were exceptions to the implementation of national self-determination ○ i.e. Austria was not allowed to unite (Anschluss) with Germany & the Sudeten Germans were not consulted about their future ○ Wilson failed to persuade the necessary two-thirds of the American Congress to approve the treaties together with the League of Nations