

Following are possible answers for the questions in the Reading Notes.

I. Wilson’s Vision for World Peace

A. Fourteen Points to End All Wars

1. Wilson’s first goal was to eliminate the causes of wars by calling for an end to secret agreements and alliances, protecting freedom of the seas, and reducing armaments.
2. Wilson’s second goal was to ensure the right to self-determination so ethnic groups and nationalities could live under governments of their own choosing.
3. The last of the fourteen points called for setting up a League of Nations to ensure world peace.

B. Wilson’s Unusual Decisions

1. Wilson broke with tradition by traveling out of the United States while president to lead the U.S. delegation to the peace conference in Paris.
2. Wilson weakened his position when he asked Americans to support Democrats in the 1918 midterm elections, but then the Republicans won a majority in Congress.
3. Wilson made matters worse by choosing all Democrats and only one Republican to serve as the other delegates to the peace conference.

II. Ideals Versus Self-Interest at Versailles

A. Peace Without Victory Gives Way to War Guilt and Reparations

1. Wilson’s vision for a peaceful world was different from the vision of other Big Four leaders.
2. France’s Georges Clemenceau was most concerned about French security.
3. David Lloyd George wanted Germany to accept full responsibility for the war through a war-guilt clause and reparations.

4. Wilson tried to restrain from punishing Germany but ultimately agreed to gain support for the League of Nations.

B. Self-Determination Survives, but Only in Europe

1. Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania all gained independence.
2. Parts of Germany were given to other European nations without regard to the desires of people living there.
3. German colonies in China, the Pacific, and Africa were taken by the Allies, while areas once controlled by the Ottoman Empire became mandates of the League of Nations.

C. Wilson Pins His Peace Hopes on the League of Nations

1. Wilson agreed to the treaty because he hoped that the League of Nations would be able to correct its many flaws.
2. The Big Four signed the Treaty of Versailles on June 18, 1919.

III. The Great Debate About Ratification

A. Reservationists Seek Changes Before Approving Treaty

1. Reservationists would only ratify the Treaty of Versailles if some changes, called reservations, were added to it.
2. Reservationists were most concerned about Article 10 of the League of Nations charter, which required member nations to work together—and even supply troops—to keep the peace.
3. Republican Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, the leader of the reservationists, had both personal and political reasons for opposing the treaty.

B. Irreconcilables Reject the Treaty in Any Form

1. Irreconcilables, who were completely against the Treaty of Versailles, wanted no part in

the League of Nations, which might draw the nation into a new war.

2. Republican Senator William Borah was an outspoken irreconcilable.

C. Internationalists Support the Treaty of Versailles

1. Internationalists supported the Treaty of Versailles and believed that greater cooperation among nations could work for the benefit of all.

2. Most Senate Democrats were internationalists.

D. President Wilson Takes His Case to the People

1. As ratification hearings dragged on, Americans began to lose interest.
2. Wilson went on a grueling speaking tour. Though he picked up support, he became very sick.

most Americans were more concerned about inflation and unemployment.

3. Harding won by 7 million votes.

4. In October 1921, the United States signed a separate peace agreement with Germany and did not become a member of the League of Nations.

IV. A Divided Senate Decides the Treaty's Fate

A. Partisanship Defeats the Treaty

1. On the first vote, the treaty with reservations was defeated by irreconcilables and other Democrats who Wilson had encouraged to vote down anything but the treaty in its original form.
2. On the second vote, the treaty without reservations was defeated by reservationists and irreconcilables.
3. On another vote four months later, some Democrats supported the treaty with reservations in an effort to get a treaty passed; but this support was still not enough.

B. The 1920 Election Becomes a Referendum on the Treaty

1. In 1920, the Democratic nominees for president and vice president were James Cox and Franklin Roosevelt. Warren G. Harding was the Republican presidential nominee.
2. Wilson called the 1920 election a "great and solemn referendum" on the League, but