

The Treaty of Versailles

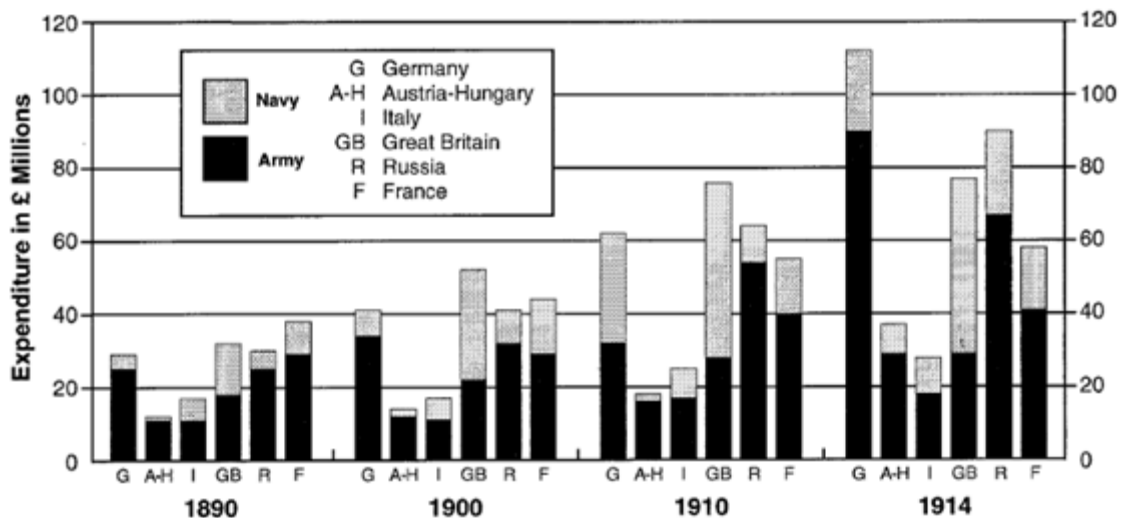
Central Historical Question:

Did the writers of the Treaty of Versailles have a duty to only work to stop future wars or did they have the right to take out revenge on Germany?

Document #1 Prince Bernhard von Bulow, German Chancellor, 1899

In the coming century the German nation will be either the hammer or the anvil.

Doc #2 National Spending on Weapons *The London Times History of the World, Overy 1999*



Note: By 1914 the Entente Powers could field 2.23 million men, Germany and Austria-Hungary 1.2 million.

Document #3 Private W. Hay, Scottish Army, Battle of the Somme, July-Dec 1916

There were bodies all over the place. Heaps of men, not one or two men, but heaps of men everywhere, all dead. *Voices and Images from the Great War 1988*

Document #4 Table showing Military & Civilian Deaths resulting from WW1

	Population (millions)	Military Deaths	Civilian Deaths due to Military action	Civilian deaths due to famine & disease	Total Deaths	Total deaths as % of population	Military Wounded
Entente	806.0	5,712,397	821,757	2,853,000	9,387,136	1.19%	12,809,280
Central Powers	143.1	4,010,241	121,000	3,022,000	7,153,241	5%	8,419,533

Based on Table from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I_casualties

Document #5 American President Woodrow Wilson's 14 "Points" adapted

1. No secret treaties; all international agreements should be open.
2. The seas were to be free to all countries at all times.
4. Every country should reduce its number of Armaments (weapons).
5. The people of a colony should have a say in their territories future.
6. German forces should leave Russia.
7. Belgium should be independent.
8. Alsace-Lorraine should be returned to France (Germany took it)
10. People in the countries of Eastern Europe should be able to create their own countries based on "nationalities" (known as "self-determination)
13. Poland should be independent
14. An International organization should be created to deal with international incidents and disputes (this will prevent wars from starting) – The League of Nations.

Doc #6 German Count Brockdorff-Rantzau speech to the Peace Conference 1919

We doubt the Delegates of the Allied Powers realize the consequences for Germany, if Germany is pushed back in the phases of her development. Germany is now an industrial state, very thickly populated, and tied to the economic system of the world, needing a lot of raw materials and food. Their population cannot survive if their economy is taken back to where it was half a century ago. Those who sign this Treaty will sign the death sentence of many millions of German men, women and children.

Document #7 Excerpt from the Covenant of the League of Nations

Any war or threat of war, whether immediately affecting any of the members of the League or not, may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations.

Article 42. Germany is forbidden to maintain or construct any fortifications on their border with France.

Article 43. German military forces are not to be on the Border with France.

Article 44. If Germany violates Articles 42 or 43, she shall be regarded as committing a hostile act against the Treaty and considered a threat to the peace of the world.

Article 81. Germany, in conformity with the action already taken by the Allied and Associated Powers, recognizes the complete independence of the Czecho-Slovak State.

Article 87. Germany, recognizes the complete independence of Poland.

Article 119. Germany renounces in favor of the principal Allied and Associated Powers all her rights and titles over her oversea possessions.

Article 160. The German Army cannot exceed 100,000 men. The Army may only be used to maintain order within the territory and to control the frontiers.

Article 198. Germany must not have any air force.

Article 231. Germany must accept 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.