

Options in Brief

Option 1 — Progressive Internationalists: Support the Treaty as it Stands

The Great War has taught us that reliance on isolationism and a unilateral foreign policy is no longer feasible. Because of these changes and the fact that our old buffers of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans can no longer shield us from the rest of the world, we must accept the mantle of leadership that has been thrust upon us. The League of Nations will insure the peace by providing economic, legal, and security organizations to address global problems. This “general assembly of states” will offer a place for nations to come together and discuss issues and complaints with other members in order to solve problems before conflict occurs. The League is essential to the peace of the world, and we must support it.

Option 2 — Reservationists: Make Changes to the Treaty

The Great War demonstrated that the world is a dangerous place where nations base their actions solely on their own interests. The terms of the Versailles Treaty do not guarantee that international relations have changed. Accusations that we are isolationist are completely false. We support America playing an active role in the new world order, however, long-held traditions governing American foreign policy such as “avoiding foreign entanglements,” are just as true today as they were before 1914. Article X, with its declaration that all members would be obligated to enforce postwar borders, violates this principle. The Versailles Treaty also provides for too many instances in which a body other than Congress makes laws concerning the citizens of the United States, we suggest making changes to the treaty to resolve these flaws.

Option 3 — Irreconcilables: Reject the Treaty

Because of Europe's incessant wars over ancient hatreds and power politics, it has always been in our interest to separate ourselves as far as possible from that volatile continent. President Wilson's attempt to make “the world safe for democracy” was doomed from the start. Those who put any faith in “collective security” through the proposed League of Nations are deluding themselves. Membership in any such organization would risk our security and embroil us in constant wars. Have we not learned from our mistakes? The time has come to cut off our relationship with the troubled continent of Europe. We should not ratify the Versailles Treaty.