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from the Greek Orthodox peasants of the Russian Ukraine.

The Frontier Problem in 1919

The disposal of these areas was a problem of particular complexity in the negotiations for peace in 1919. The Poles, on the one hand, had claims to territories approximating their ancient Kingdom with boundaries reaching even to the Dnieper. The other claimant, Russia, was regarded either as too weak to establish its authority as far west as White Russia and Galicia or, conversely, as too dangerous to be permitted to do so. The only guiding principles for the solution of the problem were President Wilson's 6th and 13th points. The former called for the evacuation of all Russian territory and the latter for the creation of an independent Polish state "which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations." Despite these principles, it was only with the greatest difficulty that the Allied powers reached a tentative agreement for a Polish eastern frontier. In the end, the question was taken out of the hands of the Peace Conference by the results of the Polish-Russian War of 1919-1920.

The United Kingdom representatives at the Peace Conference were opposed to the acquisition by Poland of the Eastern provinces in question. The historical claims of the Poles appeared too distant to be relevant and the ethnic character of the areas seemed to place them definitely outside the boundaries of Poland. It was thought, moreover, that the Poles, assured of the hostility of the Germans by the nature of the settlement on their western frontier, should run no risks of encountering a Soviet irredentism to the east, and that the inclusion of White Russian and Ukrainian territories in Poland would serve only to weaken the new Polish state. The French and United States representatives thought otherwise. To the French, the desire to create a strong eastern ally against Germany and to install an effective bulkhead