

## Woodrow Wilson

He was President of America.

He was a History professor. He wanted to **make the world safe**. He wanted to **end war** by making a **fair peace**.

In 1918, Wilson published '**Fourteen Points**' saying what he wanted.

He said that he wanted **disarmament**, and a **League of Nations** (where countries could talk out their problems, without war).



He also promised **self-determination** for the peoples of Eastern Europe.

### Source

We entered this war because violations of right had occurred which touched us to the quick and made the life of our own people impossible unless they were corrected and the world secure once for all against their recurrence. What we demand in this war, therefore, is nothing peculiar to ourselves. It is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world as against force and selfish aggression.

Woodrow Wilson, speaking to Congress on 8 January 1918,

introducing his 'Fourteen Points'.

[http://www.johndclare.net/peace\\_treaties3.htm](http://www.johndclare.net/peace_treaties3.htm)

Details: The USA had only declared war on Germany in April 1917 and it had suffered no damage

whatsoever. Wilson arrived in Europe with the "Fourteen Points", which he hoped would help prevent wars in the future.

The most important of these were:

- The peoples of Europe should be allowed to decide their own future; he called this "Self-determination" and he wanted an end to the empires which European countries had built up. He was not prepared to allow Italy to take the Adriatic coast.
- A League of Nations should be set up to settle disputes between countries in the future.

[http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/year9links/wwi/Versailles\\_roleplay.PDF](http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/year9links/wwi/Versailles_roleplay.PDF)

### Wilson's 14 Points

On January 8, 1918, President Wilson addressed Congress and proposed "a just and lasting peace. . . a new world order resting upon. a general association of nations, guaranteeing political

independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike." (Braeamn. p.11) These ideas were based on his famous Fourteen Points, which can be summarized as follows:

1. Open discussion and public treaty of peace among the nations, after which there shall be no private deals made.
2. Freedom of navigation in the open seas at all times beyond territorial limits.
3. Removal of trade barriers and establishing of equitable trade conditions among the consenting nations and fair enforcement of same.
4. Disarmament of consenting nations and retention of only a small force to keep domestic tranquility.
5. Colonial governments to evacuate and settle impartially with the peoples they govern and to the satisfaction of the equal rights and interest of the rulers and the ruled.
6. Allow Russia to choose her own form of government and welcome her into the comity of nations and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from her territory.
7. Belgium to be evacuated and restored as a free sovereign state.
8. All occupied French territories to be freed and Alsace Lorraine territory negotiated between France and Germany.
9. The boundaries of Italy to be adjusted along clear national lines.
10. Austria-Hungary to be allowed freedom and autonomy.
11. Romania, Serbia, Montenegro and other lands taken during the war to be free of invaders.
12. The Dardanelles to be declared as an open passageway for all nations and Turkey allowed control of her own country.
13. Poland to be an independent state and
14. A League of Nations to be formed as a general association of nations and to agree by treaty to uphold the territorial integrity and political independence of all states in this consortium (Braemnn.69-70).

[http://www.johndclare.net/peace\\_treaties3\\_Wilson.htm](http://www.johndclare.net/peace_treaties3_Wilson.htm)

## Woodrow Wilson - 'Hope of a Different World'

"I think very few Americans are aware of the extent to which Wilson came to symbolize the hopes that Europeans had for a different world.

"He had an extraordinary impact in Europe in 1918-1919. He was able to do this because he was an American; because he represented a country that had come to the aid of the British and the French in the First World War, and had achieved the defeat of the central powers and of German imperialism.

"He was able to do it because he was an extraordinarily articulate man who was at heart, an idealist. But, alas, a man who didn't really appreciate the extent of the problems that he would confront when he tried to realize the ambitions that he had conceived in the United States for a New World order.

"The excitement that people felt about Wilson... quickly turned into distaste, a sense of betrayal and disillusionment.

"This happened when they discovered that Wilson wasn't able to come through on his promises. This was, in part, because he had made too many promises, and he had to negotiate a peace settlement with leaders of other countries who had very different aims. Their aims were not to create a New

World order. Their aims were to make certain that Germany would never again be able to impose its hegemony on the European continent.

"And it was the clash in these war aims that the tragedy of Wilson in Europe came to be realized. Because by the end of 1919 (by 1920), the same people who had been so excited about Wilson, and so enthusiastic about the 14-points, realized that Wilson wasn't going to be able to come through with the goods."

[http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/historian/hist\\_wohl\\_05\\_wilson.html](http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/historian/hist_wohl_05_wilson.html)