

SOAPSTONE – Treaty of Versailles

Document 1

"In the first place, the vast expenditures of the war, the inflation of prices, and the depreciation of currency, leading up to a complete instability of the unit value, have made us all lose sense of number and magnitude in matters of finance. What we believed to be the limits of possibility have been so enormously exceeded....The danger confronting us, therefore, is the rapid depression of the standard of life of the European populations to a point which will mean actual starvation for some (a point already reached in Russia and approximately reached in Austria)."

SOURCE: John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of Peace*, 1919.

Document 3

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....

The Allied and associated Governments...require, and Germany undertakes, that she will make compensation for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property....

Document 4

This excerpt is from Article 231 of the Versailles Treaty, which Germany signed, thereby ending World War I.

... The Allied and Associate Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage. ...

According to the Versailles Treaty, who was responsible for World War I? _____
Why? _____

Document 5

In this excerpt from May 7, 1919, Count Brockdorff-Rantzau, leader of the German delegation to the Versailles Peace Conference, protested.

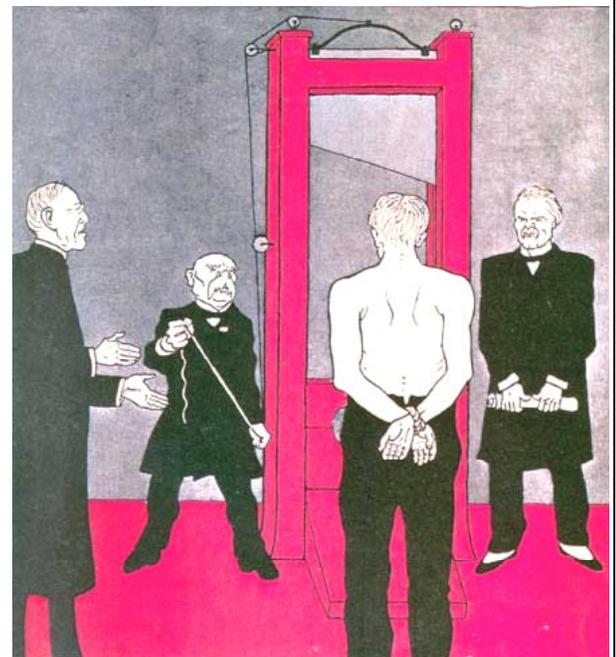
It is demanded of us that we shall confess ourselves to be alone guilty of the war. Such a confession from my lips would be a lie. We are far from declining all responsibility for the fact that this great World War took place or that it was fought in the way that it was. . . . But we energetically deny that Germany and its people, who were convinced that they fought a war of defense, were alone guilty. No one would want to assert that the disaster began only at that disastrous moment when the successor of Austria-Hungary fell a victim to murderous hands. In the last fifty years, the imperialism of all European states has chronically poisoned international relations. Policies of retaliation, policies of expansion, and disregard for the right of peoples to determine their own destiny, have contributed to the European malady which came to a crisis in the World War. The mobilization of Russia deprived statesmen of the opportunity of curing the disease, and placed the issue in the hands of the military powers. . . .

Document 2



Source: Geoffrey Barraclough, ed., *Hammond Concise Atlas of World History*, Hammond, 1998 (adapted)

Document 6



From - German magazine "*Simplicissimus*" in June 1919

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		1	2	3	4/5	6
S	Who is the <u>S</u>peaker (Artist)? Identification of the historical person who created the primary source. What do we know about this person?					
O	What is the <u>O</u>ccasion? What is the time and place? The context in which the primary source was created?					
A	Who is the <u>A</u>udience? The readers to whom this document is directed. The audience may be one person or a group.					
P	What is the <u>P</u>urpose? What is the reason behind the text? Why was it written? What goal did the author have in mind?					
S	What is the <u>S</u>ubject? What is the general topic, content, or idea contained in the text? Summarize in a few words or phrase.					
tone	What is the <u>T</u>one? What is the attitude of the speaker? Examine the choice of words, emotions expressed, imagery used to determine the attitude.					

1. According to John Maynard Keynes what was one of the biggest fears of Europe following WWI? _____

2. Why do you think Germany lost the Polish Corridor to Poland and the Alsace-Lorraine and Saarland region to France?

3. According to Article 231 of the Treaty of Versailles what two things did Germany have to agree to _____

4. According to Document 4 and 5 who was responsible for World War I, and what was their response? _____

5. According to the cartoon in document 6, what did the guillotine represent? why? _____

6. On a separate paper, please write a paragraph that explains the effects of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany.