

Excerpts from and Chief Provisions of the Treaty of Versailles

Article 45: As compensation for the destruction of the coal mines in the north of France...Germany cedes to France...(the German) coal mines in the Saar Basin... [Germany must give the output from these mines to France for a period of 15 years]

Article 51: The provisions of the Treaties establishing the (French-German) frontiers before 1871 shall be restored. [The territory of Alsace-Lorraine shall be returned to France.]

Article 80: Germany acknowledges and will respect strictly the independence of Austria...

Article 81: Germany...recognizes the complete independence of the Czech-Slovak state...[The new state contains a mountainous area that formerly belonged to Austria-Hungary known as the Sudetenland containing a very large German speaking population. It was given to Czechoslovakia to provide a buffer against Germany]

Article 82: Germany...recognizes the complete independence of Poland, and renounces...all rights and titles over the territory (of Poland). [The boundaries of the Polish state contain a large section of Germany in order to give the new Polish state access to the sea]

Article 119: Germany renounces in favor of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers all her rights and titles over oversea possessions (ie. colonies)

Article 160: By March 31, 1920 the German Army...must not exceed one hundred thousand men...(These men must be volunteers - no draft was allowed)

Article 181: ...two months from the coming into force of the present Treaty, the German naval forces...must not exceed 6 battleships, 6 light cruisers, 12 destroyers, 12 torpedo boats...No submarines are to be included.

Article 198: The armed forces of Germany must not include any...air forces...

Article 231: ...Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

Article 232: The Allied and Associated Powers...require...that (Germany) will make compensation for all the damage done to the civilian property...by (German) aggression by land, sea, and from the air...(and) as a consequence of the violation of (Belgian neutrality), (Germany must) make reimbursement of all sums which Belgium has borrowed from the Allied and Associated Governments...together with interest...[This includes ships that Germany must produce for five years and give as gifts to Britain and France]

Article 428: As a guarantee for the execution of the present Treaty by Germany, the German territory situated to the west of the Rhine (river)...will be occupied by Allied and Associated troops for a period of fifteen years...[After fifteen years the area was to remain a neutral demilitarized zone]

Additional Provisions:

1. Germany was forced to pay war reparations to the Allies (exact figure set in 1921 at \$33 billion)
2. German factories were forbidden to produce war materials
3. Most of German navy was handed over to Allied countries to replace Allied ships lost in the war
4. New nations of Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, and Yugoslavia created out of former Austrian-Hungarian Empire
5. New nations of Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia created out land won by Germany from Russia.
6. League of Nations established. A world body to promote peace in the world and prevent future wars. Germany and the Soviet Union are denied membership. League has no real power. It can only recommend action.