

ANALYZING THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES

Read the excerpts and highlight something you find surprising, interesting, and troubling.

Article from the treaty	Meaning of the article
Article 45: “As compensation for the destruction of the coal mines in the north of France, and as part payment towards the total reparation due from Germany for the damage resulting from the war, Germany cedes to France in full and absolute possession, with exclusive rights to exploitation, unencumbered and free from all debts and charges of any kind, the coal mines situated in the Saar Basin.”	Article 45: Germany gives France coal mines in the Saar Basin as payment for destroying coal mines in northern France. France has complete control over the coal mines and doesn't have to pay anything for them. (The Saar Basin is located on the western border of Germany and part of France and Luxembourg.)
Article 119: “Germany renounces in favour of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers all her rights and titles over her overseas possessions.”	Article 119: Germany gives up all its colonies around the world to the Allied and Associated Powers (United States, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, and France).
Article 160: “By a date which must not be later than March 31, 1920, the German Army must not comprise more than seven divisions of infantry and three divisions of cavalry. After that date, the total number of effectives in the Army of the States constituting Germany must not exceed one hundred thousand men, including officers and establishments of depots. The Army shall be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory and to the control of the frontiers.”	Article 160: Within 10 months after the treaty is signed, Germany will decrease their army to seven infantry divisions (foot soldiers) and three cavalry divisions (soldiers on horses and in vehicles). They will have no more than 100,000 soldiers. They can only use the military to defend Germany's borders and to maintain order.
Article 173: “Universal compulsory military service shall be abolished in Germany. The German Army may only be constituted and recruited by means of voluntary enlistment.”	Article 173: Germany can't have a military draft; the military must be made up of volunteers.

Article from the treaty	Meaning of the article
Article 181: “After the expiration of a period of two months from the coming into force of the present Treaty the German naval forces in commission must not exceed: Six battleships of the Deutschland or Lothringen type, Six light cruisers, Twelve destroyers, Twelve torpedo boats, No submarines are to be included.”	Article 181: Within two months of signing the treaty, Germany will reduce the navy to a maximum of six battleships, six cruisers, twelve destroyers, and twelve torpedo boats. No submarines are allowed. The navy must be used for defense only.
Article 183: “After the expiration of a period of two months from the coming into force of the present Treaty, the total personnel of the German Navy... must not exceed fifteen thousand, including officers and men of all grades and corps.”	Article 183: Within no more than two months of signing the treaty, the German Navy will lower the number of sailors to 15,000, including officers.
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 subjects as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.”	Article 231: Germany and its allies accept responsibility for all loss and damage that occurred to the Allied countries and their peoples because of the war.
Article 233: “The amount of the above damage for which compensation is to be made by Germany shall be determined by an Inter-Allied Commission, to be called the Reparation Commission and constituted in the form and with the powers set forth hereunder... Germany shall pay in such instalments and in such manner (whether in gold, commodities, ships, securities or otherwise) as the Reparation Commission may fix, during 1919, 1920 and the first four months of 1921, the equivalent of 20,000,000,000 gold marks.”	Article 233: An International Reparation Commission will determine the amount of compensation Germany must pay to countries damaged by war. To quickly fix the Allied countries’ economies, Germany must pay 20 billion marks by May 1, 1921. Payments will be subtracted from what Germany claims as damages to their country. Nobody can cancel the payments. Note: <i>Historians estimate that German reparations were equivalent to half a trillion contemporary US dollars.</i>

Alpha History. (2021, Jan 30). Extracts from the Treaty of Versailles. <https://alphahistory.com/weimarrepublic/treaty-of-versailles-1919/>