

# Le Monde

## COMPENSATION!

BY M.EDIA

**YESTERDAY, AN HISTORIC EVENT UNFOLDED** in the palace of Versailles. Or, to be more precise, the hall of mirrors: a treaty was signed by the British David Lloyd George, the American Woodrow Wilson and our own president, the 'tiger', Clemenceau.

The treaty has changed the face of Europe, and with this new visage, the scab of Germany has been justly picked off, leaving just a small harmless piece of scar tissue.

For Germany has lost their air force. They have a navy with nothing larger than cruisers. Their army has been permanently reduced to a mere

100,000, and the country itself has been ripped apart, losing it's colonies, Prussia, North Schleswig, Eupen, Malmady and our very own Alsace and Lorraine, among others.

However, the big question among us French is **HAVE WE BEEN COMPENSATED?** Well, the total reparations paid by Germany came to £2000M; this may sound a lot, but it's nothing compared to the amount they

were going to pay: £6,600M, until a British man named J. M. Keynes got the delegation to change it, much to France's dismay.

Another point of the treaty is that the League of Nations has been set up; this organisation (which includes France) will attempt to prevent wars all around the world. Of course, Germany aren't a part of this peace-keeping force, and the communists from Russia have stayed out too. Woodrow Wilson's USA seemingly doesn't support his idea of a brave new world, and they have voted to stay out. **BUT** - will the league be able to cope without the US if Germany try to start another war. Luckily, the treaty has

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also made the Rhineland a demilitarised zone, in order to stop the Germans from invading France, and to stop communism from spreading

across Europe.

Some people feel that Germany have been hit too hard, and that this will spur them on to start another war! Of course, this is stupid: Germany are too weak to do anything. If (hypothetically) a country (not France, of course) wanted to invade Germany, the Huns would be defenceless! Even a war-damaged country like France could beat them (though France is a peace-loving country and doesn't bear grudges).

One strong irony of this treaty must be that less than 50 years earlier, the German empire was proclaimed in the very same room, and, surrounded by mirrors, a young man was made Kaiser. Now, in the hall of mirrors, that empire has come back to die.

Another fine point of this treaty is that France has gained territory from Germany's downfall: a few colonies and we have got back our Alsace and Lorraine, which were unlawfully taken from us by the Germans as they started their greedy and ultimately futile quest for more territory; you wouldn't catch France grabbing weaker nations' land or colonies.

A lot of this treaty is down to the US president Woodrow Wilson's 14 points: a list of ideas for a better world. They include the idea of the League of Nations, and something called 'Self - Determination' - letting a country choose who rules it. **BUT** the US people have been trying this out - they don't like Mr. Wilson's idea, so it looks like they will be choosing someone else to govern them soon!

Overall, however, this treaty has been good to France, protecting us from German invasion, compensating us for damage and giving us a share of German land. We have only one thing to say to Germany: don't try it again if you want to survive!



The treaty was signed at 11 o'clock on the 11th of November 1918 - 11/11/18



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