

The Treaty of Versailles

CONTEXT: On June 28, 1919, the Allied powers presented the Treaty of Versailles to Germany for signature. The Treaty of Versailles marked the end of World War I, and was not favorable to Germany. The following are the most important territorial and political parts of the treaty.

DOCUMENT:

Article 45. To pay back for the destruction of the coal mines in the north of France and as part payment towards the total amount of money due from Germany for the damage resulting from the war, Germany gives to France the coal mines situated in the Saar Basin.

Article 119. Germany gives up in favor of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers all her rights and titles over her overseas possessions and colonies.

Article 159. The German military forces shall be demobilized and reduced as outlined in Article 160.

Article 160. By a date which must not be later than March 31, 1920, the German Army must not comprise more than seven divisions of infantry and three divisions of cavalry.

After that date the total number of soldiers in the Army of Germany must not exceed 100,000 men. The Army shall be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the country and to the control of the frontiers [not to foreign wars].

Article 231. The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments have suffered as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

Article 232. The Allied and Associated Governments recognize that Germany does not currently have enough resources to pay back the Allied nations, especially since this Treaty takes away some of those resources.

The Allied and Associated Governments, however, require, and Germany promises, that she will make compensation for all damage done to the