

## **SIMULATION: Versailles Peace Settlement**

This week's simulation complements last week's exercise on war initiation. Your task today is twofold.

1. You must assign "war guilt" for the Great War.
2. You must determine the amount of reparations to be collected from the "guilty" country, and also the enforcement mechanism if they do not comply.

Each country team should be prepared to defend its actions and condemn those of whomever they believe was responsible for the war.

You will make an opening statement of 2 minutes. (I will cut you off at the 2:00 mark, so be disciplined!) assigning war guilt from your country's perspective. Tell us which government is guilty and why—and why we should believe the guilty party is not your country. (Remember that Russia at this point is run by Communists, Germany and Austria by democrats.)

Allude to, but do not dwell on, the most sophisticated modern theories of war we have at our disposal, as well as factual materials in the readings and documents where appropriate. (We assume everyone has read the work, so simply highlight critical facts in passing. No wild assertions, please.)

You may also be called upon at any time for a 30 sec. rebuttal defending your country from particular criticisms. You should anticipate criticisms and questions.

In addition, any team may call for a 5-minute adjournment, wherein country teams can confer privately with each other. After calling for an adjournment, we will take a vote. If a majority of countries (not participants) agrees, the adjournment begins immediately.

I will begin the discussion by reading the following statement from the real post-war "Commission on the Responsibility of the Authors of the War": *"The War was premeditated by the Central Powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary), together with their allies Turkey and Bulgaria, and was the result of acts deliberately committed in order to make it unavoidable. Germany, in agreement with Austria-Hungary, deliberately worked to defeat all the many conciliatory proposals made by the Entente Powers."*

Since this statement accuses Germany above all others, we will first call on Germany to defend itself and allocate blame. We will then move on to whomever Germany blames.

Be creative. Remember, you may want to blame your allies, as well as your enemies, for the war.

If the class cannot assign war guilt by the end of the session, I will do so.