Wilson’s 14 Points
The End of WWI
What Were the 14 Points?

1. **Open *Diplomacy**
   - No more secret treaties
   - Secret Alliances got the war started!
2. **Freedom of the Seas** –

- The seas should be neutral territory
3. **World Disarmament**—
   - Get rid of the Weapons build up—it just causes tension

4. **No trade barriers**— (like tariffs)
   - Barriers (like tariffs) cause competition & therefore conflict

5. **No war claims**—
   - Germany should not have to pay Reparations
6-13. All deal with Self-Determination

- End Imperialism
- Autonomy to imperialized nations
  - Has to do with economic competition
  - As nations seek to control other nations, problems (like secret treaties) arise—So let nations control themselves
14. Formation of a “League of Nations”

- Precursor to the United Nations
- This would stabilize Europe tying it together as a more cohesive unit
- Article 10 stated:
  - If one member of the league is attacked, all the others will come to their aid
So how did it all play out?

• On 11/11/1918 an armistice was signed putting an end to fighting
  – Just what Wilson was waiting for

• Wilson is instrumental in hammering out the Treaty of Versailles
  – He Goes to Europe
    • Unprecedented for sitting president to leave the country
What Happened to the 14 Points?

1. Open Diplomacy—*Most of the treaty negotiated in secret*

2. Freedom of the Seas—*A joke no other nations took it seriously*

3. World Disarmament—*Only the Central powers had to disarm*
4. No trade barriers—No barriers eliminated

5. No war claims—Germany had to pay $5 billion up front and another $30 billion over time plus Germany had to accept the entire guilt for the war.
What Happened?

6-13. Self-Determination—No progress there either

14. Formation of a “League of Nations”--It was formed but the U.S. never joined
Wilson had to give up the 1\textsuperscript{st} 13 points to get the 14\textsuperscript{th}

- Wilson really felt that the league would stabilize Europe, and he was willing to compromise all the others for it
- The League of Nations did materialize

However it was never ratified by the US Senate, so the U.S. never joined

- Article 10 was seen as Unconstitutional

» The Constitution gives only congress the power to declare war
Interrupting the Ceremony

If any man can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak.

FOREIGN ENTANGLEMENTS

PEACE PROCEEDINGS

John L. McCutcheon. The Tribune (Chicago), 1918.
See that horrible vulture! Take it away! Take it away!

"Seein' Things" (Brooklyn Eagle, 1919.)
Based on these cartoons, what do you think public opinion was about the League of Nations?
Wilson actually dies from flu in a campaign to drum up support for the treaty.

– It was never ratified

– The US signed a separate treaty w/ Germany under Ohio President Warren G. Harding

– Which means USA never joined the league of nations

– Never had the power it was meant to
• But the real tragedy of the treaty was death of point #5
  – Wilson understood that economics lay at the heart of the war
  – Germany was severely punished for the war, they were humiliated and there was no hope in sight of getting out of their current situation
  – The situation was ludicrous
The Circle of Debt

U.S. Loans $ to Germany To Pay Reparations

Germany Pays Allies Reparations

Allies Pay back U.S. Loans
• U. S. Banks getting rich off the whole thing
• Fed German nationalism
• Led to rise Nazi Germany in the 1930s.