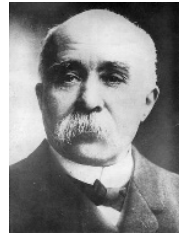


**Conflict and Tension: 1918 - 1939**

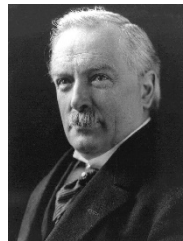
**Part 1: The Treaty of Versailles**

**Aims of the peacemakers**

**Georges Clemenceau – Prime Minister of France.** Clemenceau was recognised as a tough and uncompromising politician. He wanted to cripple Germany to make sure that it was never powerful enough to attack France again. Clemenceau also wanted to reduce its armed forces and make Germany pay compensation for the damage caused to France.



**David Lloyd George – Prime Minister of Britain.** Lloyd George was elected by the British public because he promised to make Germany pay. Many young British men had died in the war and the public wanted revenge but Lloyd George was more cautious than Clemenceau. He was concerned that if Germany was treated too harshly they would want revenge.



**Woodrow Wilson – President of the USA.** Most Americans did not see the need for revenge against Germany. Wilson was concerned that being too strict against Germany would start another war. Wilson was an idealist and saw the way to prevent war as a world parliament called the League of Nations. Wilson had a number of ideas for the future which were called his 'Fourteen Points'.



**The Versailles Settlement**

These are the key points of the Versailles Settlement.

- Article 231 was the War Guilt Clause – this meant Germany and their allies had to take full responsibility for the war.
- German Army was limited to 100,000 men and conscription was not allowed.
- The Rhineland, between France and Germany, was demilitarised. This meant Germany could not put troops here.
- Germany had to pay war reparations of £6.6 billion.
- Anschluss (political union between Germany and Austria) was forbidden.
- Germany was not allowed any tanks or an air force.
- Germany was not allowed to join the League of Nations.
- The Saar was placed under the control of the League of Nations for 15 years.
- Germany lost 10% of its land including Alsace Lorraine which was handed to France.
- Germany's colonies in Africa were given to the League of Nations to govern as a mandate. This meant Britain and France controlled them.

Other treaties included:

Treaty of Trianon – Hungary  
Treaty of Sèvres – Ottoman Empire  
Treaty of Neuilly – Bulgaria  
Treaty of Saint-Germain – Austria

**Impact of the treaty and wider settlement**

Germany felt the Treaty of Versailles was unfair and felt humiliated.

There were revolts in Germany when the government signed the Treaty.

The **Wiemar Constitution**, rules for a new democratic Germany are drawn up.

January 1923 – Germany misses a reparations payment and France invades the Rhur (a key German industrial area).

November 1923 – Hyperinflation takes effect and everyday goods increase in price. A loaf of bread costs 200,000 million marks.

August 1924 – America lends Germany 800 million marks to help rebuild their economy (The Dawes Plan).

