

Early challenges to the Weimar Republic 1919-23



Aim: To understand the unpopularity of the new Weimar Government and the impact of the Treaty of Versailles

Unpopularity of the Republic:



11th November 1918, 2 days after the Kaiser ABDICATED, the politicians signed the ARMISTICE – an agreement to stop fighting.

Recap: Why was this inevitable?

“We were winning World War I, why did you agree to the ARMISTICE? You politicians have no idea what you’ve done, it’s all your fault!

You should be remembered for what you are, November Criminals”



THE
TREATY OF PEACE

BETWEEN
THE ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED POWERS
AND
GERMANY,

The Protocol annexed thereto, the Agreement respecting
the military occupation of the territories of the Rhine,
AND THE

TREATY
BETWEEN
FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN

RESTRICTED
Assistance to France in the event of unprovoked
aggression by Germany.

Signed at Versailles, June 28th, 1919.

(With Maps and Signatures on separate sheets.)



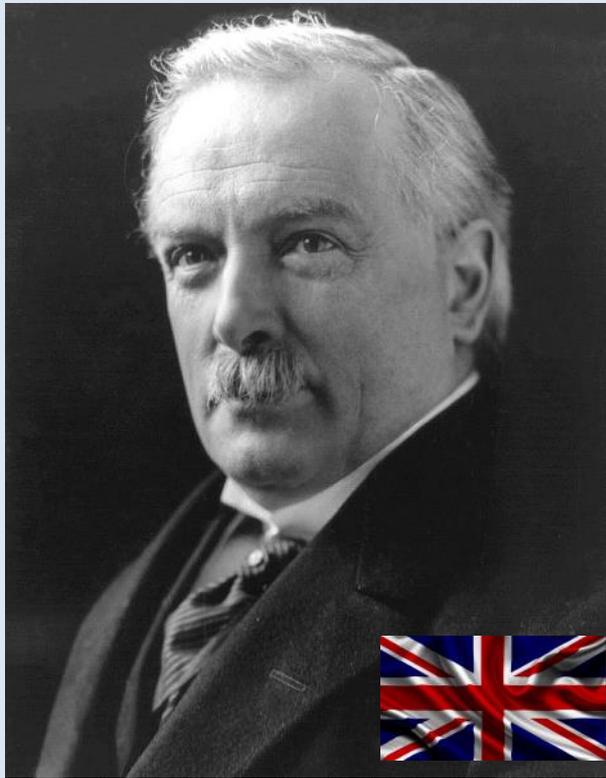
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“Assistance to France in the event of unprovoked aggression by Germany.”

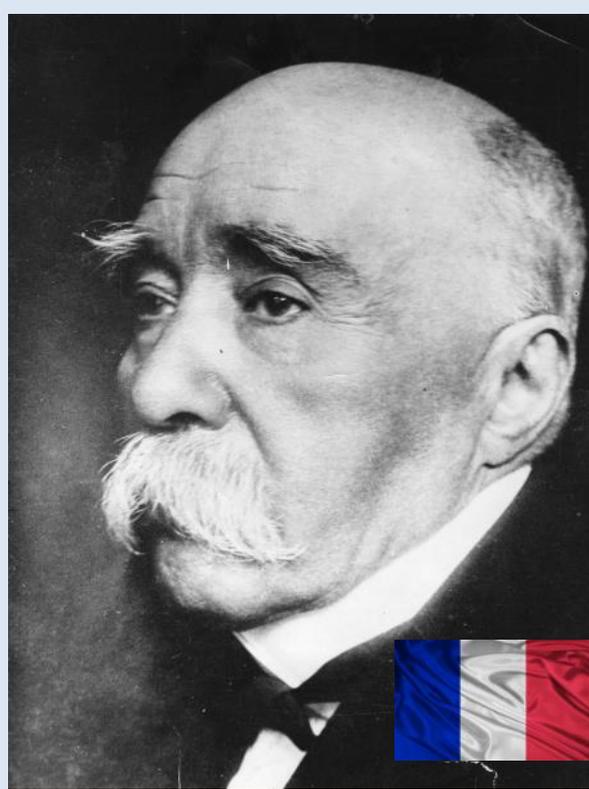
June 28th 1919.

Treaty of Versailles



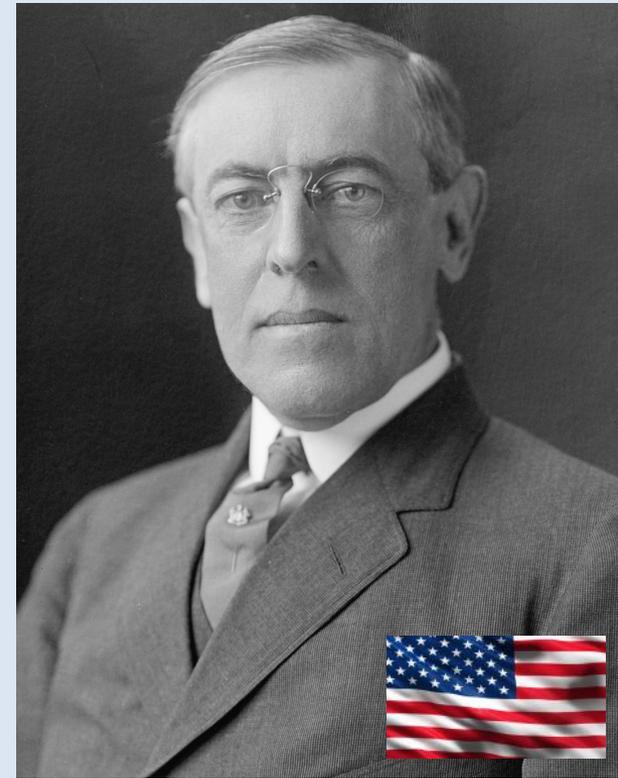
David Lloyd George:

Prime Minister, had to appear to want Germany punished to the British people – “Squeeze them till the pips squeak” – But also wanted to trade



Georges Clemenceau:

Wanted to destroy Germany, was angry at the damage to Germany. Wanted Germany to never be able to start a war again



Woodrow Wilson:

Offered Ebert the chance to remove Kaiser and end the war for negotiated peace. Idealist who came up with League of Nations

Blame:

War Guilt Clause 231:



This clause said that Germany had caused WWI. Germany didn't agree but had to accept this leading to anger of the German people and leaders

Reparations:

£££

Germany had to pay £6.6 Billion to the allies (Britain & France)

They were already in debt from WWI and had their own destruction to deal with, this made Germans even angrier

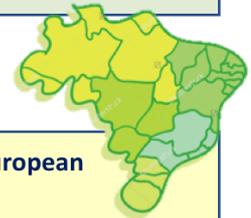
Terms of the Treaty of Versailles 28th June 1919:

Army (Military):



- Army reduced to 100,000 men, limited to use in Germany, **0** tanks
- 6 Battleships, 6 Cruisers, 12 destroyers and 12 torpedo boats
- **0** submarines
- **0** Airforce
- Rhineland demilitarised, French troops placed in Rhineland until 1930

Territory: Lost 10% population, 13% of European territory, 50% of iron, 15% of coal reserves



- Germany lost all **11** colonies in Africa, they were given to the allies
- Alsace Lorraine given to France
- Posen & West Prussia given to Poland
- German port of Danzig separated from Germany
- Riches from the Saar coalfields given to France for 15 years



BRAT: Blame, Reparations, Army, Territory

DIKTAT ALERT

Stick this into your books before we go through the Treaty

The Terms of the Treaty...

B.R.A.T

1. Germany had to admit full responsibility for starting the war. "War Guilt Clause 231".
2. Germany, as she was responsible for starting the war as stated in clause 231, was, therefore responsible for all the war damage caused by the First World War. Therefore, she had to pay reparations, **£6.6 Billion** - a huge sum of money well beyond Germany's ability to pay.
3. A League of Nations was set up to keep world peace.
4. Germany's army was reduced to 100,000 men; the army was not allowed tanks.
No air force.
6 Battleships (No Submarines), 6 cruisers, 12 destroyers, 12 torpedo boats
Rhineland was demilitarised – France felt anxious that an attack was imminent.
5. Alsace Lorraine was given back to France – This was a particular point of anger for the French.
Germany's 11 African Colonies were also taken away or made independent.
6. Germany could not form Anschluss (union) with Austria.

BLAME

REPARATIONS

ARMY

TERRITORY

DIKTAT ALERT

signed: *Georges Clemenceau* *D. L. George* Woodrow Wilson June 28th 1919

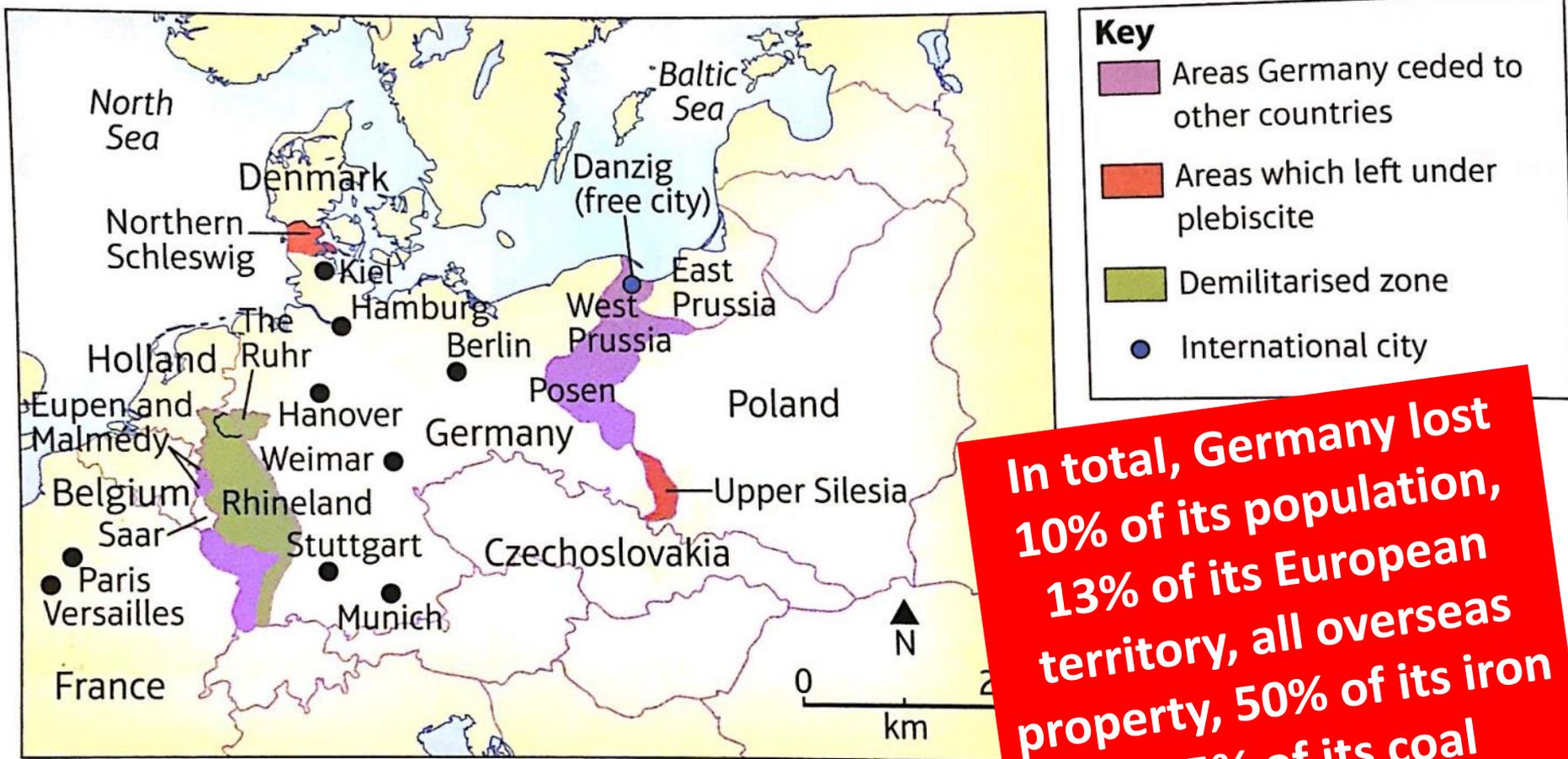


Figure 1.3 Germany and the Treaty of Versailles.

- Posen and West Prussia were lost to Poland leading to 1 million Germans under Polish rule it also cut Germany into 2
- Upper Silesia to become part of Poland
- Danzig was made a free city
- Output of the rich Saar coalfields to go to France for 15 years

“Are you kidding me??? They are most severe and harsh terms ever!! Why have you agreed to them?

Ebert, you will regret agreeing to these terms!”



“Erm, that is not quite the case!!!! The terms were dictated to us, we had no say! They wouldn't let us negotiate! It was a **DIKTAT!**

We asked for concessions but they have refused!



Interpretation 1

From *The Coming of the Third Reich* by Richard J. Evans, published in 2004.

No one was prepared for the peace terms... All of this was greeted with incredulous horror by the majority of Germans. The sense of outrage and disbelief... was almost universal. Germany's international strength and prestige had been on an upward course since unification in 1871... now, suddenly, Germany had been brutally expelled from the ranks of the Great Powers and covered in what they considered to be undeserved shame. Versailles was condemned as a dictated peace, unilaterally imposed without the possibility of negotiation.

What is the view of Interpretation 1?



Source C

From an article in *Deutsche Zeitung*, a German newspaper, 28 June 1919.

Vengeance, German nation! Today, in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, a disgraceful treaty is being signed. Never forget it! On that spot... German honour is being dragged to its grave. There will be revenge for the shame of 1919.

What can you infer from this source about Germany's reaction to Versailles?

(i) What I can infer:

.....

.....

.....

Details in the source that tell me this:

.....

.....

.....

Source A

A German poster from 1931. It advertises a NSDAP rally and shows a German figure in handcuffs labelled 'Versailles'.



What is the message of this source?

Advertising a Nazi rally, 12 years later

Nazi symbol

Flames

Sad, despairing look

Shackled (handcuffed) by the Treaty of Versailles

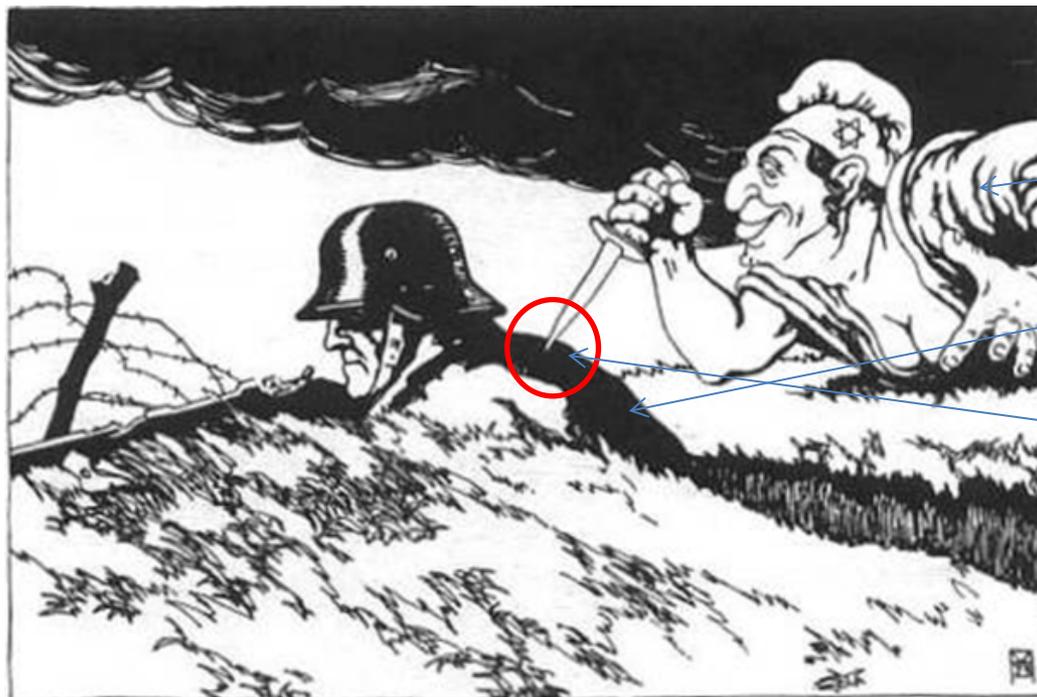
The Nazis are having a rally and the focus of it is to blame the Treaty of Versailles for the damage it is doing to Germany in 1931, unemployment is high, as is anger!



Dolchstoß: Stabbed in the back myth

Another reason why the Treaty of Versailles was so unpopular was because the Germans didn't believe they had been defeated in the war. Many Germans said they had been betrayed by the politicians, they were 'stabbed in the back.'

Annotate the sources on your sheet with messages for each (related to Versailles)



Jewish Person

German Soldier fighting in WWI

Stabbing in the back.

November Criminals
(politicians who signed the
Armistice on 11.11.1918)

This relates to the signing of the Armistice (11.11.1918).

Many people in Germany believe that they had been Stabbed in the back by the new Government because they felt that the German army could still have won. They returned home with their weapons and fully equipped so the people didn't understand why they had lost / surrendered.

Message is the Jews were responsible for the stabbing in the back and loss of the war.



David Lloyd George

Georges Clemenceau

Woodrow Wilson

Germany

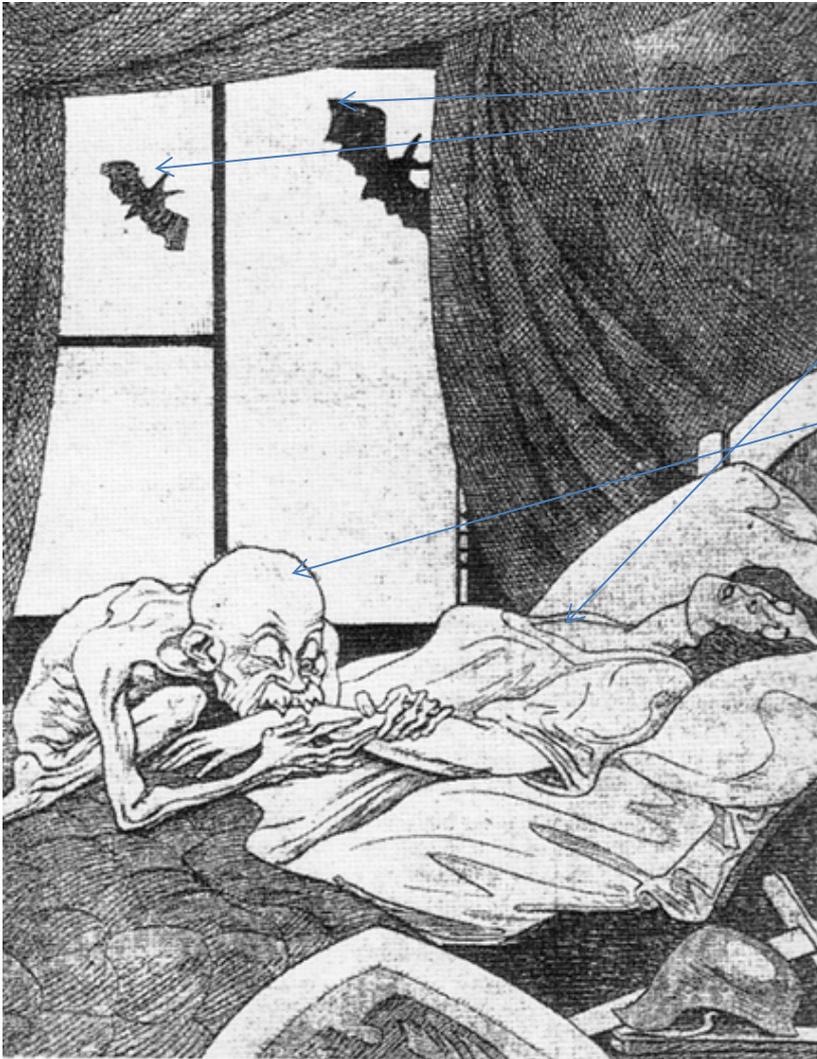
The source contains the Big 3. The weeping child is Germany. Germany is cowering in the corner like a naughty child and has now suffered a loss (TofV). Child has been stripped of clothes and possessions, like Germany had been stripped. "The class of 1940" shows when the child is old enough to fight he will want revenge. Also, he has thrown the Treaty on the floor because he knows he is the cannon fodder for another war in 20 years as a result of it.

Treaty of Versailles

Made in 1920 by an Australian

The peacemakers had a huge responsibility and the cartoon below is rare because it gives some indication of what might happen in the future in the opinion of the cartoonist. It is a predictive cartoon rather than a cartoon about the past.

THE MOST COMMON SOURCE ON VERSAILLES!!!!!!!



Britain & USA

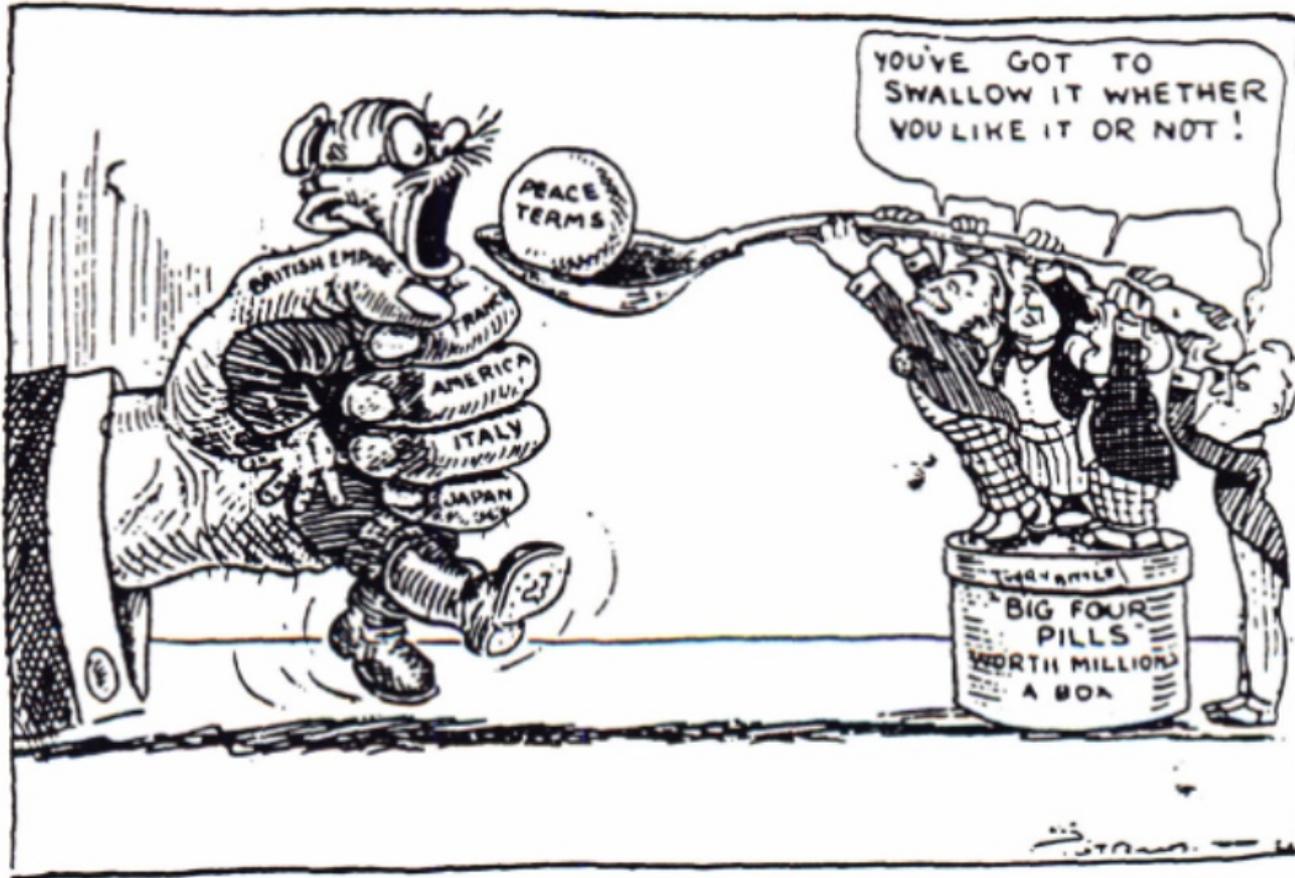
Germany

Georges Clemenceau (France)

This relates to the Treaty of Versailles. The French wanted a treaty that would cripple Germany. Here (France) are sucking the life out of Germany as a Vampire. To the Germans, the fact they had signed the Treaty showed they were weak (or at least the Weimar Republic were).

Who made each source do you think? And why?

The Treaty of Versailles

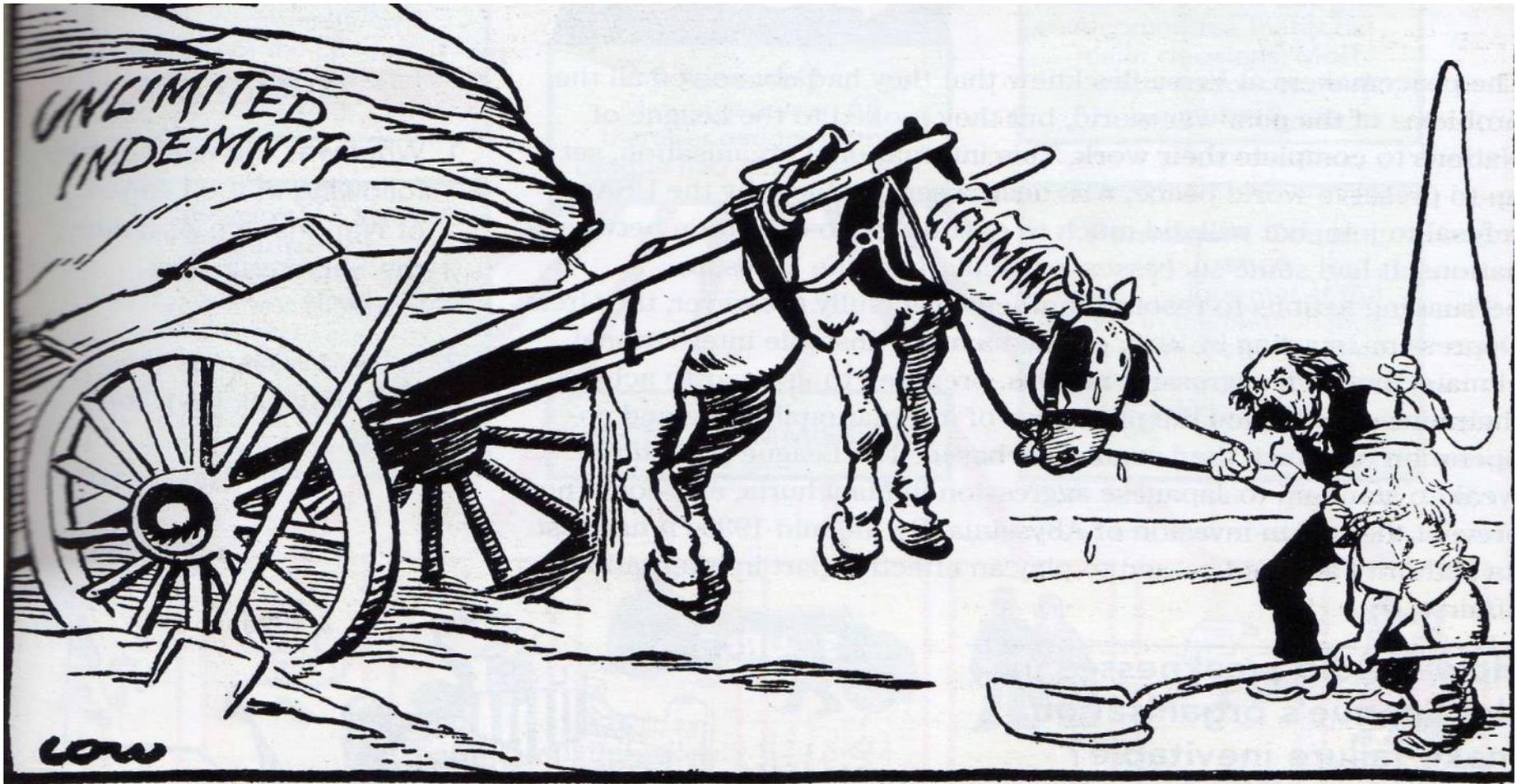


A cartoon that appeared in a British newspaper in 1919

This treaty laid out the terms of Germany's surrender in 1919. It was made by the governments of Britain, France and the USA.

It was very harsh on Germany and extremely unpopular.

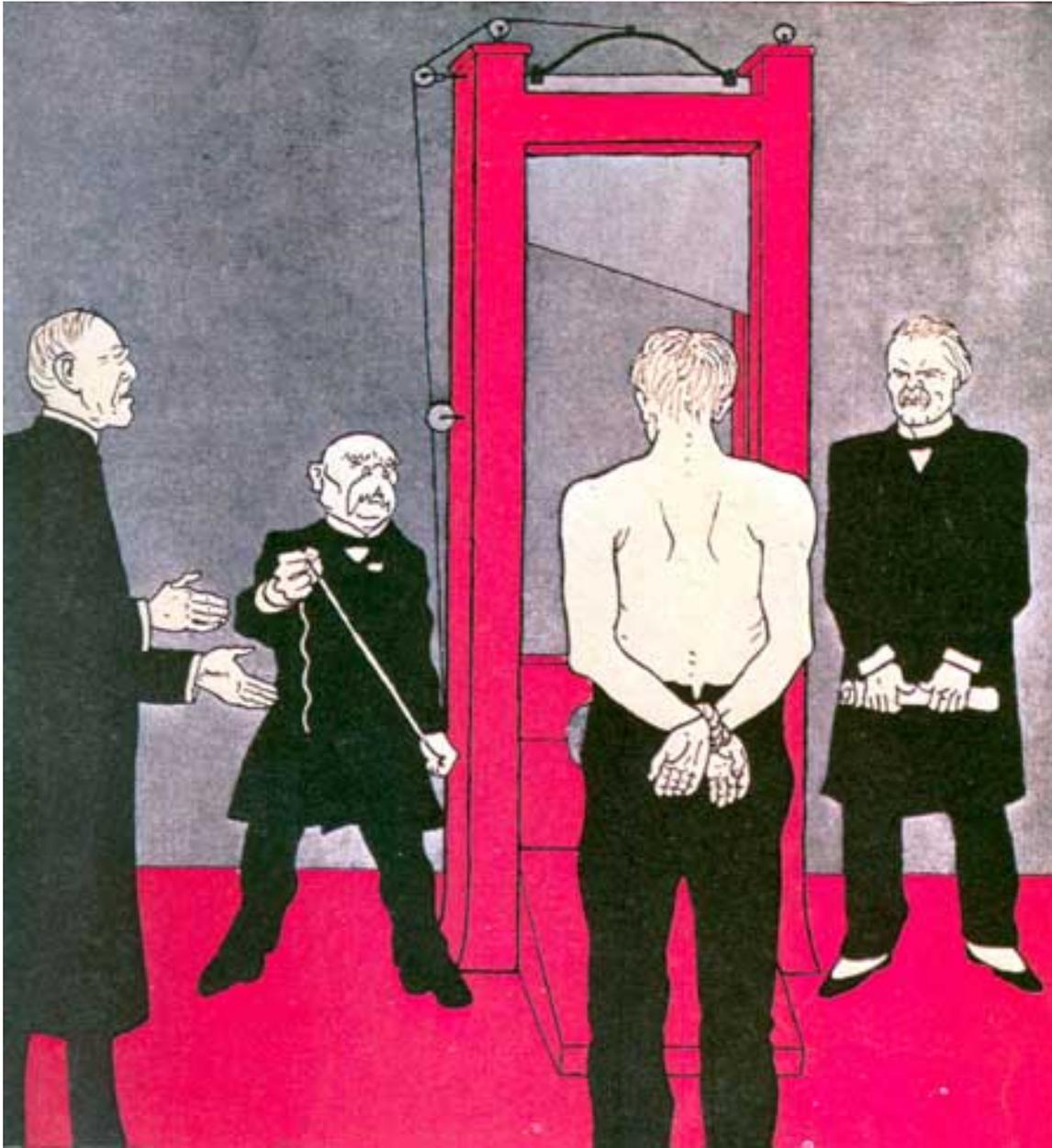
It became known in Germany as a "Diktat".



Briand Lloyd George

“ PERHAPS IT WOULD GEE-UP BETTER IF WE LET IT TOUCH EARTH ”

A cartoon from a British newspaper, 1921. Aristide Briand of France and David Lloyd George of Britain are looking at the effects of reparation payments on Germany.



**Create your own source
showing the terms of the
Treaty of Versailles.**

**Make sure it has a message
hidden in because we're
going to swap afterwards &
see if anyone can work out
your "message"**

Impact of the Treaty on Weimar

The treaty was so severe that it damaged Germany's economy, especially imposing the £6.6B reparations which meant Germany would be unable to start another war.

The economy was weak for the new government from the start, and they were also politically weak because of the backlash from the German people over **dolchstoss** and the **November Criminals**.

The creation of the Weimar Republic was linked to defeat, humiliation and weakness!

Will the new Weimar Republic survive this awful start...

