Peace With Consequences

Tracing the aims and outcomes of the Treaty of Versailles

9-12.US2.8 "Analyze the goals and effects of the Treaty of Versailles."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the negotiators' goals, circle treaty terms meant to serve those goals, and put a box around later effects. Use your marks to trace where the treaty met its goals and where it fell short.

A Peace That Changed Europe

1. At the 1919 peace conference in Paris, leaders faced a hard question: how could they prevent another world war? U.S. president Woodrow Wilson wanted a League of Nations where countries could settle disputes together. He also supported national self-determination, the idea that peoples should have a voice in their government. French leaders, whose country had suffered invasion and enormous destruction, sought protection from a future German attack and compensation for damage. Britain wanted Germany weakened enough to preserve peace, but not so ruined that European trade collapsed. Germany was not allowed to negotiate the final terms, a choice that made compromise harder.

2. The Treaty of Versailles tried to turn those aims into rules. It created the League of Nations, but it also forced Germany to accept responsibility for losses caused by the war and pay reparations, with the total set later. Germany's army was limited to 100,000 soldiers, and it could not station troops in the Rhineland, a region beside France. Germany returned Alsace-Lorraine to France and lost its overseas colonies. These terms aimed to protect France and reduce Germany's power. Yet colonial territories were placed under other countries' control as mandates, rather than given full independence.

3. The effects did not match every goal. France gained a buffer when the Rhineland had no German troops, but many Germans saw the military limits and reparations as humiliation. Reparations and other pressures strained Germany's economy, although they were not the only cause of later economic crises. The U.S. Senate refused to approve the treaty, so the United States never joined the League, weakening Wilson's plan for collective action. Colonized peoples saw that self-determination was applied unevenly. In the 1930s, Nazi leaders used anger over the treaty to build support for aggressive policies, helping bring another war.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the army and Rhineland rules serve France's goal? What reaction to such limits does the passage describe?

2. How did the League of Nations serve Wilson's goal, and how did the U.S. Senate's decision weaken that plan?

3. How did the treatment of Germany's colonies fall short of Wilson's goal of self-determination?

4. How did reparations address a goal of the peace conference while also creating a later risk?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Propose one peace term for 1919 that is different from the terms in the passage. In 4 to 5 sentences, explain whose goal it serves, predict one helpful effect and one possible unintended effect, and support both predictions with evidence from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Peace With Consequences

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.US2.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the negotiators' goals, circle treaty terms meant to serve those goals, and put a box around later effects. Use your marks to trace where the treaty met its goals and where it fell short. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the army and Rhineland rules serve France's goal? What reaction to such limits does the passage describe?	**The rules reduced Germany's ability to attack France and kept German troops away from the French border. Many Germans viewed the military limits as humiliating.**
2	How did the League of Nations serve Wilson's goal, and how did the U.S. Senate's decision weaken that plan?	**Wilson wanted countries to settle disputes together through the League. The Senate's refusal to approve the treaty kept the United States out, weakening that plan.**
3	How did the treatment of Germany's colonies fall short of Wilson's goal of self-determination?	**Rather than gain full independence, the colonies were placed under other countries' control as mandates.**
4	How did reparations address a goal of the peace conference while also creating a later risk?	**Reparations addressed France's desire for compensation, but they strained Germany's economy and contributed to resentment that Nazi leaders later used to gain support.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would create a French-German border council that investigates troop movements and reports its findings to both countries. This might help France feel safer because French leaders feared another German invasion. Giving Germany a voice on the council could also ease resentment, since Germany was not allowed to negotiate the treaty. Yet France might see the council as too weak to protect it after the enormous destruction it suffered during the war.

Accept other historically plausible links between a stated goal, a treaty term, and an effect supported by the passage. For Your Turn, the proposed term must differ from those described, and both predicted effects must be tied to passage evidence.