

3[A] Woodrow Wilson & the League of Nations G1 Chobun TypeB G1 12-1

In January 1918, as World War I raged across Europe, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson stood before Congress and laid out his vision for achieving a lasting international peace once hostilities ended. In this now famous Fourteen Point speech, Wilson set out to end what he saw as the secretive, self-serving diplomacy practiced by the dominant European powers. A high-minded idealist, Wilson believed the war was a catastrophic result of such behind-the-scenes, dishonest dealings. He envisioned a more democratic, stable world order, in which not only would the interests of smaller countries be represented, but open diplomatic proceedings would make nations accountable for their actions. The cornerstone of Wilson's plans was his proposal for an international body that would enable nations to settle their disputes through arbitration instead of military force. This organization should afford, he

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4. nations that win conflicts should guarantee to hold peace negotiations in public forums so that defeated nations are sure to be treated fairly

Further Questions

1) What did Woodrow Wilson do in January 1918?

He laid out his vision for achieving lasting international peace once hostilities ended.

2) What did Wilson believe the war was a result of?

He believed the war was the result of behind-the-scenes dishonest dealings.

3) How many countries joined the League of Nations?

The League of Nations was established with 44 countries as members.

The United States, however, was not among them. Many U.S. politicians were concerned about the type of overseas commitments membership might entail. Wilson's longtime political foe, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, headed the opposition. He argued that Article 10 of the league's covenant, which required

member nations to respond collectively to any act of aggression, ultimately meant that the league could order the United States to provide military support in the event of a dispute in another part of the world. In Lodge's view, ceding any degree of control over the U.S. armed forces to an outside political body posed an unacceptable threat to the nation's sovereignty. Wilson took issue with the legal dictate, as the United States would be entitled to veto any decision made by the organization. In exchange for Congress' support, Lodge pushed for revision to the Article 10. Wilson, however, refused to sway from his conviction that the country be morally bound to honor all of the covenant's articles. Although Wilson ultimately failed to persuade Congress to ratify the covenant, his wholehearted commitment to the League of Nations earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919.

(33) What stance did Henry Cabot Lodge take concerning Article 10 of the covenant of the League of Nations?

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5) What happened to Woodrow Wilson in 1919?

His wholehearted commitment to the League of Nations earned him the Nobel Peace

In the 1920s, many European powers used the league for their diplomatic efforts, and it has some success in resolving small territorial disputes. Some commentators, however, have characterized Wilson as backing a lost cause, since the league's goal of ensuring that nations of the world could resolve their differences through open diplomacy and mutual support ultimately proved to be beyond its capabilities—as the onset of World War II made evident. One could, though, make the case that he was politically ahead of his time. The United Nations, which the United States agreed to join, was formed in place of the league in 1946, and remains an important force for maintaining international order to the present day.

(34) In the last paragraph, what does the author of the passage suggest

80. regarding Wilson's historical legacy?

81. 1. Although Wilson was commended for resolving territorial disputes during his lifetime, the goals he set out are proving difficult to realize today.
82. 2. Although Wilson should be credited for creating the league, his refusal to compromise meant the organization was less effective than it could have been.
83. 3. Although Wilson himself came to doubt the league's ability to promote global security, many politicians today hold the league's objectives in high regard.
84. 4. Although Wilson could not convince his country to join the league, his vision has been realized by the creation of the body that took its place.

90. 6) Was the League of Nations initially successful?

91. *It had some success in resolving small territorial disputes.*

92. 7) Why have some commentators characterized Wilson as backing a lost cause?

93. *The league's goal of ensuring that nations of the world could resolve their difference through open diplomacy and mutual support ultimately proved to be*

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