

What nation does the turkey symbolize?

What does the carving of the turkey symbolize?

Describe the cartoonist's attitude towards the Treaty of Versailles.

Name:

Date:

Count Brockdorff-Rantzau and the German Delegation Protests to the Versailles Peace Conference May 7, 1919

It Is demanded of us that we shall confess ourselves to be alone guilty of the war. Such a confession from my lips would be a lie. We are far from declining all responsibility for the fact that this great World War took place or that it was fought in the way that it was... But we energetically deny that Germany and its people, who were convinced that they fought a war of defense, were alone guilty. No one would want to assert that the disaster began only a that disastrous moment when the successor of Austria-Hungary fell a victim to murderous hands. In the last fifty years, the imperialism of all European states has chronically poisoned international relations. Policies of retaliation, policies of expansion, and disregard for the right of people to determine their own destiny (self-determination), have contributed to the European malady*, which came to a crisis in the World War. The mobilization of Russia deprived statesmen of the opportunity of curing the disease, and placed the issue in the hands of the military powers...

***malady—a problem or trouble; European malady = European problems or troubles.**

Count Brockdorff-Rantzau believes that Germany is not solely responsible for the World War. What type of war did he believe, and all other Germans believe they were fighting?

What event deprived the statesmen of the opportunity of curing the disease? What does Brockdorff-Rantzau believe this event led to?

During the peace conference at Versailles, Germany sent notes to the Allies asking for a lenient settlement. In June 1919, the allies provided a response to the Germans. The following is an adaptation of this message to Brockdorff-Rantzau and the German delegation.

In the view of the Allies, the war that began on August 1, 1914 was the greatest crime against humanity that any nation calling itself civilized has ever committed.

Germany's responsibility, however, is not confined to having planned and started the war. It is also responsible for the savage and inhumane manner in which it was conducted.

The conduct of Germany is almost unexampled in history. The terrible responsibility, which lies at its door, can be seen in the fact that no less than seven million dead lie buried in Europe.

Justice, therefore, is the only possible basis for settlement of this terrible war. Justice is what the German delegation asks for and what Germany has been promised. Justice is what Germany shall have. But it must be justice for all. There must be justice for the people who stagger under huge war debts so that liberty might be saved.

There must be justice for those millions whose homes and lands, ships and property German savagery destroyed.

Explain the Allies response to the German delegation asking for a lenient settlement. Why did the Allies deny the Germans a lenient settlement? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

The Treaty of Versailles: Article 231 – The War Guilt Clause. Main Ideas

Germany is solely responsible for the war and is to be held accountable for all damages incurred by the Allies.

Return the territory of Alsace–Lorraine to France.

Germany gives up All of its colonial possessions in Africa and Asia- they are given as mandates to the Allies.

Demilitarization of the Rhineland- Allied military occupation of this territory.

Germany must pay reparations to the Allies (33 billion dollars, about 2.7 trillion dollars today).

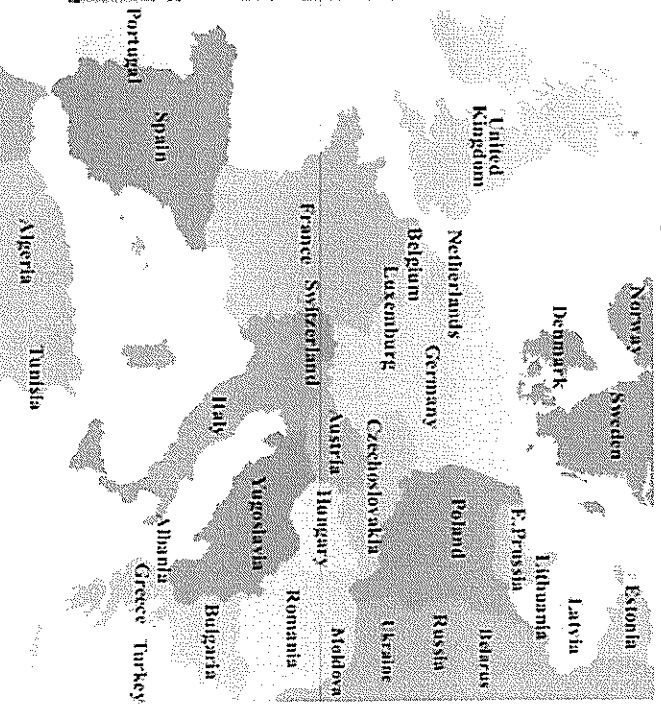
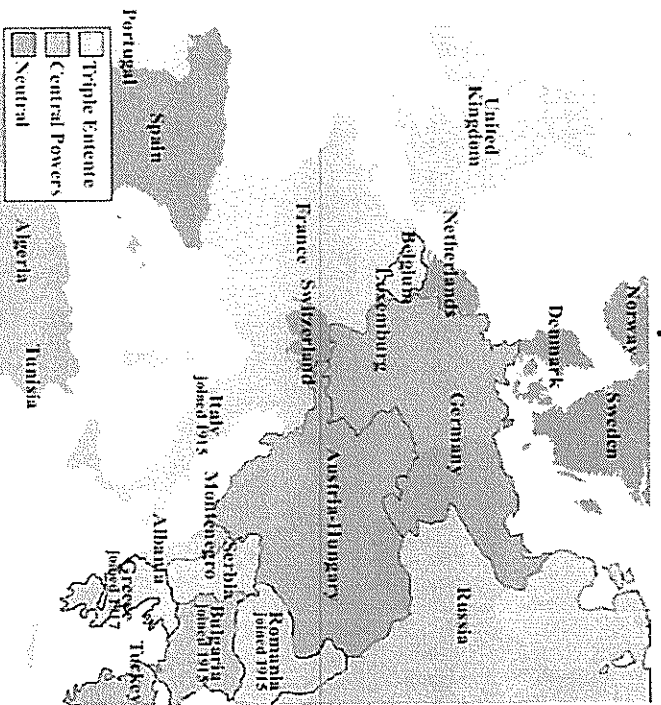
A ban on the union of Germany and Austria.

Provision for the trial of the former Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Limit the German Army to 100,000 men with no conscription (draft), no heavy artillery, no poisonous gas, and no aircraft, no airships. Limit the German Navy to vessels under 100,000 tons, with no submarines.

Creation of the international peacekeeping organization– The League of Nations.

Europe: Before and After the Treaty of Versailles



The Treaty of Versailles: Signed on June 28, 1919

Territorial Provisions

Military Restrictions on Germany

The Map of Europe is Redrawn

President Wilson's 14 Points

War Guilt Clause: Reparations