

Versailles Mapping Activity

The Setting: You are representing a country at the Paris Peace Conference held by France, Britain, Italy, and the United States from January to June 1919. Your task is to secure your country's interests while trying to create a peaceful postwar world.

Your Assignment: Employing your country's Background Briefing, a copy of Wilson's Fourteen Points, and the maps of Europe, decide upon the postwar boundaries of Europe. Your group should try to balance your country's interests with the terms stipulated in the Fourteen Points and mesh them where possible. Consider the questions below as a group before beginning. Then, using your answers to those questions, draw the borders of the postwar world that you desire. Each group will present its map to the remaining Big Four members. Your group will need to justify its claims to the other members and point to earlier treaties or to the clauses of the Fourteen Points that substantiate your claims and the borders you draw.

Questions to Consider:

1. What historical precedents and events does your country believe justify your current views about postwar Europe?
2. What role does security play in your country's position? Give specific examples.
3. What territorial acquisitions or changes does your country advocate in the postwar world?
4. What are the biggest economic issues that your country faces in the postwar world?
5. What position does your group favor concerning the new Bolshevik government in Russia and its involvement in the conference?
6. The concept of self-rule has been put forth in President Wilson's Fourteen Points Peace Plan as a main goal of the postwar world. What is your country's perception of this idea and what are the strongest reasons for it? What are the strongest arguments against it?
7. What cultural, nationalist, or linguistic concerns does your group have about the future of Europe?
8. What are your country's strongest values?