In January 1918, President Woodrow Wilson of the United States made his famous 'Fourteen Points' speech. The speech was delivered ten months before the Armistice with Germany (see section 3.28) and became the basis for the terms of the German surrender in 1918.

The 'Fourteen Points' included self-determination or self-rule for European peoples, disarmament and, most importantly, a League of Nations, or committee of countries, to keep the peace. In October 1918, the Germans requested a ceasefire or armistice based on the expectation that these points would determine the terms of surrender. World War I ended when Germany signed this armistice at 11 a.m. on 11 November 1918, with the details of the peace settlement to be arranged at a conference in Paris (c:o. 11 November).

In January 1919, the representatives of the Allied nations gathered in Paris to discuss the peace negotiations. Germany was not allowed to attend the peace negotiations. The three major Allied powers were represented by French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George and American President Woodrow Wilson.

Australia was represented by Prime Minister William Morris Hughes (see source B).

After four years of fighting, an estimated ten million soldiers had died and empires had disappeared. The victorious nations were probably influenced by the tragedy of this war, by national interest and by a desire to punish Germany. Germany expected the outcome to reflect the terms described by Wilson in his earlier speech. However, Wilson had not consulted any of the other nations about the contents of his speech.

The most important treaty to emerge from these talks was the Treaty of Versailles (see section 4.20) with Germany. This treaty included an agreement to establish the League of Nations. However, Woodrow Wilson obtained the other countries' support for this organisation only by sacrificing many of the original principles of his Fourteen Points. Because of this, Wilson, on behalf of the United States, refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles.

The treaty terms for Germany were harsh and resented by the German people. The terms included the payment of reparations of £6,000,000,000 (when a weekly wage was £3) and severe limitation of the size of its armed forces. Germany lost territory in Europe and its overseas colonies were distributed as mandates to the Allies. Australia received German New Guinea (F2) as a mandate to administer.

The weakness of the League was that it had no military power of its own to enforce decisions. Its aim was to collect security to ensure the First World War was 'the war to end all wars'. However, the failure of the United States to join undermined its prestige and would eventually leave it powerless to prevent future aggression (see source A).

**Source B** When American President Wilson pointed out that Australia's Prime Minister, William Hughes, represented only five million people in a remote continent, Hughes is said to have replied:

'I represent sixty thousand dead'.

**CHRONOLOGY**

- 6 January 1918 President Wilson sets out his 'Fourteen Points' before Congress. Copies are dropped over Germany (F4).
- 3 October 1918 Germany requests ceasefire and peace negotiations based on the Fourteen Points.
- 11 November 1918 Armistice signed by Germany.
- 12 January 1919 Paris Peace Conference opens.
- 28 June 1919 Treaty of Versailles punishes defeated Germany and establishes the League of Nations.
- 10 August 1920 Treaty of Sèvres breaks up the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) (F2).

**ACTIVITIES**

**UNDERSTAND**

1. Analyse source C and list three changes to territory made at the Paris Peace Conference.
2. Analyse source B. Calculate the percentage of Australia's total population who had been killed in World War I.

**APPLY**

3. Analyse source A. Identify the nations represented in this cartoon. What seems to be happening? Explain the message conveyed by this cartoon. What specific elements help create this message?

4. Analyse source B. Explain why William Hughes might feel justified in representing Australia and taking an active role in the Paris Peace Treaty. Do you agree with his position?

**GO FURTHER**

5. Analyse source C. Compare the map of the world created by the Paris Peace Conference to the world map in section 3.27. Describe what you consider the most significant changes and explain why you have chosen these.

6. After the Germans signed the Treaty of Versailles they broke the pen in protest. What might have motivated them to do this? Adopt the perspective of one of the German signatories and explain your reasons for this action.
**Source:** The world after World War I, 1919–20

**Key**
- Country border
- Regional border
- Area affected by the Paris Peace Treaty

### Key:
1. **Northern France**
   - To be restored
2. **Alsace-Lorraine**
   - To be returned to France
3. **Rhineland**
   - Controlled by Germany but demilitarised
4. **Saar Valley**
   - Controlled by the League of Nations
5. **Hedgehogland**
   - Forts to be destroyed
6. **Schleswig**
   - To vote to join Denmark or Germany
7. **Italy**
   - To gain Trentino, Trieste, Istria and part of Dalmatia
8. **Polish corridor and Danzig**
   - Corridor of Polish territory separating East Prussia from Germany. Danzig made a Free City
9. **Molotov**
   - Taken from Germany
10. **Poland**
    - Created from German territory
11. **Serbia**
    - To be given access to the sea
12. **Dardanelles**
    - To be permanently opened to ships of all nations
13. **Armenia and Turkey**
    - Proposed US mandate—remained Turkish when US rejected League membership
14. **Egypt**
    - Wholly taken over from Turkey by Britain after outbreak of war (To be recognised by Germany)
15. **Northern France**
    - To be restored
16. **Greece**
    - To be returned to France
17. **Belgium**
    - To be restored
18. **Upper Silesia**
    - (Independent)
19. **Czechoslovakia**
    - (Independent)
20. **Poland**
    - (Independent)
21. **Austria**
    - (Independent)
22. **Hungary**
    - (Independent)
23. **Transylvania**
    - (Independent)
24. **Bulgaria**
    - (Independent)
25. **Albania**
    - (Independent)
26. **Transylvania**
    - (Independent)
27. **Turkey**
    - (Independent)
28. **Armenia**
    - (Independent)
29. **Balkan States**
    - (Independent)
30. **Dubrovnik**
    - (Independent)
31. **Italian Mandate**
    - (Italian mandate)
32. **German East Africa**
    - (British mandate)
33. **German New Guinea**
    - (Australian mandate)
34. **German South West Africa**
    - (British mandate)
35. **German Cameroun**
    - (Mandate divided between Britain and France)
36. **German Cameroun**
    - (Mandate divided between Britain and France)
37. **German Cameroun**
    - (Mandate divided between Britain and France)
38. **German Cameroun**
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