

CHAPTER
11

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: REGION

A New Look for Europe

Section 4

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the maps carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

In 1919, a peace conference to formally end World War I was held at the Palace of Versailles near Paris. President Wilson, heading the U.S. delegation, had a plan called the Fourteen Points that he hoped would restore stability to Europe.

Of Wilson's points, eight dealt with boundary changes intended to allow European ethnic groups to decide their national identities. Another point called for the formation of a League of Nations to oversee world peace.

However, Wilson's idealism collided with hatred and fear. The French premiere had lived through two German invasions of his country, and he was determined to prevent that from happening again. The British prime minister had just won reelection

with the slogan "Make Germany Pay." Also, contrary to custom, the conference did not include officials of the defeated countries, and Russia and the smaller Allied nations were excluded.

The Treaty of Versailles created nine new nations and changed the boundaries of others. (Shortly thereafter, in 1922–1923, the Soviet Union and Turkey came into being.) But the treaty failed to establish a lasting peace. The U.S. Senate even refused to sign the treaty because of fears that membership in the League would drag the United States into future European squabbles. Many historians blame the flawed treaty for encouraging the conflicts and resentments that surfaced in the 1930s and led to World War II.



Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. What nine new nations were created by the Treaty of Versailles? _____

2. Which countries and empires shown on the prewar map do not appear on the postwar map?

3. Which prewar countries gained territory from the treaty? _____

4. Out of what nations' lands was Yugoslavia created? _____

5. To what new and already existing countries did Russia lose land? _____

6. Detail what became of the empire of Austria-Hungary after World War I. _____

7. What may have been the reason that Germany was divided into two separate parts along the Baltic Sea coast after World War I? _____
