

NAME: _____

Directions: Read each of the articles of the Treaty of Versailles reproduced below. Then summarize each section in your own words. Finally, answer the questions at the bottom. **10 pts.**

The Treaty of Versailles (1918)

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 of exploitation, unencumbered and free from all debts and charges of any kind, the coal-mines situated in the Saar Basin.

Summary: _____

ARTICLE 51. The high contracting parties, recognising the moral obligation to redress the wrong done by Germany in 1871 both to the rights of France and to the wishes of the population of Alsace and Lorraine...The territories...are restored to French sovereignty as from the date of the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

Summary: _____

ARTICLE 119. Germany renounces in favour of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers all her rights and titles over her oversea possessions.

Summary: _____

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...The Army shall be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory and to the control of the frontiers...The total effective strength of officers, including the personnel of staffs, whatever their composition, must not exceed four thousand.

Summary: _____

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 subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

Summary: _____

ARTICLE: 232. The Allied and Associated Governments recognise that the resources of Germany are not adequate...to make complete reparation for all...loss and damage. The Allied and Associated Governments, however, require, and Germany undertakes, that she will make compensation for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property during the period of the belligerency...

Summary: _____

1) Based on what you know about the causes of World War I, do you think these parts of the Treaty of Versailles are fair? Why or why not?

2) If you were a German citizen, which of the Articles above would you dislike the most?

The German Reply

15 May 1919

To His Excellency Mr. Clemenceau:

... Under the terms of the peace treaty, Germany is to give up her Merchant Marine and vessels now under construction suitable for foreign commerce... Moreover, Germany must renounce her Colonies; all her foreign possessions... are to be liquidated and credited to the payment of reparations...

When the territorial clauses of the Peace Treaty go into effect Germany will lose in the East the most important regions for the production of wheat and potatoes, and this would be equivalent to a loss of twenty-one percent of the total harvest of these foodstuffs...

The Peace Treaty provides for the loss of almost a third of the production of our coal fields; in addition to that loss, enormous deliveries of coal to various Allied countries are imposed on us for ten years...

After this privation of her produce, after the economic repression caused by the loss of her Colonies, of her Merchant Fleet and her foreign possession, Germany will no longer be in a position to import raw materials in sufficient quantities from abroad. As a matter of course an enormous part of German industry would thus be condemned to extinction. At the same time the need to import commodities would considerably increase, while the possibility of meeting this need would diminish to the same extent.

After a very short time Germany would therefore no longer be in a position to furnish bread and work to her many millions of persons forced to earn their daily bread by navigation and commerce... The enforcement of the Peace Conditions would therefore logically entail the loss of several million persons in Germany... The Peace would impose upon Germany many times the number of human lives cost her by this war of four years and a half...

Those who sign this treaty, will sign the death sentence of many millions of German men, women and children... Kindly accept, etc.

Signed: **BROCKDORFF-RANTZAU**.

1) What did Brockdorff-Rantzau predict would be the economic and social effects of the Treaty of Versailles?

Economic: _____

Social: _____

2) Based on Brockdorff-Rantzau's arguments, do you think the Treaty of Versailles reduced the tensions between European nations that led to World War I? Why or why not?

