VI. A Flawed Peace

1. Allies Meet in Paris

* Major decisions of the peace treaty were made by the Big Four
* **Woodrow Wilson –**
* **Georges Clemenceau –**
* **David Lloyd George –**
* **Vittorio Orlando -**

B. Allies Punish Germany

* Wilson wanted the peace to be based on his 14 points – So does Germany
* Both France and Britain wanted to punish Germany (Franco-Prussian War 1870-71)
* Results in heated arguments between the Big Four
* After 6 months of debate, the Big Four finally reached a compromise
* **Treaty of Versailles (June 28, 1919) –**
* Was unjust in many ways

C. An Unjust Treaty

* **Major Provisions**
* **League of Nations –**
* Germany was forced to give up all of its oversea colonies – Loses 10% of its land
* Germany was forbidden from having a standing army
* Prohibited Germany from making any war materials
* Germany was forbidden to have any submarines or have an air force
* **Article 231 –**
* 440 clauses in the Treaty of Versailles – 414 were devoted to the punishment of Germany
* **Reparations –**
* Germany was to pay the Allies 33 Billion

D. Built on Quicksand

* Treaty did little to establish “a just and lasting peace”
* U.S. rejected the treaty – Never joins the League of Nations
* U.S. believes that their best hope for peace is to stay out of European affairs
* Wilson attempts to rally Americans behind the League of Nations
* Traveled 8,000 miles by rail, gave 40 speeches in 29 cities, over a three week period
* Suffers a serious stroke
* U.S. signs its own treaty with Germany in 1922
* Punishment of Germany creates a legacy of bitterness
* Allied powers Japan and Italy gained less land then they desired
* Treaty’s major provisions are a major, but not only, factor leading to World War II