**German President Friedrich Ebert**

**Directions:** You are the first German President of the newly formed Weimar Republic, Friedrich Ebert. Historically, none of the Central Powers were invited to the Paris Peace Conference at all. What if Germany had attended the Paris Peace Conference? You’re aiming for the following results at the Paris Peace Conference: **to ensure Germany is not destroyed, to pay as little reparations as possible, and avoid being blamed for the war**. Using the casualty charts, maps, documents and information below, answer the attached questions to create a peace proposal to present to the Allies. At the conference, try to convince the other leaders to adopt your resolution.

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| **Background Information** |

* Germany took the Alsace-Lorraine region from France from the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871). France invaded Prussia (future Germany), fearing German unification. Instead, Prussia defeated France and took control of the region. France wants the land back.
* The Western Front in WWI was located in France, Germany, and Belgium. Germany invaded France and was close to attacking Paris, its capital. France is one of the few countries that suffered the most destruction and will also want Germany to pay huge amounts of reparations.
* Up to the WWI, Germany and Great Britain had an intense arms race, especially the navy. Great Britain would want Germany’s navy dismantled in order to preserve British naval superiority in the world.
* Italy was Germany’s ally (Triple Alliance) up until WWI. Italy claimed the alliance was for “defensive purposes” and not to fight wars. Italy had signed a secret treaty with the Allies (Treaty of London, 1915), promising lands, which includes German colonies in Asia and Africa, parts of the Balkans and Austro-Hungarian territory.
* Austria-Hungary was Germany’s ally in the Triple Alliance. When its heir, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated, then-leader of Germany, Kaiser Wilhelm II pledged unconditional support to punish the assassins.

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| **Document A: The Fourteen Points** |

Fourteen Points, The, a set of 14 principles proposed by President Woodrow Wilson as a basis for ending World War I and for keeping the peace thereafter. Germany welcomed this basis for peace when on the verge of defeat by the Allies some months later. In summary form (*some points have been removed*), the Fourteen Points were:

1. Abolition of secret diplomacy by adoption of open covenants (agreements).
2. Freedom of the seas in peace and war.
3. Removal of international trade barriers where-ever possible and establishment of equal trading conditions among the nations accepting the peace.
4. Reduction of armaments to the lowest point consistent with public safety.
5. Evacuation of German troops from Russian territory.
6. Evacuation of German troops from Belgium.
7. Evacuation and restoration by Germany of French territory, with restoration to France of Alsace-Lorraine.
8. Establishment of a general association of nations to afford mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to large and small nations alike.

In a speech on July 4, 1918, Wilson described the spirit of the Fourteen Points: “What we seek is the reign of law, based upon the consent of the governed and sustained by the organized opinion of mankind.”

Source: http://history.howstuffworks.com/world-war-i/fourteen-points.htm