

Unit One: Exercise Five B: Evidence Question The Treaty of Versailles

Name _____ Block _____ Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Use **Documents 1 to 8** to answer the following questions. You should make careful note of not only what the document says but also who said it and when.

Document 1

We have no jealousy of German greatness, and there is nothing in this program that impairs it. We grudge her no achievement or distinction of learning or of pacific enterprise such as have made her record very bright and very enviable. We do not wish to injure her or block in any way her legitimate influence or power. We do not wish to fight her either with arms or with hostile arrangements of trade if she is willing to associate herself with us and the other peace-loving nations of the world in covenants of justice and law and fair dealing. We wish her only to accept a place of equality among the peoples of the world...instead of a place of mastery.

Neither do we presume to suggest to her any alteration or modification of her institutions.

Woodrow Wilson, "**The Fourteen Points Address**", to the United States House of Congress, 8 January 1918.

Document 2

The Allied and Associated Powers believe that they will be false to those who have given their all to save the freedom of the world if they consent to treat this war on any other basis than as a crime against humanity.

...

Justice is what the German Delegation asks for and says that Germany has been promised. Justice is what Germany shall have. But it must be justice for all.

...

That is why the Allied and Associated Powers have insisted as a cardinal feature of the Treaty that Germany must undertake to make reparation to the very uttermost of her power; for reparation for wrongs inflicted is of the essence of justice.

...

That, too, is why Germany must submit for a few years to certain special disabilities and arrangements.... It is only justice that restitution should be made and that these wronged peoples should be safeguarded for a time from the competition of a nation whose industries are intact and have even been fortified by machinery stolen from occupied territories.

Georges Clemenceau, **Speech at the Paris Peace Conference**, 16 June 1919.

Unit One: Exercise Five B: Evidence Question The Treaty of Versailles

Name _____ Block _____ Date _____

Document 3

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 and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

Article 231, "**The Treaty of Versailles**", 28 June 1919.

Document 4

The terms are in many respects terrible terms to impose upon a country. Terrible were the deeds which it requites.... Germany not merely provoked, but planned the most devastating war the earth has ever seen.... She deliberately embarked upon it, not to defend herself against assailants, but to aggrandise herself at the expense of her neighbours. I cannot think of a worse crime.

[The aim of the Treaty is] to compel Germany, in so far as it is in her power, to restore, to repair and to redress. Yes, and to take every possible precaution of every kind that is in our power against the recurrence of another such crime – to make such an example as will discourage ambitious peoples from ever attempting to repeat the infamy.

David Lloyd George, **Speech to Parliament**, 3 July 1919.

Document 5

Do not think of this treaty of peace as merely a settlement with Germany. It is that. It is a very severe settlement... but there is not anything that she did not earn. Indeed, she earned more than she can ever be able to pay for, and the punishment exacted of her is not a punishment greater than she can bear, and it is absolutely necessary in order that no other nation may ever plot such a thing against humanity and civilisation.

Woodrow Wilson, **Speech at the League of Nations**, 25 September 1919.

Unit One: Exercise Five B: Evidence Question The Treaty of Versailles

Name _____ Block _____ Date _____

Document 6

The policy of reducing Germany to servitude for a generation, of degrading the lives of millions of human beings, and of depriving a whole nation of happiness, should be abhorrent and detestable.... Nations are not authorised, by religion or by natural morals, to visit on the children of their enemies the misdoings of parents or of rulers....

The Treaty includes no provisions for the economic rehabilitation of Europe – nothing to make the defeated Central Empires into good neighbours.... The Council of Four paid no attention to [this] issue, being preoccupied with others – Clemenceau to crush the economic life of his enemy, Lloyd George to bring home something that would pass muster for a week, the President to do nothing that was not just and right....

J. M. Keynes (Economist and high ranking official in the British delegation of the Paris Peace Conferences), *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*, New York: Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich, 1920.

Document 7

One of the few safe comments to make about the Treaty of Versailles is that *nobody* ever loved it. The Germans denounced it as a fraud and a cheat which barely had a nodding acquaintance with the 14 Points. The French cursed the treaty because they had been led to exchange solid advantages – particularly German territory – for the British and US security guarantees – guarantees which then fell through when the US did not ratify the treaty. By the 1920s most Britons deplored the Treaty as well, both for being unfair to Germany and for being so harsh economically that it kept the economy of Europe from fully recovering from the War.

The US, of course, rejected the Treaty massively. US citizens saw it as a document which – particularly through the League of Nations, whose Charter was written into the Treaty – tried to embroil them in the corrupt politics and quarrels of old Europe – which the USA had supposedly been designed as an escape from!

Donald G. Wileman, PhD, "The Peace of Paris – 1919", Lecture found at:
<http://www.yorku.ca/dwileman/1010Par.htm>

Document 8

Country	Total Casualties	Casualties % of Mobilized
United States	364,800	8.2
Italy	2,197,000	39.1
British Empire	3,190,235	35.8
France	6,160,800	76.3
Germany	7,142,558	64.9

Adapted from John Simkin, "**Casualties: First World War**", Spartacus Educational, www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/FWWdeaths.htm

Unit One: Exercise Five B: Evidence Question The Treaty of Versailles

Name _____ Block _____ Date _____

1. Is Document 6 a primary or secondary source? Explain your answer.

2. Assess the reliability of Document 1 as a source of historical evidence for the principles which eventually guided the delegates in creating the final version of the Treaty of Versailles.

3. How is Keynes' opinion of the Treaty of Versailles in Document 6 corroborated by Clemenceau's plans for the Treaty in Document 2 ?

Unit One: Exercise Five B: Evidence Question The Treaty of Versailles

Name _____ Block _____ Date _____

4. Explain how Wilson's approach to the treatment of Germany differs in Document 1 from that in Document 5.

5. Explain how Lloyd George's aims for the Treaty in Document 4 are contradicted by the subsequent opinion of "most Britons" as presented in Document 7.

6. How does Document 8 corroborate Clemenceau's demand for "reparation to the very uttermost of [German] power" in Document 2?

7. Briefly discuss how the data provided in Document 8 would have impacted the different countries' attitudes about a peace settlement.
