

Treaty of Versailles

World War II

Unit 8

Key Idea:	Rewrite the Key Idea as an investigative question.
The provisions of the Treaty of Versailles contributed to creating World War 2.	

Below are excerpts (in quotation marks) from the Versailles Treaty presented to officials of the Weimar Republic (German government) by the Allies on May 7, 1919. The treaty was signed on June 28, 1919. These excerpts are rearranged and grouped by commonality; explain how each grouping impacted Germany.

Team	Excerpt(s)	Impact on Germany
A	Articles 27-41: The western boundaries of Germany are redefined.	
	Article 51: "The territories [Alsace and Lorraine] which were ceded to Germany [at the end of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870]... Are restored to French sovereignty."	
B	Article 42: "Germany is forbidden to maintain or construct any fortifications on the left bank of the Rhine or on the right bank to the west of a line drawn fifty kilometers to the East of the Rhine. "	
	Article 160: "The German Army [by March 31, 1920]... Must not exceed 100,000 men, including officers.. [and] shall be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory and to the control of the frontiers."	
	Article 181: "The German naval forces in commission must not exceed: six battleships, six light cruisers, twelve destroyers, twelve torpedo boats. No submarines are to be included. " All other warships are to be surrendered to the Allies.	
	Article 198: "The armed forces of Germany must not include any military or naval air forces."	
C	Article 45: "As compensation for the destruction of the coal mines in the north of France and as partial payment towards the total reparation [war damages] due from Germany... Germany cedes to France... The coal mines situated in the Saar Basin." After fifteen years, the inhabitants of this region may vote to return to German control.	
	Article 232: "[Germany] will make compensation for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property. " A commission will be established to determine the amount of reparations [war damages] Germany must pay.	

