

Paris Peace Conference Interactive

REACTIONS TO THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES

1. We shall never forget those who are to be severed from us. They will be torn from the German nation but they would not be torn from our hearts.

Fredrich Ebert Socialist President of Germany

2. In many respects terrible terms to impose upon a country. We shall have to fight another war all over again in 25 years at three times the cost.

British politician, David Lloyd George

3. This is not a peace. It is a truce for 21 years.

Marshall Foch of France

4. While I should have preferred be different peace. I doubt whether it could have been made. No one can say with certainty that anything better could have been done at the time.

Colonel House (President Wilson's adviser At Versailles)

5. Nobody involved is completely satisfied not those who wish to punish the evil-doers and least of all, of course, the evil-doers. The Germans may even yet treat the peace treaty as another scrap of paper.

The editor of the Graphic, 5th July 1919

6. The treaty of peace will be received with deep thankfulness throughout the British Empire.

King George V

7. Severe as the treaty seemed to many Germans, it should be remembered that Germany might easily have fared much worse. If Clemenceau had had his way the Rhineland would have become an independent state and the Saar Coalfields would have been joined to France.

British historian William Carr, a History of Germany, 1972

8. The treaties were a reasonable attempt to solve an impossible problem. It was impossible because the atmosphere of 1919 meant the allies could not be lenient towards the defeated countries. It would have been difficult to do better.

From Traynor and Dawson, the struggle for peace, 1997