SEMIOFFICIAL SUMMARY OF THE TREATY OF PEACE BETWEEN THE TWENTY-SEVEN ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED POWERS AND GERMANY AS HANDED TO THE GERMAN PLENIPOTENTIARIES AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE ON MAY 7, 1919

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THE TREATY OF PEACE.

SEMIOFFICAL SUMMARY OF THE PEACE TREATY AS CABLED FROM PARIS TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AT NEW YORK AND SUBJECT TO MINOR CORRECTIONS.

The treaty of peace between the 27 allied and associated powers on the one hand and Germany on the other was handed to the German plenipotentiaries at Versailles to-day.

It is the longest treaty ever drawn. It totals about 80,000 words, divided into 15 main sections and represents the combined product of over a thousand experts working continuously through a series of commissions for the three and a half months since January 18. The treaty is printed in parallel pages of English and French, which are recognized as having equal validity. It does not deal with questions affecting Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey, except in so far as binding Germany to accept any agreement reached with those former allies.

Following the preamble and deposition of powers comes the covenant of the league of nations as the first section of the treaty. The frontiers of Germany in Europe are defined in the second section, European political clauses given in the third, and extra-European political clauses in the fourth. Next are the military, naval, and air terms as the fifth section, followed by a section on prisoners of war and military graves, and a seventh on responsibilities. Reparations, financial terms, and economic terms are covered in sections 8 to 10. Then comes the aeronautic section, ports, waterways, and railways section, the labor covenant, the section on guarantees, and the final clauses.

Germany, by the terms of the treaty, restores Alsace-Lorraine to France, accepts the internationalization of the Saar Basin temporarily and of Danzig permanently, agrees to territorial changes toward Belgium and Denmark and in East Prussia, cedes most of Upper Silesia to Poland, and renounces all territorial and political rights outside Europe, as to her own or her allies' territories, and especially to Morocco, Egypt, Siam, Liberia, and Shantung. She also recognizes the total independence of German-Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland.

Her army is reduced to 100,000 men, including officers; conscription within her territories is abolished; all forts 50 kilometers east of the Rhine razed; and all importation, exportation, and nearly all

production of war material stopped. Allied occupation of parts of Germany will continue till reparation is made, but will be reduced at the end of each of three five-year periods if Germany is fulfilling her obligations. Any violation by Germany of the conditions as to the zone 50 kilometers east of the Rhine will be regarded as an act of war.

The German Navy is reduced to 6 battleships, 6 light cruisers, and 12 torpedo-boats, without submarines, and a personnel of not over 15,000. All other vessels must be surrendered or destroyed. Germany is forbidden to build forts controlling the Baltic, must demolish Heligoland, open the Kiel Canal to all nations, and surrender her 14 submarine cables. She may have no military or naval air forces except 100 unarmed seaplanes until October 1 to detect mines, and may manufacture aviation material for six months.

Germany accepts full responsibility for all damages caused by allied and associated Governments and nationals, agrees specifically to reimburse all civilian damages beginning with an initial payment of 20,000,000,000 marks, subsequent payments to be secured by bonds to be issued at the discretion of the reparation commission. Germany is to pay shipping damages on a ton-for-ton basis by cession of a large part of her merchant, coasting, and river fleets and by new construction, and to devote her economic resources to the rebuilding of the devastated regions.

She agrees to return to the 1914 most-favored-nation tariffs, with discrimination of no sort, to allow allied and associated nationals freedom of transit through her territories, and to accept highly detailed provisions as to prewar debts, unfair competition, internationalization of roads and rivers, and other economic and financial clauses. She also agrees to the trial of the ex-Kaiser by an international high court for a supreme offense against international morality and of other nationals for violation of the laws and customs of war, Holland to be asked to extradite the former and Germany being responsible for delivering the latter.

The league of nations is accepted by the allied and associated powers as operative and by Germany in principle but without membership. Similarly, an international labor body is brought into being, with a permanent office and an annual convention. A great number of international bodies of different kinds and for different purposes are created, some under the league of nations, some to execute the peace treaty. Among the former is the commission to govern the Saar Basin till a plebiscite is held, 15 years hence, the high commissioner of Danzig, which is created into a free city under the league, and various commissions for plebiscites in Malmedy, Schleswig, and East Prussia. Among those to carry out the peace treaty are the reparations, military, naval, air, financial, and economic

commissions; the international high court and military tribunals to fix responsibility; and a series of bodies for the control of international rivers.

Certain problems are left for solution between the allied and associated powers, notably details of the disposition of the German fleet and cables, the former German colonies, and the values paid in reparation. Certain other problems, such as the laws of the air and the opium, arms, and liquor traffic, are either agreed to in detail or set for early international action.

THE PREAMBLE.

Names of parties of the one part, the United States, the British Empire, France, Italy, and Japan described as the principal allied and associated powers, and Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, The Hedjaz, Honduras, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Serbia, Siam, Czechoslovakia, and Uruguay, who with the five above are described as the allied and associated powers, and on the other part Germany.

It states that, bearing in mind that on the request of the then Imperial German Government an armistice was granted on November 11, 1918, by the principal allied and associated powers in order that a treaty of peace might be concluded with her, and whereas the allied and associated powers, being equally desirous that the war in which they were successively involved, directly or indirectly, and which originated in the declaration of war by Austria-Hungary on July 28, 1914, against Serbia, the declaration of war by Germany against Russia on August 1, 1914, and against France on August 3, 1914, and in the invasion of Belgium, should be replaced by a firm, just, and durable peace, the plenipotentiaries, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

From the coming into force of the present treaty the state of war will terminate. From the moment and subject to the provisions of this treaty, official relations with Germany and with each of the German States will be resumed by the allied and associated powers.

SECTION ONE.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The covenant of the league of nations constitutes section 1 of the peace treaty, which places upon the league many specific duties in addition to its general duties. It may question Germany at any time for a violation of the neutralized zone east of the Rhine as a