

# UNIT 7

## 20th & 21st Century Events

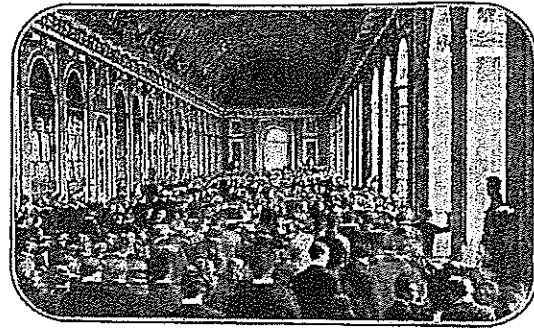
# CHAPTER 16 EUROPE

Correlates with SS6H3a-b

## THE WORLD AFTER WWI

### Destruction upon Destruction

World War I had a profound effect on world history. Europe suffered terrible destruction. Nearly 22 million soldiers and civilians died! The results of this conflict ultimately led to economic crises, radical changes in government, and a decline in the power of many European countries. The world would never be the same!



Signing of the Treaty of Versailles

### The Treaty of Versailles

The treaty that ended World War I was known as the **Treaty of Versailles**. Signed in Versailles, France, in 1919, it forced Germany to accept full responsibility for the war.

Germany was required to:

- ➔ **Give up 1 million square miles of land.** Some of the land had been seized by Germany prior to the war. Much of the land that was lost was rich in natural resources that could have been used to generate income.
- ➔ **Pay reparations** to other countries for the losses and damages they suffered. This was difficult because Germany had to rebuild its own economy and country, too!
- ➔ **Limit the size of its armed forces** and stop production of nearly all war materials. It was also prohibited from uniting with Austria.

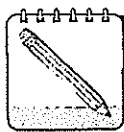


### Vocabulary

**reparations:** payment by a government to a group of people for loss or damage

Germans greatly resented the requirements put on it by the Treaty of Versailles. They began to rise up in protest as economic conditions worsened. Because of this anger, Germany became isolated from and distrusted by other countries.

The Treaty of Versailles also created the **League of Nations**. This was a group of countries that vowed to work together to ensure that a world war would never occur again. The United States Senate did not ratify the Treaty of Versailles, so America never became a member of the League of Nations. The League turned out to be weak because it had no enforcement powers.



### Comprehensive Cross-Check

L6-8RH2;  
L6-8WHST4

Answer the questions.

1. The Treaty of Versailles of 1919 ended which war? \_\_\_\_\_

2. List three restrictions that the Treaty of Versailles put on Germany.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did these restrictions impact Germans?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Worldwide Depression

The world economy slumped into a **worldwide economic depression** after World War I. The European economies were in desperate shape. European countries had suffered great losses of life and property damage. They had borrowed money to pay for war costs and now had no money to repay the debts. Industry, shipping, and trade between countries were all affected.

European economies experienced **inflation**, a situation when prices rise, money loses purchasing power, and people know they will not be able to buy as much with a dollar tomorrow as they could buy with it today.



### Vocabulary

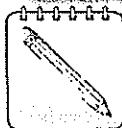
**economic depression:** a time when business is extremely bad and many people lose their jobs



### Fascinating Fact

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The worldwide economic depression affected the United States, too. The United States suffered from the Great Depression beginning in October 1929 and lasting into the 1930s. It was the longest period of high unemployment and low economic activity in the country's modern times. By 1932, one in four Americans did not have a job!



### Cause and Effect

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L6-8RH5

List four reasons for the worldwide economic depression after World War I.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

