Peace, Then Disputes

Trace how the postwar settlement affected Germany and nationalist movements.

MWH.C.6.2.C "Examine the immediate consequences of the Treaty of Versailles, including the "war guilt" clause, the establishment of European mandates and the effects of the mandate system on Zionism and other regional nationalist movements."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two consequences of Article 231, circle two statements about European control of mandates, and number two different effects of mandates on nationalist movements. Use your marks to trace how the peace settlement created new disputes.

Who Would Pay? Who Would Govern?

1. In 1919, delegates gathered in Paris to decide what peace would look like after World War I. Germany did not help write the Treaty of Versailles. Article 231, often called the "war guilt" clause, required Germany to accept responsibility for losses and damage caused by the war as a basis for reparations. The treaty also limited Germany's military and took away territory. Many Germans saw the clause as humiliating, while some Allied leaders saw it as necessary for obtaining payment. Arguments over blame and costs troubled the peace almost as soon as it began.

2. The peace settlement also redrew control of lands once ruled by the Ottoman Empire. The League of Nations mandate system put these territories under the administration of European powers, which were supposed to prepare their peoples for self-government. Britain received mandates for Palestine and Iraq, while France received mandates for Syria and Lebanon. These assignments were made through postwar decisions under the League system, not through Article 231. People living in the territories had little say in the assignments. For many Arab nationalists, a promise of future independence felt hollow when European officials still held power.

3. Palestine showed how mandates could support one nationalist goal while frustrating another. The Palestine mandate included Britain's commitment to help establish a Jewish national home, a goal of the Zionist movement. It also called for protecting the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities. Jewish immigration increased under British rule, although it did not begin then. Many Palestinian Arabs wanted self-government and opposed British policies they believed threatened their political future. In Syria, Arab nationalists also rejected French rule and demanded independence. Instead of ending disputes over who should govern, the mandate system sharpened some of them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Article 231 affect Germany's obligation to pay, and how did many Germans react to the clause?

2. How did the assignment of mandates conflict with the mandate system's stated goal?

3. How did the Palestine mandate advance a Zionist goal while raising concerns among Palestinian Arabs?

4. What common consequence of European mandates can you infer from the responses of Arab nationalists in Palestine and Syria?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a journalist in the late 1920s. Write a five- or six-sentence report explaining how one German response and two different nationalist responses show that the peace settlement created new disputes. Use at least three specific details from the passage, and distinguish the Treaty of Versailles from the mandate system.

ANSWER KEY

Peace, Then Disputes

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.6.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two consequences of Article 231, circle two statements about European control of mandates, and number two different effects of mandates on nationalist movements. Use your marks to trace how the peace settlement created new disputes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Article 231 affect Germany's obligation to pay, and how did many Germans react to the clause?	**It made Germany accept responsibility for wartime losses and damage as a basis for reparations. Many Germans saw the clause as humiliating.**
2	How did the assignment of mandates conflict with the mandate system's stated goal?	**The system promised to prepare people for self-government, but European powers received control of the territories while residents had little say.**
3	How did the Palestine mandate advance a Zionist goal while raising concerns among Palestinian Arabs?	**It included Britain's commitment to help establish a Jewish national home. Many Palestinian Arabs wanted self-government and feared that British policies threatened their political future.**
4	What common consequence of European mandates can you infer from the responses of Arab nationalists in Palestine and Syria?	**In both places, European rule intensified demands for self-government or independence and disputes over who would govern.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The peace settlement has not ended arguments over who should pay or govern. In Germany, Article 231 of the Treaty of Versailles tied responsibility for wartime damage to reparations, and many Germans found the clause humiliating. Under the separate League of Nations mandate system, Britain administers Palestine, where its commitment to a Jewish national home supports Zionist aims. Many Palestinian Arabs, however, seek self-government and object to British policies they believe threaten their political future. In Syria, Arab nationalists demand independence from French rule, showing that mandates can intensify struggles over control rather than settle them.

Accept reports that use different accurate details, provided they explain a German response and two distinct nationalist responses. Students should not attribute the mandates to Article 231.