

TREATY OF VERSAILLES

What are the most important characteristics to consider when creating new nations in Eastern Europe at the Treaty of Versailles (1919-1920)?

National Self-Determination

- Majority and Minority Cooperation

- Democratic Form of Government

Social Cohesion

- Ethnic Identity

- Religious Compatibility

Shared Historical Experience

- Times of glory and/or times of strife

Economic Viability

- Self sufficiency in crucial resources

- Trade interdependency

National Defense

- Military and Economic Strength

- Natural Defenses

- Regional Defense Alliances

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POLITICAL DISPUTES

Communist Revolutions – Russia, 1917; Finland, Jan.-May 1918; Latvia, Jan.-May 1918; Berlin + Bremen, Germany, Jan. 1919; Bavaria, Germany, April 1919; Hungary, March-August 1919; Slovakia, July 1919; Leipzig, Germany, March 1921; Bulgaria, Sept. 1923; Hamburg, Germany, October 1923.

Conservative Dictatorships

Italy – 1922, Mussolini establishes Fascist dictatorship

Turkey – 1923, Kemal Ataturk dictatorship established

Poland – 1926, Pilsudski dictatorship established

Lithuania – Dec. 1926, Smetona dictatorship established

Yugoslavia – Jan. 1929, Royal dictatorship established by King Alexander

Romania – 1930, Royal dictatorship established by King Carol

Hungary – 1931, Gombos dictatorship established

Austria – March 1933, Dollfuss dictatorship established

Germany – March 1933, Hitler establishes Nazi dictatorship

Estonia – March 1934, Pats dictatorship established

Latvia – May 1934, Ulmanis dictatorship established

Bulgaria – 1936, Royal dictatorship established by King Boris

Greece – August 1936, Royal dictatorship established by King Metaxas

TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

Plebiscites: Eupen and Malmedy to Belgium in 1919

Schleswig to Denmark and Germany in February 1920

Marienwerder and Allenstein to Germany in July 1920

Teschen to Czechoslovakia and Poland in 1920

Upper Silesia to Germany and Poland in March 1921

Sopron to Hungary in 1921

Vilna to Poland in 1922.

Saar to Germany in 1935

Territorial Conflicts: Italy vs. Yugoslavia 1919 – Fiume to Italy

Turkey vs. Syria (France) 1920 – Alexandretta to Syria

Lithuania vs. Germany 1923 – Memel to Lithuania

Greece vs. Turkey 1920-22 – Western Turkey and Islands

Greece vs. Italy 1923 – Island of Corfu

Greece vs. Bulgaria 1925 – Macedonian border

Poland vs. Soviet Union 1920 – Polish boundary moved east

Poland vs. Lithuania 1920-22 – Poland annexed Vilna

Soviet Union 1920 – Ukraine and Azerbaijan annexed

Soviet Union 1921 – Armenia, Georgia and Belarus annexed

TERRITORIAL DISPUTES RELATED TO WORLD WAR II

Anschluss – 1938, Union of Austria and Germany

Sudetenland – Sept. 1938, German ethnic area of Czechoslovakia

Teschen – Sept. 1938, seized from Czechoslovakia by Poland

Slovakia – Nov. 1938, Hungarian ethnic areas seized by Hungary

Ruthenia – March 1939, taken from Czechoslovakia by Hungary

Memel – March 1939, Annexed by Germany

Polish Corridor – Separates Germany, Large German minority

WORLD WAR II STARTS SEPTEMBER 1939

Poland – Sept. 1939, USSR seize Ukrainian and Belarus areas

Soviet-Finnish War – 1939 to 1940, Soviets seize some territory

Baltic area – 1940, USSR annexes Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

Bessarabia – 1940, USSR seizes territory from Romania

Transylvania – 1940, Hungarian ethnic area of Romania seized

Dobruja – 1940, Romanian territory seized by Bulgaria

ISSUES RAISED BY TREATY OF VERSAILLES

Maintenance of colonial empires

National Self-determination ignored outside of Europe

Vietnam, India, Philippines, Syria, Iraq, Egypt

Indonesia, Burma, West Africa, Morocco

German colonies in Africa, Asia and the Pacific

Ottoman Empire territories given as Mandates

Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Trans-Jordan and Iraq

Recent Events

Breakup of the Soviet Union

Periods of independence – Ukraine 1917-20,

Azerbaijan 1918-20, Armenia 1918-21,

Georgia 1918-21, Belarus 1919-21

Independent from 1919 to 1940

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Gulf War – Iraq/Kuwait boundary established in 1919

Breakup of Yugoslavia

War of Independence for Slovenia

War of Independence for Croatia

War of Independence for Bosnia

Effort to unite all Serbs in a Greater Serbia

Kosovo – Albanian and Serbian atrocities

Kosovo – American/NATO war on Yugoslavia

Macedonia – Civil War

Breakup of Czechoslovakia

Czech Republic and Republic of Slovakia

Expansion of NATO

Poland and Hungary accept current borders and must abandon other territorial claims