

The After-effects of the First World War

Directions: Read the source in your group, then answer the questions that follow.

1. Circle words that are unfamiliar.
2. Put a question mark (?) in the margin in places where you feel confused.
3. Answer the questions that follow the text.

After the First World War ended in 1918, Kaiser Wilhelm fled to the Netherlands, and the Weimar Republic began. Germany, however, was still held accountable for much of the destruction of the war by the Allied countries. These Allied countries, which included the United States, Britain, France, Italy, and Japan, negotiated the peace treaty at the Palace of Versailles in France from January 1919 to January 1920. The Germans had no choice but to accept the final Treaty of Versailles, which contained portions that stated the following:

- Germany would pay for the enormous cost of the war and the damage in the war-torn Allied countries.
- Germany would limit the size of its military to fewer than 100,000 soldiers.
- Germany would have new borders in Europe, losing about 13 per cent of its area.
- Germany would lose all colonies and other overseas territories.

The Treaty of Versailles was not well received in Germany. Many Germans felt that their nation had been humiliated by the further loss of territory and military power imposed by the treaty, and Germans grew more angry when the terms of the Treaty of Versailles were made public in May 1919.

1. Note down the title, and write a brief summary (three or four sentences) of this text.
2. What did the Treaty of Versailles mean for Germany?
3. How might the Treaty of Versailles have aided German nationalists like Hitler?
4. What might it have felt like as a German to lose the war and then have the Treaty of Versailles imposed upon your country?