Treaty of Versailles Examination Activity

- Place students in groups of 3-4. Teachers may opt to differentiate the groups. Either mix groups of average/above average with struggling learners or place students in similar groups and give each group a component to read based on the group’s readiness. The Reparation, Political, and Military components are less difficult to understand. The significant points are underlined in the reading. The German response component requires students to read more information in order to identify the effects described.
- Each group will receive a component of the Treaty of Versailles to examine. Due to class size, some groups may receive the same component to examine.
- Each student in the group should complete the Treaty of Versailles Examination Questions for their designated component.
- The teacher should walk around and facilitate the process and make sure groups are identifying the correct information.
- Jigsaw the remaining time of the activity by having students from the different groups come together, share, and record the information on their document.
Treaty of Versailles Examination

Name___________________ Date______ Period ___

Treaty Component [Military, Political, Reparation, German Response]:

Summarize the punishments placed on Germany based on your Treaty of Versailles component.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Cite evidence from the text to support your response above:

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Treaty Component [Military, Political, Reparation, German Response]:

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Treaty Component [Military, Political, Reparation, German Response]:

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Treaty Component [Military, Political, Reparation, German Response]:

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
The German Reply

Brockdorff-Rantzau reply memorandum

15 May 1919

AMERICAN COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE PEACE
CONFIDENTIAL
S-H BULLETIN No. 277 May 15th, 1919
CONTENTS

Communication from Count Brockdorff-Rantzau, relative to the report of the Economic Commission.
Notes: Indented numbers indicated original pagination.

German Peace Delegation
Translation
Versailles, May 13, 1919
To His Excellency Mr. Clemenceau:

In accordance with my communication of May 9h of this year, I have the honor to present to your Excellency the report of the Economic Commission charged with the study of the effect of the Peace Terms on the situation of the German population.

"During the last two generations, Germany has been transformed from an agricultural state to an industrial state. While an agricultural state, Germany could nourish forty million inhabitants.

As an industrial State, it can assure the nourishment of a population of sixty-seven million. In 1913, the importation of goods amounted in round figures to twelve million tons. Before the war, a total of fifteen million persons found an existence in Germany by means of foreign commerce and navigation, either directly, or indirectly, by using our foreign raw materials.

Under the terms of the peace treaty, Germany is to give up her Merchant Marine and vessels now under construction suitable for foreign commerce. Likewise, for five years, German shipyards are to construct primarily a tonnage destined for the Allied and Associated Governments.

Moreover, Germany must renounce her Colonies; all her foreign possessions, all her rights and interests in the Allied and Associated countries, in their Colonies, Dominions or Protectorates are to be liquidated and credited to the payment of reparations, and are to be submitted to any other step of economic warfare that the Allied and Associated Powers may see fit to maintain or to take during the years of peace.

When the territorial clauses of the Peace Treaty go into effect Germany will lose in the East the most important regions for the production of wheat and potatoes, and this would be equivalent to a loss of twenty-one percent of the total harvest of these foodstuffs.

Moreover the intensiveness of our agricultural production would be greatly decreased. On the one hand, the importation of certain raw materials indispensable for the production of fertilizer, such as phosphates, would be hampered; on the other hand, this industry would like all other industries suffer from the shortage of coal.

For the Peace Treaty provides for the loss of almost a third of the production of our coal fields; in addition to that loss, enormous deliveries of coal to various Allied countries are imposed on us for ten years.
In addition, in conformity to the Treaty, Germany will cede to her neighbors almost three-quarters of her ore production and three-fifths of her production of zinc.

After this privation of her produce, after the economic repression caused by the loss of her Colonies, of her Merchant Fleet and her foreign possession, Germany will no longer be in a position to import raw materials in sufficient quantities from abroad. As a matter of course an enormous part of German industry would thus be condemned to extinction. At the same time the need to import commodities would considerably increase, while the possibility of meeting this need would diminish to the same extent.

After a very short time Germany would therefore no longer be in a position to furnish bread and work to her many millions of persons forced to earn their daily bread by navigation and commerce. These people would have to emigrate; but this is materially impossible; all the more so, in that many countries, and the most important ones will oppose German immigration. In addition hundreds of thousands of Germans expelled from the territories of the Powers now at war with Germany, and from the Colonies and Territories which Germany must give up will come back to their native country.

The enforcement of the Peace Conditions would therefore logically entail the loss of several million persons in Germany. This catastrophe would not be long in occurring, since the health of the population has been broken during the war by the blockade and during the armistice by the increased vigor of the starvation blockade.

No assistance, however great and of however long duration could prevent these wholesale deaths. The Peace would impose upon Germany many times the number of human lives cost her by this war of four years and a half, (1,750,000 killed by the enemy; almost a million as a result of the blockade.)

We do not think and we do not believe that the delegates of the Allied and Associated Powers are aware of the consequences that will

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inevitably follow, if Germany, an industrial nation with a very dense population, closely bound up with the economic system of the world, and obliged to import enormous quantities of food and raw materials, finds herself suddenly thrown into a phase of her development corresponding to the period of her economic construction and the period when her population was the size it was a half century ago.

Those who sign this treaty, will sign the death sentence of many millions of German men, women and children.

I believe that my duty before beginning the discussion of other details of the treaty, lay in bringing to the attention of the Allied, and Associated Delegations, this summary of the problem facing the German people. At your request I hold ready for your excellency the statistical proof.

Kindly accept, etc.

Signed: BROCKDORFF-RANTZAU.
Military, Naval, and Air Clauses of the Treaty of Versailles

The sections below contain excerpts of the Treaty of Versailles.

ARTICLE 160.

After that date the total number of effectives in the Army of the States constituting Germany must not exceed one hundred thousand men, including officers and establishments of depots. The Army shall be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory and to the control of the frontiers.

The total effective strength of officers, including the personnel of staffs, whatever their composition, must not exceed four thousand.

ARTICLE 165.

The maximum number of guns, machine guns, trench-mortars, rifles and the amount of ammunition and equipment which Germany is allowed to maintain during the period between the coming into force of the present Treaty and the date of March 31, 1920, referred to in Article 160, shall bear the same proportion to the amount authorized in Table No. III…

ARTICLE 166

At the date of March 31, 1920, the stock of munitions which the German Army may have at its disposal shall not exceed the amounts fixed in Table No. III annexed to this Section.

Within the same period the German Government will store these stocks at points to be notified to the Governments of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers. The German Government is forbidden to establish any other stocks, depots or reserves of munitions.

ARTICLE 168.

The manufacture of arms, munitions, or any war material, shall only be carried out in factories or works the location of which shall be communicated to and approved by the Governments of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers, and the number of which they retain the right to restrict…

ARTICLE 169.

Within two months from the coming into force of the present Treaty German arms, munitions and war material, including anti-aircraft material, existing in Germany in excess of the quantities allowed, must be surrendered to the Governments of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers to be destroyed…

ARTICLE 170.

Importation into Germany of arms, munitions and war material of every kind shall be strictly prohibited.

ARTICLE 171

The use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and all analogous liquids, materials or devices being prohibited, their manufacture and importation are strictly forbidden in Germany…
ARTICLE 173

The German Army may only be constituted and recruited by means of voluntary enlistment.

ARTICLE 181.

After the expiration of a period of two months from the coming into force of the present Treaty the German naval forces in commission must not exceed:

6 battleships of the Deutschland or Lothringen type, 6 light cruisers, 12 destroyers, 12 torpedo boats.

No submarines are to be included.

ARTICLE 190.

Germany is forbidden to construct or acquire any warships…

ARTICLE 198.

The armed forces of Germany must not include any military or naval air forces.
TREATY OF VERSAILLES

Table No. I.
State and Establishment of Army Corps Headquarters Staffs and of Infantry and Cavalry Divisions

These tabular statements do not form a fixed establishment to be imposed on Germany, but the figures contained in them (number of units and strengths) represent maximum figures, which should not in any case be exceeded.

I. ARMY CORPS HEADQUARTERS STAFFS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Maximum No. authorized</th>
<th>Maximum strengths of each unit</th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>N.C.O.'s and Men.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army Corps Headquarters Staff</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30, 150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for Headquarters Staffs</td>
<td></td>
<td>60, 300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INFANTRY DIVISION.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Maximum No. of such units in a single division.</th>
<th>Maximum strengths of each unit</th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>N.C.O.'s and Men.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters of an infantry division</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25, 70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters of divisional infantry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4, 39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters of divisional artillery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4, 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regiment of infantry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>70, 2,300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Each regiment comprises 3 battalions of infantry. Each battalion comprises 3 companies of infantry and 1 machine-gun company.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench mortar company</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6, 150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional squadron</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6, 150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field artillery regiment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>85, 1,100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Each regiment comprises 3 groups of artillery. Each group comprises 3 batteries.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer battalion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12, 400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(This battalion comprises 3 companies of pioneers, 1 pontoon detachment, 1 search-light section.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signal detachment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12, 200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(This detachment comprises 1 telephone detachment, 1 listening section, 1 carrier pigeon section.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division medical service</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20, 800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packs and convoy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18, 600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for infantry division</td>
<td></td>
<td>410, 10,830</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CAVALRY DIVISION.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Maximum No. of such units in a single division.</th>
<th>Maximum strengths of each unit</th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>N.C.O.'s and Men.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters of a cavalry division</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15, 30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry regiment</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>40, 800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Each regiment comprises 4 squadrons.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse artillery group (3 batteries)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20, 400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for cavalry division</td>
<td></td>
<td>275, 5,950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table No. II.

Tabular Statement of Armament Establishment for Maximum of Seven Infantry Divisions, Three Cavalry Divisions, and Two Army Corps Headquarters Staffs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Infantry division (1)</th>
<th>Infantry division (2)</th>
<th>Infantry division (3)</th>
<th>Cavalry division (4)</th>
<th>Cavalry division (5)</th>
<th>Two army corps headquarters staffs (6)</th>
<th>Total of columns 2, 4, and 5 (7)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rifles</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>8,400</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carabines</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light machine guns</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium trench mortars</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light trench mortars</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5-cm. guns</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.5-cm. howitzers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1,384</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This establishment must be drawn from the increased armaments of the divisional infantry.

Table No. III.

Maximum Stocks Authorised.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Maximum number of arms authorized per unit</th>
<th>Establishment, per unit</th>
<th>Maximum totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rifles</td>
<td>84,000</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>20,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carabines</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>14,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light machine guns</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>15,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium trench mortars</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light trench mortars</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field artillery</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>204,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5-cm. guns</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.5-cm. howitzers</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>42,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Political Clauses for Europe of the Treaty of Versailles

The sections below contain excerpts of the Treaty of Versailles.

ARTICLE 32.

Germany recognises the full sovereignty [independence] of Belgium over the whole of the contested territory of Moresnet (called Moresnet neutre).

ARTICLE 33

Germany renounces in favour of Belgium all rights and title over the territory of Prussian Moresnet situated on the west of the road from Liege to Aix-la-Chapelle; the road will belong to Belgium where it bounds this territory.

ARTICLE 34

Germany renounces in favour of Belgium all rights and title over the territory comprising the whole of the Kreise of Eupen and of Malmedy… the inhabitants of the above territory will be entitled to record in writing a desire to see the whole or part of it remain under German sovereignty…

ARTICLE 35

A Commission of seven persons, five of whom will be appointed by the Principal Allied and Associated Powers, one by Germany and one by Belgium, will be set up fifteen days after the coming into force of the present Treaty to settle on the spot the new frontier line between Belgium and Germany, taking into account the economic factors and the means of communication. Decisions will be taken by a majority and will be binding on the parties concerned.

From the date of the coming into force of the present Treaty, all the deposits of coal situated within the Saar Basin as defined in Article 48 of the said Treaty, become the complete and absolute property of the French State.

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 on August 1, 1914.

The Allied and Associated Powers formally reserve the rights of Russia to obtain from Germany restitution and reparation based on the principles of the present Treaty.
Reparation Clauses from the Treaty of Versailles

ARTICLE 231.

The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and 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.

The Allied and Associated Governments, however, require, and Germany undertakes, that she will make compensation [payment] for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property …

ARTICLE 238.

In addition to the payments mentioned above Germany shall effect, in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Reparation Commission, restitution [payment] in cash of cash taken away, seized or sequestrated, and also restitution [payment] of animals, objects of every nature and securities taken away, seized or sequestrated, in the cases in which it proves possible to identify them in territory belonging to Germany or her allies…

ANNEX IV.

1. The Allied and Associated Powers require, and Germany undertakes, that in part satisfaction of her obligations expressed in the present Part she will, as hereinafter provided, devote her economic resources directly to the physical restoration [repair] of the invaded areas of the Allied and Associated Powers, to the extent that these Powers may determine.

(1) To the French Government. 500 stallions (3 to 7 years); 30,000 fillies and mares (18 months to 7 years), type: Ardennais, Boulonnais or Belgian; 2,000 bulls (18 months to 3 years); 90,000 milch cows (2 to 6 years); 1,000 rams; 100,000 sheep; 10,000 goats.

(2) To the Belgian Government. 200 stallions (3 to 7 years), large Belgian type; 5,000 mares (3 to 7 years), large Belgian type; 5,000 fillies (18 months to 3 years), large Belgian type; 2,000 bulls (18 months to 3 years); 50,000 milch cows (2 to 6 years); 40,000 heifers; 200 rams; 20,000 Sheep; 15,000 sows.

ANNEX V.

2. Germany undertakes to deliver to France seven million tons of coal per year for ten years …

3. Germany undertakes to deliver to Belgium eight million tons of coal annually for ten years.

4. Germany undertakes to deliver to Italy up to the following quantities of coal…