

# The Treaty of Versailles

## Main Terms of Agreement:

1. The surrender of all German overseas colonies as League of Nations mandates
2. The return of Alsace-Lorraine to France (territory that France lost in a war to Germany in 1871)
3. Cession of German land to the new nation of Czechoslovakia (created by this treaty)
4. Cession of parts of Germany to Poland—to recognize a complete and independent Poland
5. In compensation for destroying French coal mines during the war, Germany gives to France her coal mines in the Saar Basin area, free of charge
6. Demilitarization and a fifteen-year occupation of the Rhineland [river area that borders France]
7. German reparations of \$33 billion paid to France and Great Britain
8. Acknowledge and respect the independence of Austria
9. A ban on the union of Germany and Austria
10. An acceptance of Germany's guilt in causing the war—taking full and sole responsibility for the war and any damage caused by the war
11. Provision for the trial of the former Kaiser [king of Germany] and other war leaders
12. Limitation of Germany's army to 100,000 men with no conscription, no tanks, no heavy artillery, no poison-gas supplies, no aircraft and no airships—"The Army shall be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory"
13. The limitation of the German Navy to vessels under 100,000 tons, with no submarines
14. Creation of the League of Nations (It was the first international organization whose principal mission was to maintain world peace.)

Contrary to custom, the peace conference did not include the defeated Central Powers. Nor did it include Russia, which was now under the control of the Communist government.

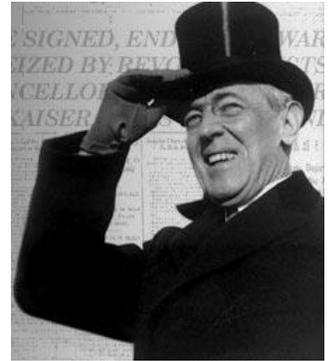
### Results:

Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles under protest. The United States Congress refused to ratify the treaty. Many people in France and Great Britain were angry that there was no trial of the Kaiser or other war leaders.



# President Wilson's 14 Points

## January 8, 1918



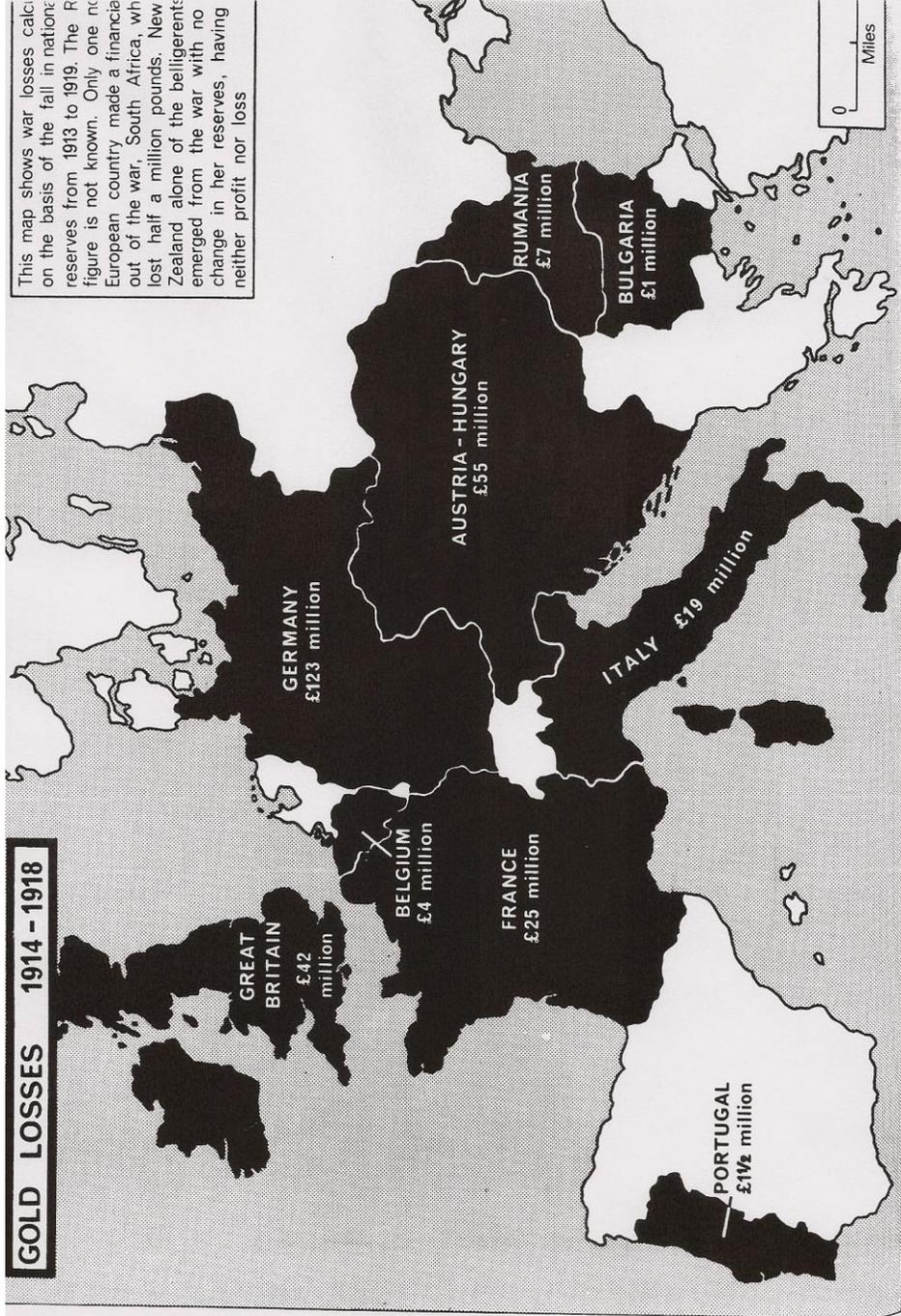
1. Abolition of secret diplomacy
2. Freedom to navigate the high seas in peace and war
3. Removal of economic barriers between nations
4. Reduction of armaments [weapons] and military to "the lowest point consistent with domestic safety" (to prevent another war)
5. Adjustment of colonial claims in the interest of both the inhabitants and the powers concerned [get rid of some of the colonies]
6. Restoration of Russia and a welcome for her in the society of nations [get rid of communism in Russia]
7. The return of Belgium to her people
8. Evacuation and restoration of French territory won by the Germans in a war in 1871 [such as Alsace-Lorraine]
9. Readjustment of Italian borders "along clearly recognizable lines of nationality"
10. Free opportunity for "autonomous development" for the peoples of Austria-Hungary [the people there would get to decide which nation they would be a part of]
11. Restoration of the Balkan nations [Serbia, Bosnia, Herzegovina] and free access to the sea for Serbia
12. Protection for minorities in Turkey
13. An independent Poland
14. "A general association of nations" to secure "mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike" (he wanted the League of Nations to be created)

Even before the war was over, Wilson presented his plan for peace. On January 8, 1918, he delivered his famous Fourteen Points speech to Congress. The first 5 points dealt with preventing another war. The next 8 points dealt with boundary changes. He based these provisions on the principle of self-determination "along historically established lines of nationality." In other words, groups that claimed distinct ethnic identities were to form their own nation-states or decide for themselves what nations they would belong to.

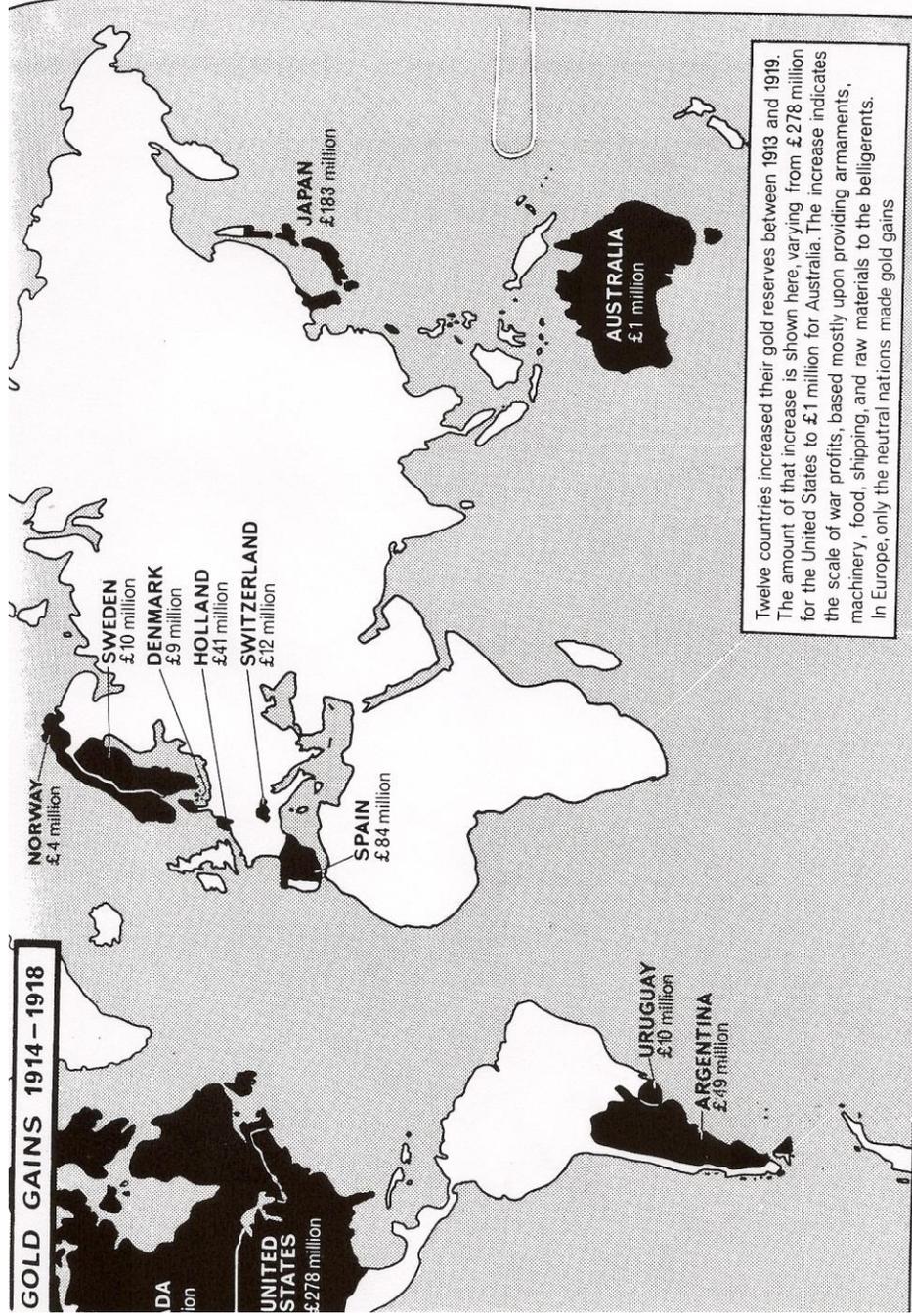
Rejection was probably the last thing Wilson expected when he arrived in Europe. Everywhere he went people gave him a hero's welcome. Wilson's naiveté about the political aspects of securing a peace treaty showed itself in his failure to grasp the anger felt by the Allied leaders.

### GOLD LOSSES 1914 - 1918

This map shows war losses calculated on the basis of the fall in national gold reserves from 1913 to 1919. The figure is not known for only one European country, made a financial loss of the war, South Africa, which lost half a million pounds. New Zealand alone of the belligerents emerged from the war with no change in her reserves, having neither profit nor loss.



### GOLD GAINS 1914 - 1918



Twelve countries increased their gold reserves between 1913 and 1919. The amount of that increase is shown here, varying from £278 million for the United States to £1 million for Australia. The increase indicates the scale of war profits, based mostly upon providing armaments, machinery, food, shipping, and raw materials to the belligerents. In Europe, only the neutral nations made gold gains.

# GERMAN LOSSES OVERSEAS 1919

- German territory transferred to the Allies after 1919. All German property overseas, whether Government or private, was confiscated by the Allies
- German commercial concessions, freely and openly negotiated before 1914, but declared null and void under the Versailles Treaty. In most of these areas both individual and official German property was also confiscated

