

which brought horror and disaster upon humanity. The military autocracies of the Central Powers were undoubtedly the immediate instruments that brought the scourge of this war upon mankind. But can we forget, ought we to forget, that so long as the fortunes of war seemed to smile upon them, the policy of world domination which forced this war commanded the approval and support of the enemy nations? Those who have passed from the inconceivable devastation and destruction of France and Belgium to the smiling and untouched countryside of Germany are not wont to regard the terms of this Treaty as unduly severe.

Summary of the Treaty

Coming more in detail to its terms, it defines the boundaries of Germany, restoring to France the lost provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, which were torn from her nearly half a century ago, and to the newly established Polish Republic the large and important territories acquired by Germany through the dismemberment of that country. The intermixture of German and Polish races in the eastern portions of the former German Empire necessitated elaborate and complex provisions, establishing Dantzic as a free city, and giving to the inhabitants of certain districts the right to determine by vote their future national status. Territory of less extent and importance has been ceded by Germany to the new Czecho-Slovak state.

The Treaty also revises the boundaries of Belgium and establishes a new system of government for Luxemburg and the Saar basin. Possible additions of territory to Denmark are provided for, and Germany has been placed under obligation to recognize the independence of German-Austria. Germany has been deprived of all her colonial possessions. She has been subjected to severe restrictions as to the armaments which she shall be allowed to maintain on land, on sea, or in the air. Tribunals have been created for the trial of persons upon whom rests the primary responsibility for the war, or who have committed acts in violation of the laws and usages of war. To the extent of her resources Germany has been required to undertake reparation and restitution for the destruction and ruin which her mad ambition has occasioned. The Treaty provides for international control of certain ports, railways, rivers, and canals. It embodies elaborate financial and economic provisions to which further reference will be made, and finally it establishes guarantees for the execution of the Treaty and for assuring the future peace of the world.

Alsace-Lorraine and Poland restored

So far as Alsace-Lorraine is concerned there is little need of argument. Those provinces, predominantly French in sentiment and thoroughly desirous of remaining French in their national status, were wrested by force and against their will from France fifty years ago. This barbarous and historic injustice has now been redressed and the lost provinces are once more joined to their parent state. The Allied Nations—I shall use the term "Allied" for brevity in speaking of the Allied and Associated Powers—have also made good to the people of Northern Schleswig the promise which Prussia gave in 1866 and which ever since has been constantly violated. These people will now have the opportunity of expressing by a free vote their desire for reunion with their motherland.

The emancipation of Poland and its establishment as a free and independent nation, with access to the sea, have commanded the approval of the world. The