Treaty of Versailles

...and the Aftermath
Diplomacy Shifts

- How had the diplomacy after WWI differed from previous treaties? (219-220)
  - No compromise peace
  - Saw GER plans (Brest-Litovsk, 1918), wanted to weaken it forever.
The Aftermath

“The aftermath of WWI was social upheaval, ideological conflict, and another world war” (221).

- End of major empires
- Depression
- End of Concert of Europe

Rise of Communism
- Allies don’t really benefit
Wilsonianism

- Democracy, collective security, and self-determination (222)
  - Peaceful nature of Man (foreign concept to EUR)
  - American view on balance of power
The League

- Wilson rationalizes through Monroe Doctrine (224)
  - Ironic?
Fourteen Points

- Many historical flaws in his logic; moral symmetry (226-227)
  - Moral judgment > geopolitics
Allied Split

- France’s national needs $\rightarrow$ weakening GER are not compatible with other victorious powers (228)
Failures of Versailles (230)

1. FRA unsecured (no buffer zone; no support)
2. GER not reconciled
3. US Withdrawn
   • “Meat” of the treaty lost in Big 4 haggling
   • GER/RUS not invited, but too many other were → massive disorganization (236)
   • Senate would never vote for League → useless → US/UK undermine it anyway by saying they’ll follow FRA into war if GER attacks (no risk this’ll happen…) (238)
• Punitive nature of treaty = fragile combo of US Utopianism vs. European paranoia. (239-240)
• GER power unchecked by new, weak states → ethnic tension + low self-determination in East (241)
• POL – incentive to partition later → RUS would have to invade in order to protect it or FRA (243)
Kissinger’s Thesis (244-245)

- Psychological flaws
- Values extolled vs. incentive to enforce = clash!
- Unjust acc. to majority
- GER had leverage against disarmament
- Article 231: War Guilt Clause
  – Brand new. War had been amoral
- GER was strengthened politically by Versailles. Better position to dominate once they “threw off the shackles of disarmament.”
Alliances vs. Collective Security

- **Alliances** – specific threats; obligations for specific countries

- **Collective Security** – no specific threats, no specific obligations, requires nations to view problems and the use of force similarly
League

• Done in 1939 after expelling USSR for invading Finland (249).

• Failure of collective security (249-250) → foreshadowing

• UN better for diplomatic relations, but doesn’t avoid war either
Oh, Foch!

• “This is not peace, it is an armistice for 20 years.”
  – Tries to ally w/ UK, but they feel treaty is unjust and E. Europe could draw them back into war (250).
Mutual Assistance Treaty (1923)

- Between UK/FRA (253)
- Council determines aggressor & victim → members assist victim.
- Eligibility: Members must have begun disarming
- → Leads to aggression within League. Why?
Geneva Protocol (1924)

• Universal obligation to help victims of aggression

• Three rules (254):
  – Aggressor refuses negotiations
  – Aggressor failure to submit conflict for judicial settlement or arbitration
  – Victim’s membership in a scheme for disarmament

• → Failed. Too far for UK, not far enough for FRA
  – UK wants FRA to disarm, FRA wants to contain GER, US says absolutely not due to interference with trade.
Wisest Choice?

• According to Kissinger (255):
  – Relieve GER of Article 231 and any other unjust parts of treaty
  – Forge firm FRA-UK alliance (if FRA alters their treatment of GER)

• Why didn’t they listen?
Enforcement?

- Allies have no rights to verify GER disarmament & GER knew it and insist Allies disarm too (256).
Reparations

- TBD (257) → used against Allies by GER later
  - Keynes – Economically impossible
  - More difficult to collect the further away from wartime
  - GER pays with inflated currency, then 4yr. moratorium
  - Allied pension payments – new, moral issue

This is a colossally terrible idea - JMK
Meanwhile in Russia...

- Bolsheviks have no foreign policy and are hell-bent on world domination (258).
USSR & GER

• Hoffman forces Trotsky to sign Brest-Litovsk (1918)
  – Coexistence with GER (260)
  – Starting point for Nazi-Soviet Pact (1939)
Oh, POLAND!

- USSR/GER pact to divide Poland in best interest of both.
  - Poles anger BOTH nations with attack of USSR → Curzon Line proposed, and USSR would have accepted but POLAND said NO and returned to pre-war boundaries which took Silesia from GER and area East of Curzon Line.
Rapallo (1922)

• Ostracism created Rapallo (262-265)
  – GER/USSR secret union proposed by Chicherin
  – “The wine is drawn, it must be drunk.”
  – Rapallo creates atmosphere necessary for Hitler & Stalin

A Strange Marriage indeed…