

## THE VERSAILLES TREATY

*Below are excerpts (in quotation marks) from the draft of the Versailles Treaty presented to officials of the Weimar Republic by the Allies on May 7, 1919. The treaty was signed on June 28, 1919.*

Articles 27-41: The western boundaries of Germany are redefined.

Article 42: "Germany is forbidden to maintain or construct any fortifications on the left bank of the Rhine or on the right bank to the west of a line drawn fifty kilometers to the East of the Rhine."

Article 45: "As compensation for the destruction of the coal mines in the north of France and as partial payment towards the total reparation [war damages] due from Germany.... Germany cedes to France ... the coal mines situated in the Saar Basin." After fifteen years, the inhabitants of this region may vote to return to German control.

Article 51: "The territories [Alsace and Lorraine] which were ceded to Germany [at the end of the Franco Prussian War of 1870] ... are restored to French sovereignty."

Article 80: "Germany acknowledges and will respect strictly the independence of Austria .... This independence shall be inalienable."

Article 81: "Germany ... recognizes the complete independence of the Czecho-Slovak State."

Article 87: "Germany .. recognizes the complete independence of Poland." Poland's boundaries are to include large sections of what was eastern Germany.

Article 116: "Germany acknowledges and agrees to respect as permanent and inalienable the independence of all the territories which were part of the former Russian Empire.... Germany accepts definitely the abrogation [cancellation] of the Brest-Litovsk Treaties."

Article 119: "Germany renounces in favour of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers all her rights and titles over her overseas possessions."

Article 160: "The German Army [by March 31, 1920] ... must not exceed 100,000 men, including officers ... [and] shall be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory and to the control of the frontiers."

Article 181: "The German naval forces in commission must not exceed: six battleships, six light cruisers, twelve destroyers, twelve torpedo boats.... No submarines are to be included." All other warships are to be surrendered to the Allies.

Article 198: "The armed forces of Germany must not include any military or naval air forces."

Article 231: "Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies."

Article 232: "[Germany] will make compensation for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property." A commission will be established to determine the amount of reparations [war damages] Germany must pay.

Article 428: "As a guarantee for the execution of the present Treaty by Germany, the German territory situated to the west of the Rhine, together with the bridgeheads, will be occupied by Allied and Associated troops for a period of fifteen years."