Treaty of Versailles

How to end a war while putting us on course for another in one document

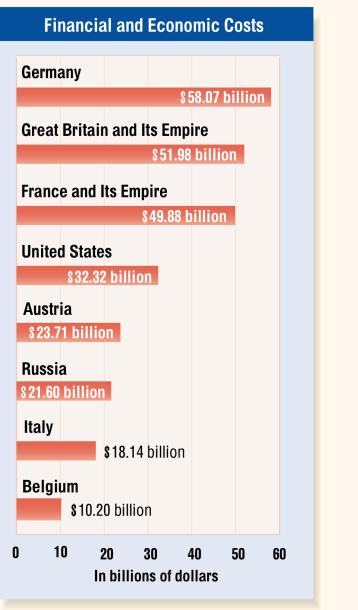


Europe is devastated
8.5 million killed
21 million wounded



The Human and Financial Costs of World War I





Source: Randal Gray, Chronicle of the First World War, Vol. II: 1917–1921, Facts on File, New York, 1991.

• • • Spanish Flu

- Following the war a flu epidemic hits
- Flu kills 25 million in 2 years
- Adds to feelings of bitterness against Germany



• • The Big Three

- David Lloyd George, George Clemenceau, and Woodrow Wilson
- Three main writers of treaty
- Leaders of largest Allies



• • Attitudes Toward Germany

- Allied leaders (Triple Entente) want Germany crippled
 - 2nd war with Germany in 30 years
- Pres. Wilson the one leader who wanted to be "nice" to the Germans
 - Wilson wanted to end war forever

• • Wilson's 14 Points

- End of secret treaties
- Open navigation of the seas
- Free trade
- Weapon reductions
- Impartial review of colonial grievances

I4 Points Con't

- Restoration of French lands taken in the last war
- Adjustment of the boarders of Italy
- Self determination for Austria-Hungary, the Balkans, people in the Ottoman Empire
- League of Nations

Europe Rejects Wilson

• Only a few of the points are accepted

- League Of Nations created
- Blame Clause
 - Germany completely to blame for entire war

League of Nations

o Purpose

- Prevent war through collective safety
- Dispute settlement
- Disarmament
- Improving Global Welfare
- o U.S. never signs on
- Never gets off the ground

• • Article X

- League nations had to send troops to fight
 - Takes power from U.S Congress
 - New Republican congress disagrees with Wilson over new role for the U.S.
 - The U.S will ultimately not join the League of Nations

Reservationists

- Led by Henry Cabot Lodge
- Supported the treaty
- Had reservations about signing onto League of Nations
- o Article X



Irreconcilables

• Hated the Treaty

- Opposed it at any cost
- League of Nations most hated part
- Feared Foreign Entanglements
- Feared Foreign Control of Military

• • Liberals

 Consisted of most democrats in the Senate

- No longer the majority of the Senate
- •Wanted to end war with war

Fate of the Treaty

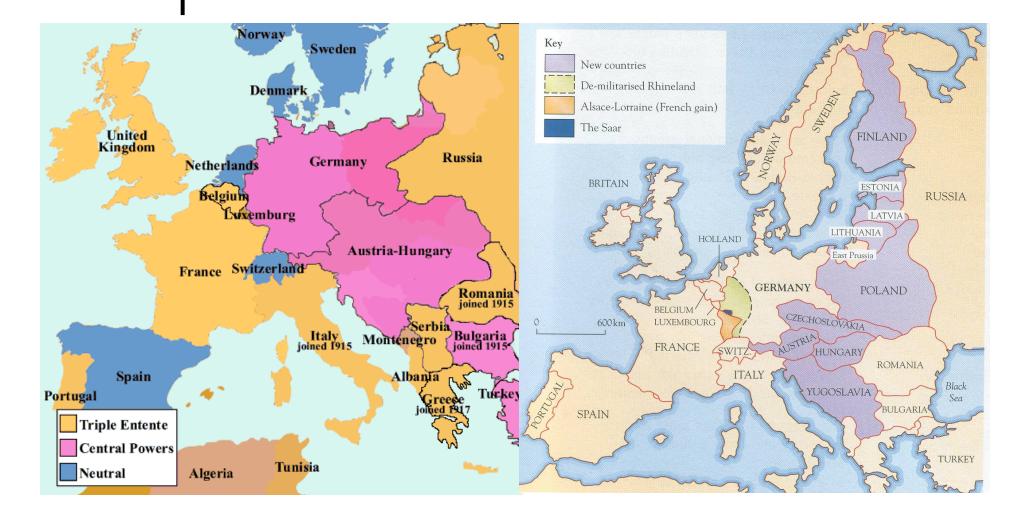
- Wilson suffers major stroke during ratification debate
- New Republican majority doesn't ratify the treaty
- Severely ill Wilson is beaten
- The United States ends war on its own
- The U.S. will not join the League of Nations

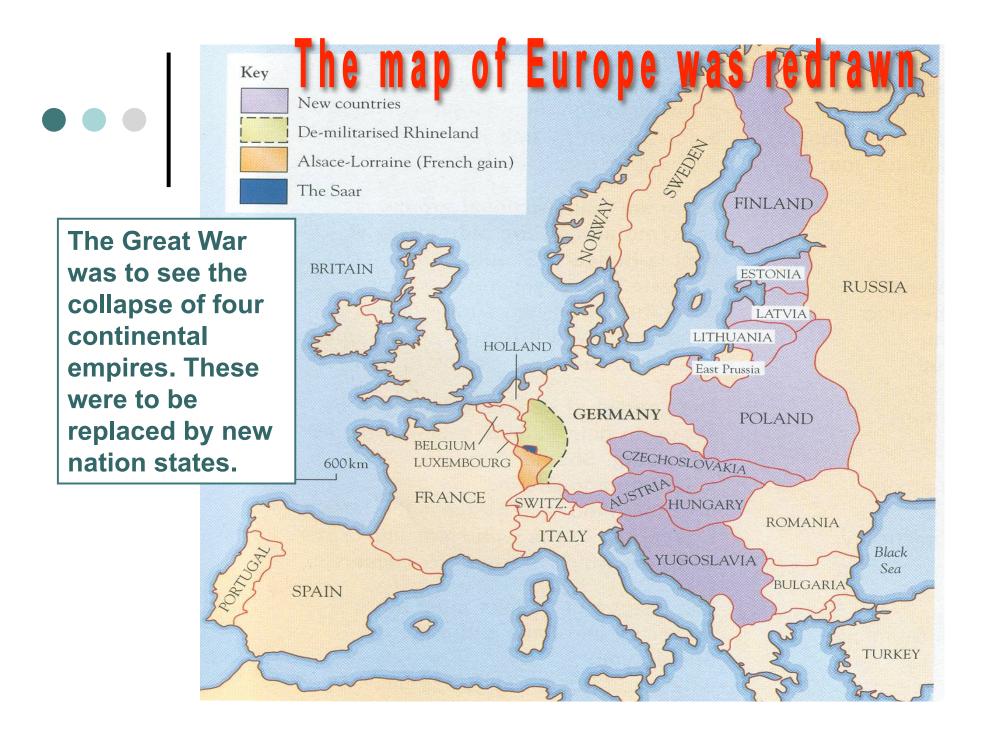
Consequences of Treaty

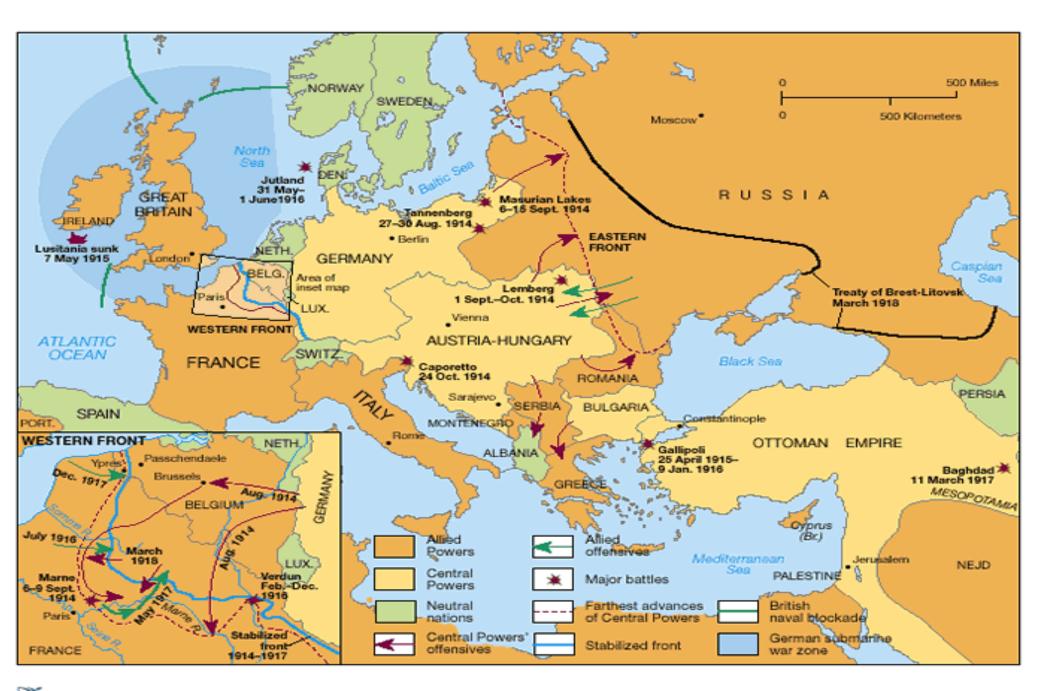
Huge economic hardship for Germany

Many powerless countries created
Political Instability in Germany
The road to WWII has been paved

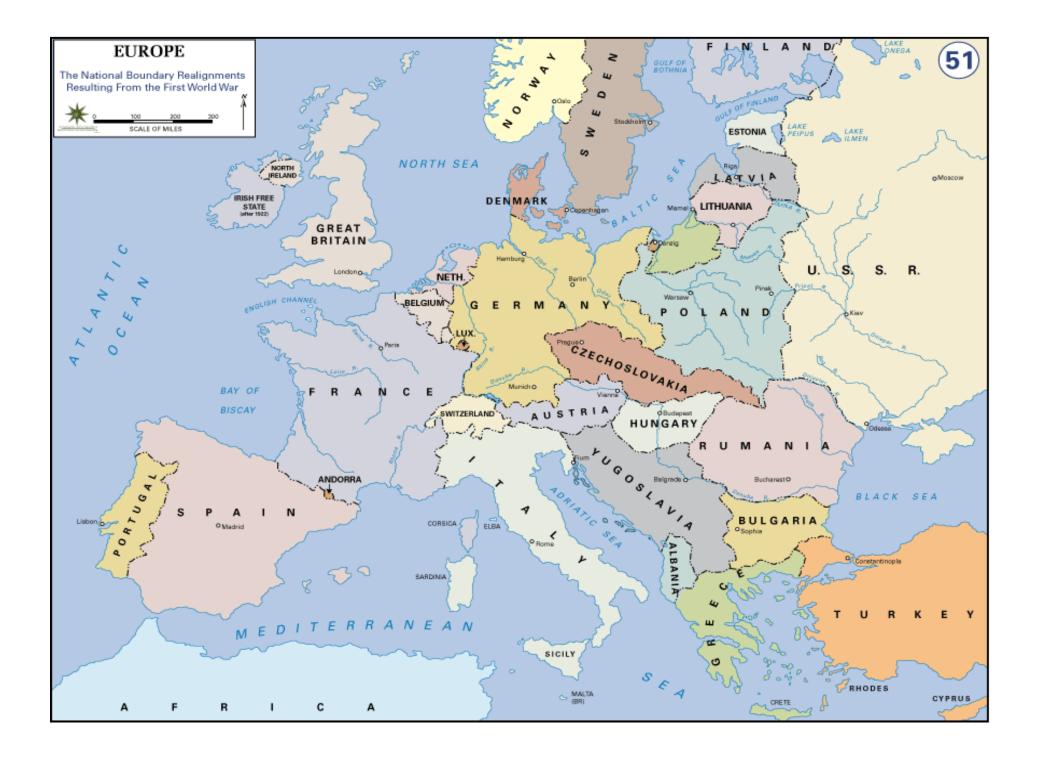


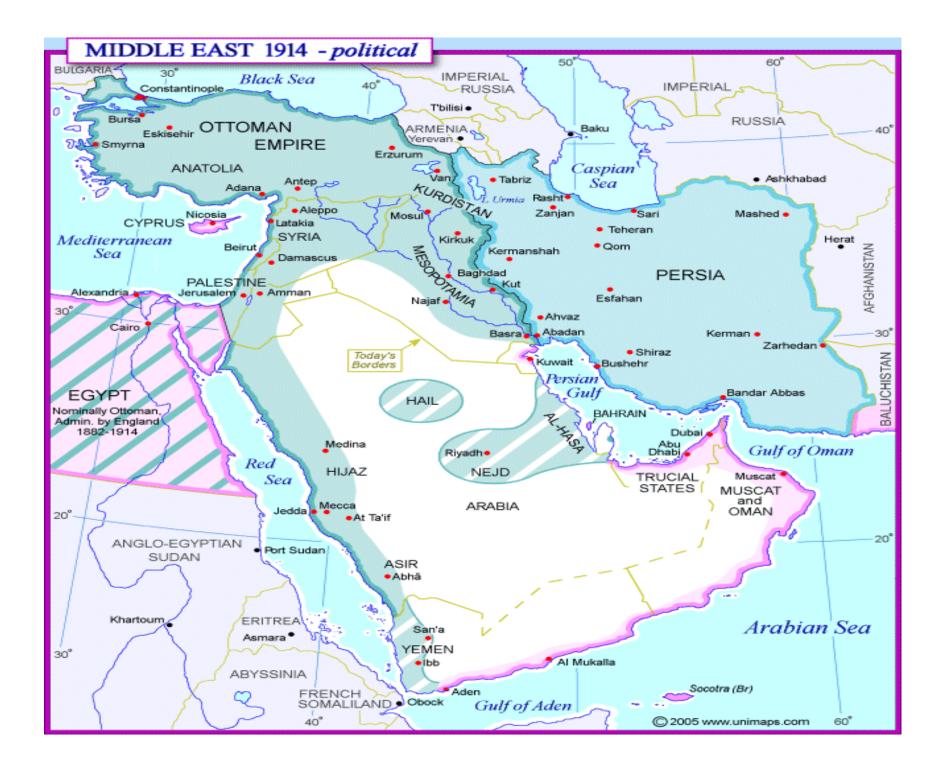


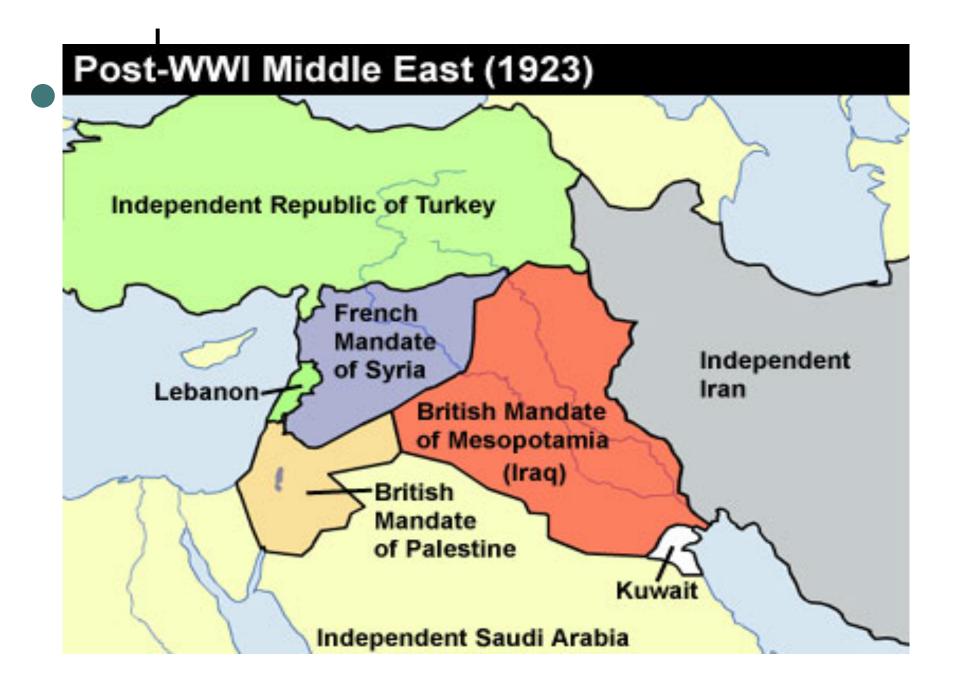




World War I. The Central Powers were in the unenviable position of fighting wars on two major fronts. The inset shows the stabilized Western Front of trench warfare in northern France and Belgium.







Talk with a partner, then be prepared to share...

- How did the Treaty of Versailles change national boundaries?
- How will the Treaty of Versailles impact economics?
- How will the U.S rejection of the League of Nations impact world politics?
- Why could it be argued that WWI and WWII are the same conflict? How do historians arrive at that interpretation?

HOW USEFUL IS THIS SOURCE AS HISTORICAL EVIDENCE:

i. What do we learn from it about the period being studied?

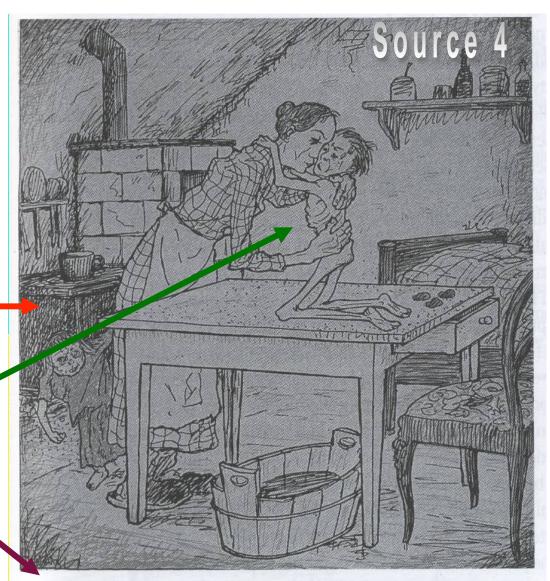
ii. How reliable is this source?

Describe the condition of the room in which this family is living?

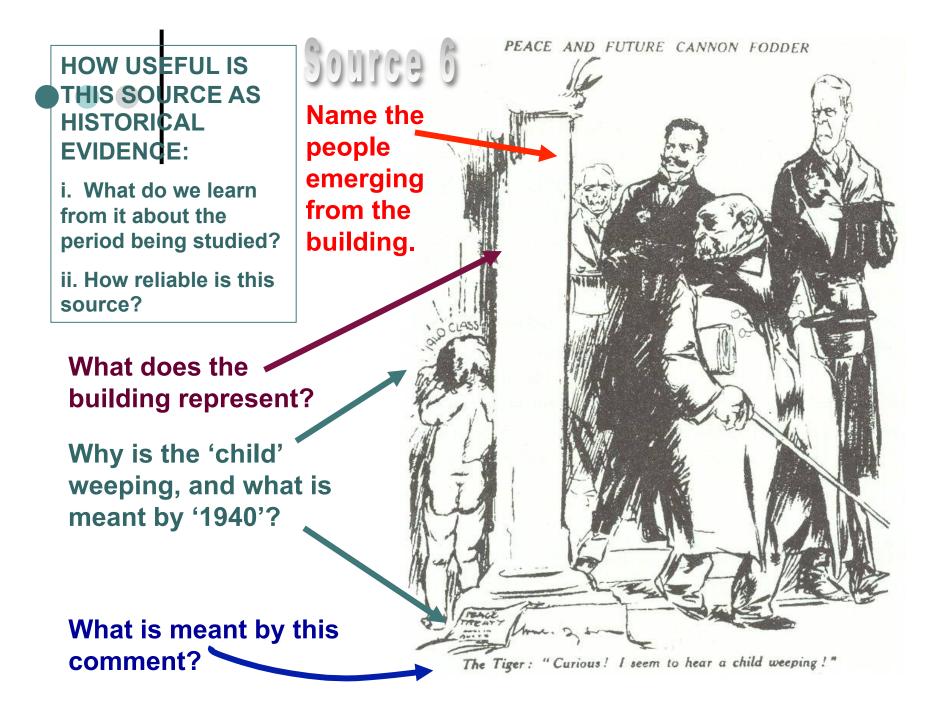
How is the child shown? Why?

Look at the caption, what is its political message?

How reliable is this source?



A German cartoon published in 1919. The German mother is saying to her starving child: 'When we have paid one hundred billion marks then I can give you something to eat.'

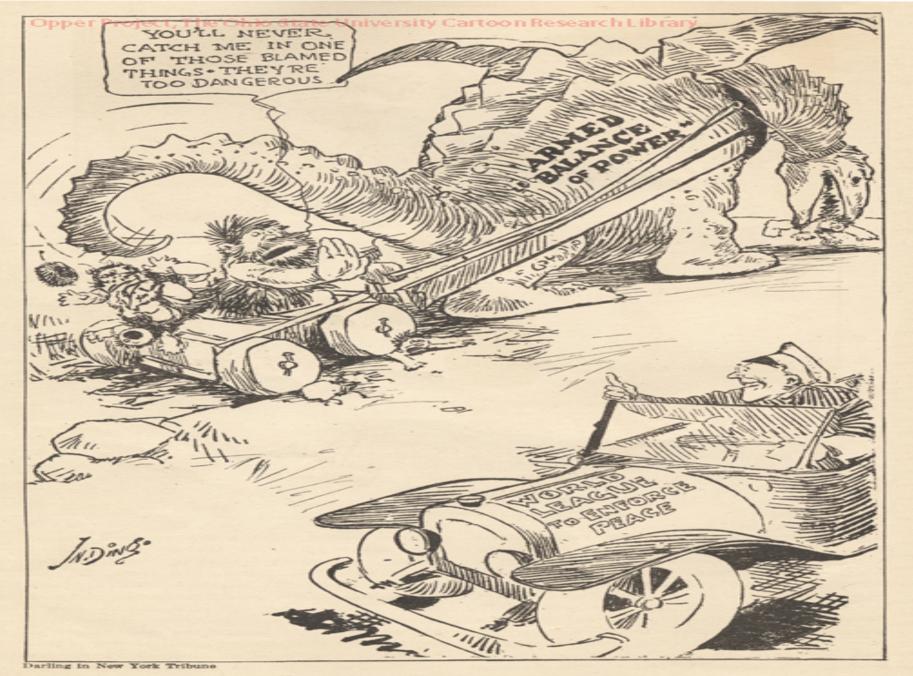


INTERRUPTING THE CEREMONY

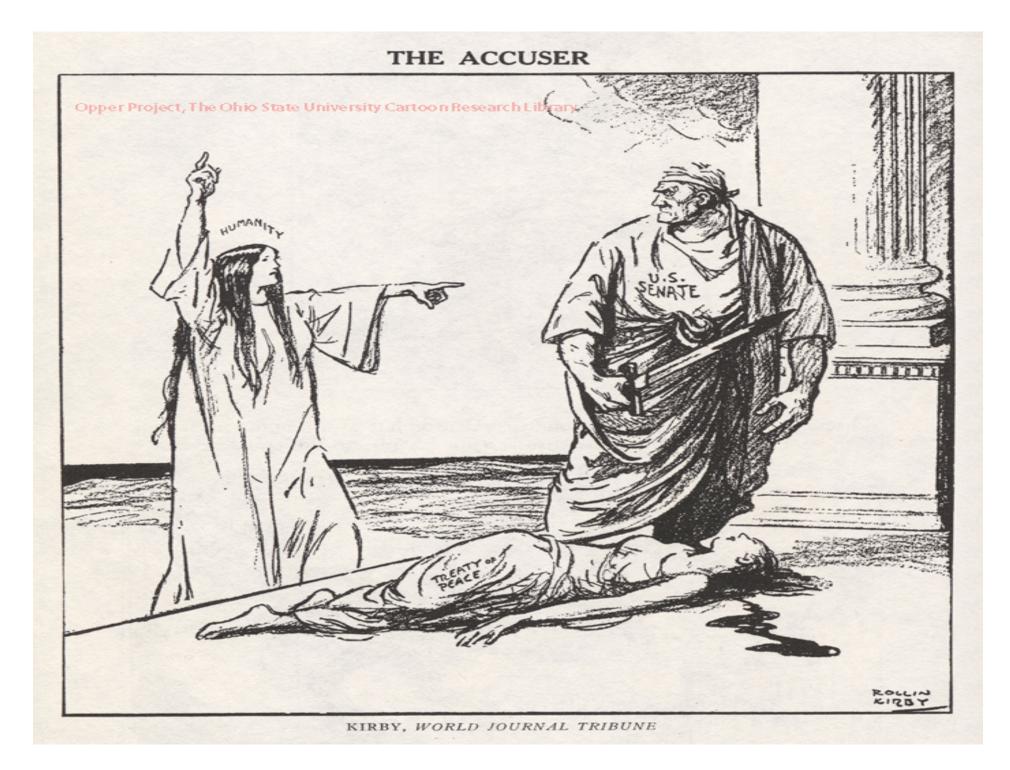




THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.



New devices ever seemed impractical at first





The prospective stepfather

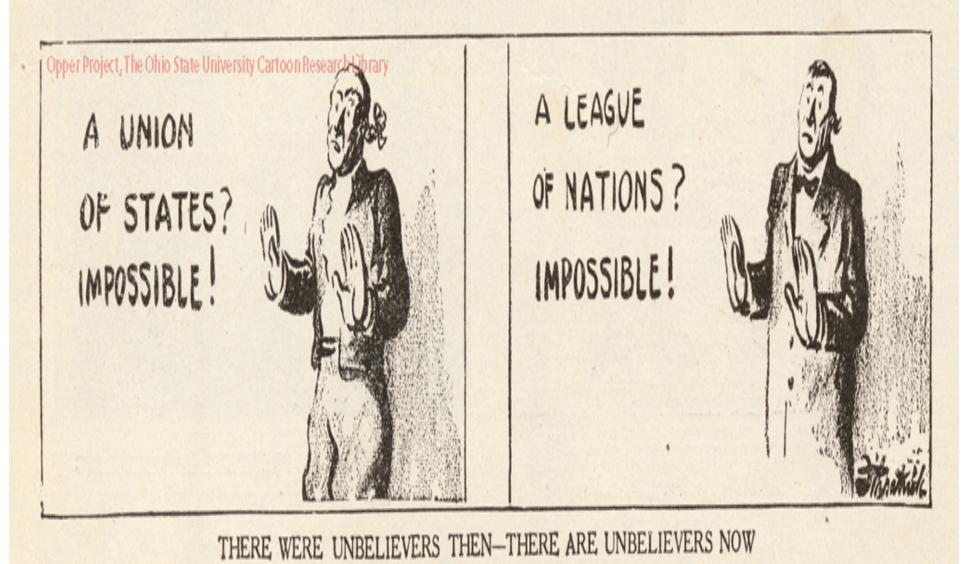


THEY WON'T DOVETAIL -Bronstrup in San Francisco Chronicle



Strange Bedfellows

(From St. Louis Star; cartoonist Chapin; courtesy of St. Louis Star-Times)



From the Post-Dispatch (St. Louis, Mo.)