10th Grade World History

for the week of
April 20, 2020
World War I Armistice

Central Historical Question:
What were attitudes toward the armistice ending World War I?

Materials:
- World War I Armistice PowerPoint handout
- Documents A-D
- Guiding Questions

Instructions:

1. **Introduction.** View the World War I Armistice PowerPoint handout to provide context about the signing of the armistice and the events leading up to the end of World War I.
   
   a. Slide 2: During the summer of 1918, the German army suffered a series of decisive losses on the battlefield. By the fall of 1918, Germany’s military situation seemed hopeless. The government hoped to launch one final offensive against the British Royal Navy. At the end of October, a group of sailors revolted against the plan, which the sailors believed was hopeless. Soon the revolt spread across the country as workers joined the sailors in protesting the government. As a result of the upheaval, Germany changed its system of government from a constitutional monarchy to a democratic republic on November 9, 1918.

   b. Slide 3: On November 8, 1918, representatives of the German government met with Supreme Allied Commander Marshal Ferdinand Foch in a forest outside of Compiègne in northern France.

   c. Slide 4: Foch presented the German delegation with a set of terms and told them that they had 72 hours to sign. There were 34 clauses in the armistice – which is an agreement to stop fighting before terms of peace are formally agreed upon. Key points included:
   - End of hostilities
   - Surrender of German weapons, including machine guns airplanes, and ships
   - Return of Allied prisoners of war
   - Future reparations by Germany
   - Withdrawal of German forces
   - No end to naval blockade of Germany
   - No return of German prisoners
d. Slide 5: There were virtually no negotiations. The German delegation received instructions from the German government that they should sign the armistice even if they could not negotiate better terms. The German representatives signed the armistice on November 11, 1918. It went into effect later the same day.

e. Slide 6: Central Historical Question. *This week, we are going to examine four documents to answer this question: What were attitudes toward the armistice ending World War I?*

2. Inquiry.
   a. Get out Document A and Document B. Read the documents and complete the corresponding guiding questions and sections of the graphic organizer.

   b. Note the following:
   - Pershing’s account suggests that the German representatives found the terms of the armistice to be harsh and unfair to the German people.
   - According to Pershing, Weygand told the German representative that in France there was widespread hatred toward Germany. This suggests that the armistice might have been seen in France as a reasonable punishment for German actions during the war.
   - The excerpt from the armistice corroborates Pershing’s account. The German representatives maintain that the armistice’s conditions could cause great suffering for the people of Germany.
   - The excerpt from the armistice also suggests that the German representatives believed that the conditions could make it impossible for Germany to meet all of the armistice’s terms.

   c. Get out Document C and Document D. Read the documents and complete the corresponding guiding questions and sections of the graphic organizer.

   d. Note the following:
   - Document C indicates that many in Germany were very upset about the armistice. In particular, the newspaper account indicates that members of the German government were seeking to oppose the terms of the armistice.
   - The description of Solf’s appeal to Wilson in Document C suggests that Germans’ opposition to the armistice stemmed in large part from the documents’ harsh terms.
Document C suggests that members of the German government held out hope that subsequent negotiations would align with President Woodrow Wilson’s 14 Points and that the tough terms of the armistice would eventually be abandoned.

Document C also indicates that the armistice was met quite differently in the United States. According to the newspaper account, people were celebrating in the streets of Washington, D.C. The final sentence of the document indicates that this reaction stemmed in large part from a sense of relief that the war was coming to an end.

Document D indicates that many in England were also very excited to learn of the signing of the armistice.

Document D also suggests that there was an awareness in England of the various challenges that still needed to be resolved.

3. **Final reflection questions:**

   a. According to these documents, what were attitudes toward the armistice?
   b. What are the limitations of these documents as evidence of attitudes toward the armistice?
   c. What perspectives are missing from this document set?
   d. What additional evidence would you want to better understand attitudes toward the armistice?
   e. How would this additional evidence help you better understand attitudes toward the armistice?

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**Documents**

Doc A  

Doc B  
*Armistice with Germany, November 11, 1918. Retrieved from:  

Doc C  
*The Washington Herald, November 12, 1918, p.1:  
https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045433/1918-11-12/ed-1/seq-1/

Doc D  
*Norwich Bulletin, November 12, 1918, p. 1:  
http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82014086/1918-11-12/ed-1/seq-1
World War I Armistice
German Revolt

THE CHATTANOOGA NEWS

HUN SAILORS AT KIEL REVOLT

Entry Sedan Means New 7-Mile Advance By Yanks

AMERICAN ARMY DRIVES FORWARD
New Thrust Made North of Verdun—Huns Evacuate Ghent.

Pursue Boches Resumed

Franco-Americans Drive Deep or Into German Lines West of Meuse.

London, Nov. 7.—(10:15 a.m.)—American forces north of Verdun today launched a new drive west of the Meuse river, and have pushed forward their line to Meuse, according to information received here this afternoon. The line is now said to run through Agrinian, north of Meuse, and north of Cornage and Vendres, both of which were attacked.

THE CHATTANOOGA NEWS

GERMANY'S HOLD ON AISNE BROKEN

A Line Which Had Resisted When Rest of Front Crumbled Also Gives Way.

绒绒

REVOLUTIONISTS HOIST RED FLAG

Muff breaks out Among Forces of Battleship Kaiser at Kiel.

ENEMY WHITE FLAG PARTY CROSS BATTLE LINE AT NOON

FLEET SEIZED

Revolutionists have seized the Military and the fleet and have refused to march to the line so as to throw up battleships.

RUMORS OF END OF WAR CURRENT

Commercial Centers Thrown Into Flurry by Unconfirmed Report.

FOCH MEETS HUN ENVOYS

Story That Germany Has Signed Armistice Lacks Official Confirmation.

British Casualties for Week, 27,000

London, Nov. 7.—British casualties reported for the week were to-day 27,000. The total losses are 33,045. Wounded on Monday—Officers, 525; men, 2,919. Wounded on Monday—Officers, 924; men, 29,105.

Connecticut, Nov. 7.—Reports that the Germans will withdraw their troops forthwith from Poland have been rejected by General Ludendorff, the chief of the German national government, according to the Berlin Business Westphalian Gazette of Keesen.

Marshall Foch Sent Radiogram to German High Command, Directing Plenipotentiaries to Advance Via Chimay Along Guise Road Within Four Miles of La Cappelle.

London, Nov. 7.—(11:15 p.m.)—The German armistice envoys reached Loka last night and crossed the battle line at noon, said a news agency dispatch this afternoon.

Foch Gives Directions.

(11:10 a.m.)—Marshall Foch, the allied commander-in-chief, has notified the German high command that if the German armistice delegation wishes to meet him it shall advance to the French lines along the Chimay, Fourniais, La Cappelle and Guise roads. From the French outpost the plenipotentiaries will be conducted to the place decided upon for the interview. The news of this place is not given in the official text of the note from Marshall Foch, which reads as follows:

"To the German High Command From Marshal Foch:

"If the German plenipotentiaries wish to meet Marshal Foch at Loka,"

"in the French lines along the Chimay, Fourniais, La Cappelle and Guise roads, from the French outpost of the plenipotentiaries will be conducted to the place decided upon for the interview."

April 20, 2020

10th Grade World History

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Marshall Ferdinand Foch
Armistice conditions

- End of hostilities
- Surrender of German weapons, including machine guns, airplanes, and ships
- Return of Allied prisoners of war
- Future reparations by Germany
- Withdrawal of German forces
- No end to naval blockade of Germany
- No return of German prisoners
Signing of the Armistice
Central Historical Question

What were attitudes toward the armistice ending World War I?
Document A: Diary

General John Pershing led the United States military forces during World War I. In this diary entry, Pershing recounts a meeting with French General Maxime Weygand. Weygand served as the chief of staff to Marshal Ferdinand Foch, the Supreme Allied Commander during World War I.

At the table [French] General Weygand told about the visit of the German emissaries . . . [Foch] asked them what was the object of their visit. They replied that they had come to discuss terms of armistice. Marshal Foch made it clear that he himself was not asking for an armistice and did not care to have one. He then asked the Germans if they wished an armistice. They said that they did. The Marshal said if they wished an armistice, here were the terms upon which they might have it, and handed them the terms. General Weygand said that the members were apparently very much depressed by the severity of the terms. . . . A wireless message from the German Government authorizing the delegates to sign the armistice was received at about 2 a.m. on the 10th. . . . In their hurry to stop the bloodshed, the last page of the conditions was written first, on which the signatures were placed at five minutes after five a.m. on the 11th, and word was sent out immediately to the troops to stop hostilities at 11 a.m.

General Weygand said that the delegates left soon after. Just before they left, Mr. Oberndorff [of the German Foreign Ministry] stated that he would like to speak to General Weygand. . . . The German stated that he . . . wished to ask General Weygand if it would not be possible to have started in France in some of the French newspapers a little propaganda in favor of sending food to the German population. He called attention to the fact that no one wanted to let the German people starve and that it was not in the interest of France to let them do so. General Weygand replied . . . that as for the propaganda, it would be impossible to consider the matter. In the first place, he said that the German evidently had not any conception of the feeling in France toward Germany; that it was deepest rooted hatred because of the suffering and injustice which Germany had brought to France; that no paper would publish such propaganda and any paper which did would rightly be burned. The German stated that General Weygand did not fully understand the situation; that some day he would see that the fault was not entirely against the Germans.

Source: Diary of General John Pershing, November 12, 1918.

Vocabulary

emissary: a person sent as a diplomatic representative.
severity: the extent to which something is strict or harsh
Document B: Armistice (excerpt)

This is an excerpt from a note by the German representatives that appears at the end of the armistice.

Declaration of German Plenipotentiaries

The German Government will naturally endeavor with all its power to take care that the duties imposed upon it shall be carried out.

The undersigned plenipotentiaries recognize that in certain points regard has been paid to their suggestions. . . .

They must, however, allow no doubt to exist on the point that in particular the short time allowed for evacuation, as well as the surrender of indispensable means of transport, threatens to bring about a state of things which, without its being the fault of the German Government and the German people, may render impossible the further fulfillment of the conditions.

The undersigned plenipotentiaries further regard it as their duty with reference to their repeated oral and written declaration once more to point out with all possible emphasis that the carrying out of this agreement must throw the German people into anarchy and famine. According to the declarations which preceded the armistice, conditions were to be expected which, while completely insuring the military situation of our opponents, would have ended the sufferings of women and children who took no part in the war.

The German people, which has held its own for 50 months against a world of enemies, will, in spite of any force that may be brought to bear upon it, preserve its freedom and unity.

A people of 70,000,000 suffers but does not die.

Erzberger, Oberndorff, Winterfeldt, Vanselow

Vocabulary

plenipotentiary: a diplomat authorized to represent a government.
endeavor: try hard to do something.
indispensable: absolutely necessary
render: make
anarchy: chaos; lawlessness
Revolutionists Denounce Armistice; World Goes Wild Over Allied Victory

German Baltic Forces Called out to Resist Terms of Armistice
London, Nov. 11 (8:39 p.m.) – The German revolutionary council in command of the German fleet, denouncing the armistice terms as “unjust,” particularly the continuation of the blockade, has summoned all sailors to “defend the country.” It has ordered all submarines in the Baltic to assemble immediately in the harbor Sassnitz, on the east coast of the Island of Ruegen.

Dr. Solf Pleads for Mercy: Former Foreign Minister Begs Wilson to Provide Food for Starving Women and Children in Germany
Amsterdam, via London, Nov. 11. – Dr. W.S. Solf, who was German foreign minister under Prince Max’s chancellorship . . . today issued a signed appeal to President Wilson, in the name of the German people, “to use his influence with the allies to mitigate these fearful conditions” (meaning the armistice terms). Dr. Solf says: “After a blockade of Germany lasting fifty months, and still in force, armistice contents . . . make it an impossibility to provide Germany with food, and would cause the starvation of millions of German women, children and men. The enforcement of these terms would produce a feeling among the German people contrary to the reconstruction of the community of nations. The German people appeal to President Wilson to influence the allies to mitigate these fearful conditions. . . . Convinced of the common aims of democracy, the German government requests President Wilson to re-establish the peace principles which he has always maintained.”

“War Thus Comes To End,” And Unleashed Capital Celebrates Accordingly
Estimate 350,000 Celebrators Throng Streets, With Enthusiasm Running Riot — Thrills and Scenes to Be Seen Everywhere.

Succinctly, yet with a dignity that matched perfectly the full import of the words, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, made the above comment yesterday afternoon following his reading of the terms of armistice that reduced the German empire to military and naval impotency. The streets of the Nation’s Capital last night were jammed and running over with a singing, roaring, cheering, seething carnival crowd. For fifteen hours they have been celebrating their sudden freedom from the gnawing anxiety that war alone can create.


Vocabulary
mitigate: to make less severe
impotency: weakness
LONDON CELEBRATED SIGNING OF ARMISTICE

London, Nov. 11—(British Wireless Service). – The lord mayor of London, who in response to calls from the crowds, came to the front of the mansion house, said: “Citizens of London: Let us congratulate ourselves on the great news that our four years of strenuous work has now come to an end and that we see before use the result of the strenuous labor of Great Britain and her allies. Let us not forget that there is still work for every loyal and patriotic citizen in the re-construction and many other problems which must arise. I will only say now let us give three cheers for His Majesty.” To this there was great response.

At the admiralty there were calls for a speech from Sir Eric Geddes, the First Lord. The crowds had collected there and hastily improvised platforms were erected for the First Lord and members of the board of admiralty. Sir Eric Geddes called for three cheers for Vice Admiral Beatty (commander of the grand fleet) and these having been given with great fervor the crowds again asked for a speech, but the cheering drowned all else. The First Lord called for cheers for the British bluejackets.


Vocabulary
First Lord: the political head of the British navy
British bluejackets: British sailors
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