

And yet I venture to say that no one reading this Treaty critically, and proceeding to what might be termed a final analysis of the judgment arrived at, can criticise it successfully as failing to give effect to the fundamental principles in view. It may be said—and I fancy that it was at one time expected—that if Germany failed in this war, on the terms of peace which are usually imposed upon a vanquished nation, she should be made chargeable with paying the cost of the war; but when we consider the overwhelming character of the struggle, when we consider that practically the whole edifice of civilization was shaken like a house of cards and that devastation and destruction swept over not only Europe but other continents, we can readily understand that, with Germany crippled, as we are glad to say she was when the war terminated, it would have been impossible for her, notwithstanding her ability and her possibility of recuperation, to meet the enormous cost involved in the carrying on of the war. I noticed the other day that it was stated by the Prime Minister of Great Britain that the war had cost the nations engaging therein no less than thirty billions of pounds sterling. For the carrying on of the war Great Britain alone had to raise by loans and revenues nine billions and a half pounds sterling. Her army numbered 7,700,000 men. There were no less than 3,000,000 casualties in this Empire. When we proportionately apply the cost and the casualties to the other nations engaging in this titanic struggle, it can be readily conceived that it would be impossible for any nation, or practically any group of nations, to assume the entire burden of the overwhelming cost and debt which have been created by that struggle. The human mind cannot grasp the figures which are involved; they transcend our imagination to such an extent that we cannot grapple with them.

However, when we peruse this Treaty which is now before us and consider, not merely in detail, but in the aggregate, the terms which have been imposed upon Germany, we cannot fail to come to any other conclusion than that they are onerous in the extreme; yet, while they are onerous in the extreme, they are not excessive but generous. If Germany had conquered in this struggle, she would have crushed the life-blood out of her enemies and her heel would have been on our necks for generations to come. Yet, we are glad to say, the Allies are to-day generous and merciful taskmasters, notwithstanding the reasons

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they have for reprisals against the arch foe which they combatted.

In reviewing the terms for a moment, probably at the risk of being considered a little tedious, may I be permitted to enumerate to some extent the losses of territory which Germany has sustained as the outcome of these peace conditions. May I preface that by saying that when Germany entered upon this war her object was that of world domination? That policy embraced territorial aggressions by which she proposed to take from the other nations of Europe territory of enormous magnitude, and by which, if she had succeeded, she would have become territorially the most powerful empire in the world.

More attention, I imagine, was given to the retrocession of Alsace-Lorraine than to the cession of any other territory which Germany lost; and it was probably the arbitrary action of Germany in 1870 in exacting from France the cession of those two French provinces which had a great deal to do with the position they occupy to-day. Under Article 51, on page 38, we find:

The territories which were ceded to Germany in accordance with the Preliminaries of Peace signed at Versailles on February 26, 1871, and the Treaty of Frankfurt of May 10, 1871, are restored to French sovereignty as from the date of the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

Again, on page 48 of the Treaty, we find territory taken from the German empire by which the Czecho-Slovak State becomes one of the important national entities of Europe. Article 83 reads as follows:

Germany renounces in favour of the Czecho-Slovak State all rights and title over the portion of Silesian territory defined as follows.

I need not read the boundaries thereof.

Coming down to article 87, we find that Germany has had to renounce the territory of Poland, which 150 years ago she acquired through tyrannical action by which the people of Poland were crushed, and from which time the people of Poland were under the heel of the Prussian.

Germany, in conformity with the action already taken by the Allied and Associated Powers, recognizes the complete independence of Poland, and renounces in her favour all rights and title over the territory bounded by the Baltic Sea, the eastern frontier of Germany as laid down in Article 27 of Part II of the present Treaty.

On page 59 of the Treaty we find the renunciation by Germany and the retrocession of the free city of Danzig, a city of no mean importance.