

Instructor, Bob Webb – 703/437-5509, robertwebb@comcast.net

The Treaty of Versailles' main impositions on Germany after World War I:

- Emperor Wilhelm II and many other Germans would be tried as war criminals. (A handful of soldiers were tried but the Kaiser lived in exile in the Netherlands until 1941.)
- With the "War Guilt Clause," Germany and her allies would accept sole responsibility for the war and be accountable for all damage.
- German armed forces would number no more than 100,000 troops, and German naval forces would be limited to 15,000 men, six battleships, six cruisers, 12 destroyers – and no submarines.
- Germany would pay reparations to the Allies of 269 billion gold marks (around 100,000 tons of pure gold, or more than 50% of all the gold ever mined), a sum many economists deemed excessive. John Maynard Keynes warned this was many times more than Germany could pay and would produce drastic instability.
- Poland would be restored and include West Prussia, separating East Prussia and the Baltic port of Danzig from mainland Germany.
- Alsace and much of Lorraine, ceded to Germany in 1871, would be returned to France.
- The highly industrialized Rhineland would be governed by France and Britain for 15 years; a plebiscite then would decide whether France or Germany owned it.
- Austria was forbidden from integrating with or into Germany.
- German colonies in Africa and the Pacific were divided between Belgium, Great Britain, and certain British dominions, France and Japan.

Some terms and reparations were later watered down; Hitler ignored or reneged on many others.

Other World War I treaties had these results:

- Austria–Hungary was partitioned -- largely along ethnic lines -- into Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and a new multinational Yugoslavia (Serbs, Croats and Slovenes).
- The Russian Empire became the Soviet Union but much of its western frontier was carved into Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- The Ottoman Empire disintegrated. Part became Turkey. Parts became British and French "trusteeships" or mandates which led to the creation of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Part of the British mandate of Palestine became Israel; the rest is still at issue.

A Brief History of World War II (with a link to a list of all military operations at the end)

World War II involved most of the world's nations—including all of the great powers. More than 100 million military personnel were mobilized. Some 50 to 70 million people died.

- The war in Europe began on Sept. 1, 1939, with the German invasion of Poland. From late 1939 to early 1941, Germany conquered or subdued much of continental Europe.
- The Soviet Union occupied and annexed territories of its six European neighbors. In 1941 Germany invaded the Soviet Union, opening the largest land war in history.
- In December 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and quickly conquered much of the Pacific.
- The Axis advance was stopped in 1942 after the defeat of Japan in a series of naval battles and after defeats of Axis troops in North Africa and, decisively, at Stalingrad.
- In 1943, with German defeats in eastern Europe, Sicily and Italy, and American victories in the Pacific, the Axis lost the initiative and undertook strategic retreat on all fronts.
- In 1944, the British-American strategic bombing campaign was escalated, pulverizing all major German cities and cutting off oil supplies. The Allied cross-channel invasion began on June 6. Some of the most costly battles of the war ensued; the Allies were temporarily halted on the German border in the "Battle of the Bulge" in December. The Soviet Union regained all territorial losses and invaded Germany and its allies.
- The war in Europe ended with the capture of Berlin by Soviet troops and the German unconditional surrender on May 8, 1945.
- The war in Asia ended on Aug. 15, 1945 after atomic bombs destroyed two Japanese cities.
- **List of military operations** (everything imaginable, on land and sea and in the air):
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_War_II_military_operations

JCS 1067

The Morgenthau Plan itself never took effect – but it stayed alive in an entirely new document produced by the Joint Chiefs of Staff – JCS 1067. One critic called it "a slightly anemic offspring of the Morgenthau Plan." Truman signed JCS 1067 on May 10, 1945, and it served as the basis for U.S. occupation policy until mid-1947. The key instructions to Eisenhower among the 52:

- Germany will not be liberated but treated as a defeated enemy nation.
- You will strongly discourage fraternization with the German officials and population.
- Essential steps are the elimination of Nazism and militarism in all their forms, the immediate apprehension of war criminals for punishment, the industrial disarmament and demilitarization of Germany, and the preparation for an eventual reconstruction of German political life on a democratic basis.
- A program of reparations will provide relief for countries devastated by Nazi aggression.
- Critical point #16: "...you will take no steps (a) looking toward the economic rehabilitation of Germany, or (b) designed to maintain or strengthen the German economy."
- But a related point had been dropped – permanently reducing the German standard of living to the subsistence level, eliminating the German economic power position in Europe, and converting the German economy "in such a manner that it will be so dependent upon imports and exports that Germany cannot reconvert to war production."
- And it said nothing about partitioning the country into north and south states, because it would be split into zones to be run by an Allied Control Council.
- *For details, see links and document posted in OLLI's DocStore, mentioned below.*

Potsdam Agreement

From June 16 to August 2 1945, the Big Three (Truman, Stalin and Churchill/Atlee) met at Potsdam outside Berlin; they issued an agreement on August 1 setting forth policies for the occupation and reconstruction of Germany, demilitarization, reparations and the trials of war criminals. (Where it conflicted with JCS 1067, the Potsdam accord prevailed.)

- The United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union agreed to treat Germany as a single economic unit. (That approach never materialized as the Soviet Union was intent on extracting as much material as possible as reparations.) Germany would be divided into four occupation zones for administrative purposes (giving France an "undeserved" zone at de Gaulle's insistence).
- The Allies would abolish the German armed forces as well as all munitions factories and civilian industries that could support them.
- Germany would become a "pastoral state" under a concept called "level of industry" severely limiting Germany's industrial production.
- Civilian industries with a military potential (all) would be restricted to Germany's "approved peacetime needs" -- defined as the average European standard. Each type of industry was reviewed to see how many factories Germany required.
- German standards of living were to be made equal to the level of its European neighbors, France in particular.
- *For full details, sink the link below.*

Documents posted in OLLI's DocStore

- Key German dates leading to war (1933-1941)
- Wartime conferences
- Declaration regarding surrender and Allied assumption of power
- War crimes trials.
- JCS 1067 (based on Morgenthau Plan) -- original US policy on Germany
- "Speech of hope" restating US policy on Germany in 1946
- Sovereignty and unification

Internet Links (need JavaScript turned on for YouTube videos)

History of Germany (Wikipedia):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Germany

Handbook of War Facts and Peace Problems by Arthur L. Frothingham, 1917, National Security League. Extraordinary; hard to evaluate. See Wikipedia on National Security League.
<http://www.gwpda.org/wwi-www/WarFacts/wfactsTC.htm#TC> (Click chapter headings.)

The Origins of the Second World War by Dr. Ruth Henig. University of Lancaster

<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~semp/origins.htm>

A Decade of American Foreign Policy Basic Documents 1941-1949; Yale Avalon Project

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/decade.asp

Generalplan Ost – Germanizing Eastern Europe and other links to Nazi foreign policy

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generalplan_Ost

Morgenthau Plan -- original typed version and clean-text version:

<http://docs.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/psf/box31/t297a01.html>

JCS Directive 1067, synopsis and full text (very long, fascinating occupation nuts and bolts)
http://www.read-all-about-it.org/archive_english/german_losses/JCS_1067_0208.html

Potsdam Protocol on Allies' postwar treatment of Germany

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/decade17.asp

United States Home Front in World War II (Wikipedia)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_home_front_during_World_War_II

The 1942 Wannsee Conference (on "The Final Solution") and minutes of discussion as recorded by Adolf Eichmann and edited by Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's second in command of the SS:

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/wannsee2.htm>

Post-War Europe: Refugees, Exile and Resettlement, 1945-1950

<http://www.tlmea.com/postwareurope/index.htm> (click Introductions for essays)

"The Green Table," a powerful ballet by German choreographer [Kurt Jooss](#) in the 1930s Weimar days, depicting the attraction and triumph of Mars (or Death) and the futility of diplomacy:

Go to YouTube.com, search on "Green Table Kurt Jooss" and follow the links to each segment, totaling about 37 minutes. (Scene 4 seems to be missing.) Or see these segments:

Beginning: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXIPDQcfX0M&feature=related>

End: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56dFC31W3OU&feature=related>

Read the story of the ballet at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Green_Table

Lest We Forget – the Horst Wessel song and the 1937 Nazi Party rally at Nurnberg (with links to many other marches and songs and adoring crowds, such as "Best Wehrmacht Songs"):

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkV1ZbU7eqs&feature=rec-LGOUT-exp_fresh+div-1r-11-HM&skipcontrinter=1

Or go to YouTube.com and search on German Military Marches - Horst Wessel Lied

Then get out your hankies:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wp6tzQ4R1tg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHcunREYzNY> (click red Hide Annotation button if text appears)

Books

"The New Penguin Atlas of Recent History: Europe Since 1815." Informative, entertaining text, exceptional maps. A favorite from a favorite series. 2003, Penguin (Non-Classics).

"Bismarck: A Life" by Jonathan Steinberg, about the man who created modern Germany and embodied the ruthless Prussian culture. 2011, Oxford University Press.

"Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World" by Margaret Macmillan. The story of the peace conference and Treaty of Versailles that settled the Great War. 2003, Random House.

"The Third Reich Trilogy" is a series -- "The Coming of the Third Reich," "The Third Reich in Power," "The Third Reich at War" -- by the British historian Richard J. Evans covering the rise and collapse of Nazi Germany in detail, with a focus on the internal politics and the decision-making process. 2003-2008, Penguin in the UK.

“Germany 1945: From War to Peace” by Richard Bessel. One review comments: “Bessel engages a number of contemporary historical debates on Germany and the Second World War. A central issue is the “zero hour” – the concept that 1945 drew a line with the Nazi past and marked a turning point for many Germans. 2010, Harper Perennial.

“The Conquerors: Roosevelt, Truman, and the Destruction of Hitler's Germany” by Michael R. Beschloss. How the Allies won the war, with emphasis on the rise and fall of the Morgenthau Plan, from recently opened archives. Excellent story telling. 2002, Simon & Schuster.

“The Bitter Road to Freedom” by William I. Hitchcock. The tragic hours of liberation. 2008 Free Press.