

**WWI:
Conscription/
The End of the
War/The
Treaty of
Versailles**

**Conscription Crisis
(Background)**


- Canadians expected WWI to be over quickly, many thought by the end of 1914
- War dragged on, casualty numbers increased
- Fewer volunteers enlisting in the military
- By 1917, PM Borden decided conscription in Canada was necessary
 - Conscription= Mandatory Military Service
 - Borden had previously promised no conscription
 - Introduced the **Military Service Act** (exceptions at first –conscientious objectors, farmers, etc.)

Opposition to Conscription

- Quebec
 - Lowest voluntary enlistment rate in Canada (surprise surprise)
 - Few officers spoke French
 - Most French soldiers put in English regiments (Exception: Twenty-Second Battalion (Van Doos))
 - Many FC still angry over restriction of French in schools
 - Most FC did not feel connected to Britain or France
 - Conscription forces them to fight in someone else's war

Henri Bourassa

- movement in Quebec
 - little to do with Canada
 - Too many soldiers and money spent ahead, more would endanger Canada's economic future and decrease the country's autonomy
 - Canadians should not be forced to fight in a foreign war



Opposition to Conscription

- Prairies
 - Farmers needed sons and workers to work on their farms
- Factories
 - Industrial workers felt they were already contributing to the war effort, didn't want to give up jobs
- British Columbia
 - Vancouver Island coal miners already struggling to provide for family, conscription meant less money
 - Labour leader Ginger Goodwin hid, eventually killed

1917 "Khaki" Election

- Khaki= colour of many military uniforms
- PM Borden calls an election to check for support of conscription
- Passes new legislation first
 - Military Voters Act – men and women serving in Europe can vote
 - Wartime Elections Act – all Canadian women related to soldiers allowed to vote; conscientious objectors and recent immigrants from enemy countries not allowed to vote

1917 "Khaki" Election



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1917 "Khaki" Election

- PM Borden (Conservative) invited pro-conscription Liberals to join him and his Cabinet in a Union Government
 - Liberal Part Leader Wilfrid Laurier against conscription, unless Canada directly attacked or invaded
- Union Government won, but country divided
 - Liberals won 95% of Quebec seats (result on p. 51)
 - Union Government won 88% of seats outside of Quebec
 - Anti-conscription riots in Quebec City, Easter 1918
 - Four demonstrators dead, ten soldiers wounded

Anti-Conscription Riots



Results of Conscription

-
-
- (medical etc.)
- 125,000 eventually were enlisted
- 25,000 reached France before the war ended

The Beginning of the End

- Two major developments occur in Spring 1917 that begin to wind the war down
 - Revolution (March)
 - US entry on the Western Front

Events of 1917

- United States
 - Sinking of *Lusitania* and other ships by German U-boats eventually convinces Americans to enter WWI (April 1917)
 - Germany supports Mexico
 - American troops slow to arrive in Europe, but by mid-1918 over 1 million in France with 10,000 arriving each day

Events of 1917

- Russian Revolution
 - In November, Czar Nicholas II and government overthrown by Bolsheviks (communists/socialists led by Vladimir Lenin)
 - New Government signs treaty with Germany, ends Russia's participation in WWI, allows Germany to focus on Western Front


Germany's Last Push West

- The Eastern Front is gone, but the Western Front is stronger than ever
- Germans push west, get to 75km from Paris
 - Ypres, the Somme, Passchendaele taken
 - Exhausted no supplies, no replacements
- German offensive to beat American arrival almost works
- Allies rally from the brink and surge forward (Hundred Days)
- Central Powers fall by November (Italy switches sides in 1916)

Hundred Days Campaign


- Starting August 1918, series of Allied attacks to push Germans back
- Canadian troops played large role
 - Successfully broke through Hindenburg Line, a series of German defences in France
 - General Arthur Currie considered it Canada's greatest achievement in WWI

Hundred Day Campaign



Collapse of the Central Powers

- October 1918 – Austro-Hungarian Empire splits up; separate states negotiate peace with Allies
- November 1918 –revolution in Germany; Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates; republic declared

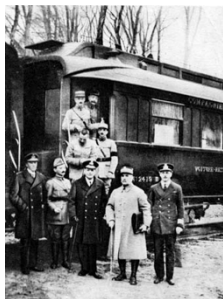


1917-8 Political Changes

- Russia: Muscovite Czar Nicholas (Monarch) → (Socialist)
- Germany: Prussian Kaiser Wilhelm (Monarch) → Weimar Republic
- Austria-Hungary: Hapsburg Charles I/IV (Monarch) → Austrian Republic/Hungarian Democratic Republic

Armistice

- Armistice – November 11, 1918
 - “armistice” = truce
 - Signed in railcar in France
 - Between Allies and Germany
 - In effect 11:00AM, Nov. 11 1918



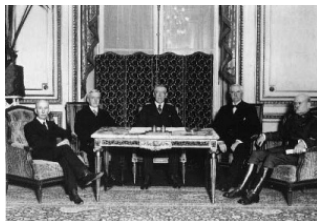
Armistice



Armistice



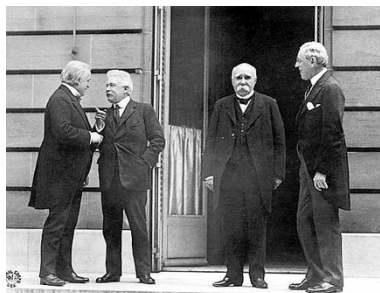
Participants in WWI met for the "Paris Peace Conference" of 1919



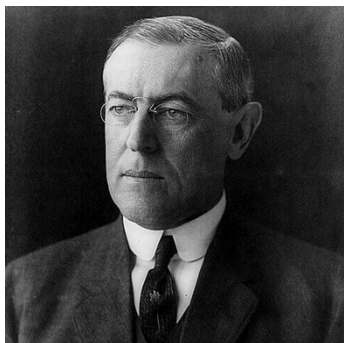
Peace Process

- Paris Peace Conference
 - January 1919
 - Allies to discuss terms of peace agreement
 - PM Borden demands separate seat at conference, rather than Britain representing Canada
 - Also signed Treaty separately
 - Talks dominated by Britain, France, USA, but Canada made its presence felt
 - Result was the Treaty of Versailles

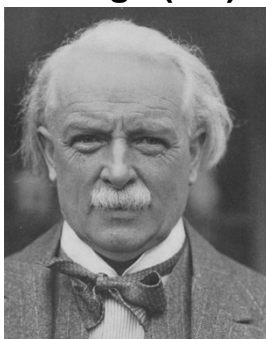
However, the Conference was dominated by "The Big Three"



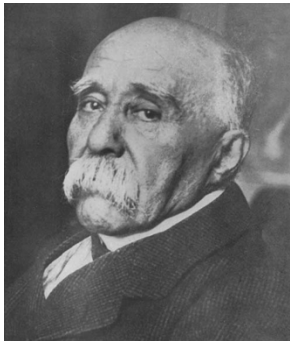
Woodrow Wilson (USA)



Lloyd George (UK)



**Georges Clemenceau
(France)**



the "Tiger"

And there were two notable absences...

Russia was not allowed to attend

Neither was Germany or its allies, even though the negotiations concerned their countries

The goal? Design an international system that would make another war unlikely...



Secondary Goal: Help Repair France



Wilson's "14 Points For Peace"

- plan for enduring peace
- Basis of German surrender
- Included post-war plans to divide Europe and establish free trade



Wilson, an "idealist" argued that punishing Germany would make Germans feel bitter, which may cause them to seek revenge...

Georges Clemenceau, a “realist” of France, wanted Germany to PAY!



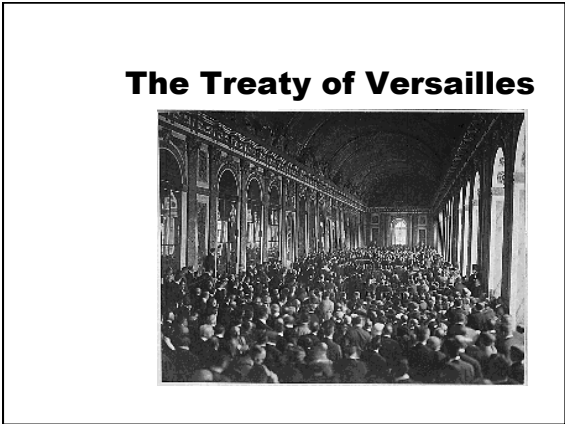
Lloyd George of Britain, believed Germany should pay, but really wanted to maintain control of the seas...



So they “compromised”

Only 4 of Wilson’s original 14 Points would be included in the Treaty of Versailles...

Most notably the establishment of a “League of Nations”, an international council to maintain world peace



The War Guilt Clause

- * Germany is solely responsible for causing the War
- * Reparation payments of 269B Marks (German currency) = \$30 billion (= \$300 billion today)
 Couldn't pay (surprise)
- * Germany loses land to France and Poland, among others (split in two)
- Strict military restrictions
- * Forfeit of all overseas colonies and return of Saar, Alsace and Lorraine to France, Polish corridor
- *Germany and Austria could not ally

German military restrictions

Army = 100 000 men
Navy = 15 000 men, no subs, 6 warships
No Air Force (Luftwaffe)
Absolutely no installations (military or industrial) in the Rhineland

**New nations were formed...
“self determination”**



**Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia,
Poland...**

**The League of Nations was
formed**



**Canada became a member of this
organization that would be the
pre-cursor to the United Nations.**

League of Nations

- Similar to today's United Nations
- Collective Security = one country is attacked, others help defend it
- Britain and France not enthused about League
 - Wanted to remain imperialistic
 - League popular with the public
- Canada an independent member of the League
- Limitations
 - Required co-operation (not a good track record)
 - No military force, only economic sanctions (trade)
 - Even though it was Wilson's idea (U.S.)

Ironically, the USA did not join the League.



THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.

League of Nations Membership



- Founding member that stayed until the end
- Founding member that left and joined
- Founding member that left
- Joined later and stayed until the end
- Joined later and left later
- League of Nations mandate
- Never members
- Colonies of members
- Colonies of members that left
- Colonies/territories of non-members




Aftermath of WWI

- 16 million dead worldwide
 - 10 million soldiers, 6 million civilians
 - 21 million wounded
- 66,000 Canadians dead, 170,000 wounded
- Veterans in Canada
 - No steady pensions or special medical services
 - Few jobs available
 - Many business owners had become very rich
 - Worse for Aboriginal veterans despite service

Spanish Influence

- Spanish Influenza
 - Spread by soldiers returning home
 - 21 million dead worldwide
 - Including 55,000 Canadians
 - Many small Aboriginal communities almost wiped out
 - Schools and public spaces closed for months
 - Some places required people to wear breathing masks in public

Spanish Influenza



Spanish Influenza



**Effect of WWI on
Canada**

- National Identity
- Economy
- Women's Rights
- Canadian Autonomy
- Internation Status
- French-English Relations
- Racial Discrimination
- Thousands Dead and Wounded
