

EXTRACTS FROM THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES, 1919

* ARTICLE 42. Germany is forbidden to maintain or construct any fortifications either on the left bank of the Rhine or on the right bank to the west of a line drawn 50 kilometres to the East of the Rhine.

ARTICLE 43. In the area defined above the maintenance and the assembly of armed forces, either permanently or temporarily, and military manoeuvres of any kind, as well as the upkeep of all permanent works for mobilization, are in the same way forbidden.

ARTICLE 44. In case Germany violates in any manner whatever the provisions of Articles 42 and 43, she shall be regarded as committing a hostile act against the Powers signatory of the present Treaty and as calculated to disturb the peace of the world.

ARTICLE 80. Germany acknowledges and will respect strictly the independence of Austria, within the frontiers which may be fixed in a Treaty between that State and the Principal Allied and Associated Powers; she agrees that this independence shall be inalienable, except with the consent of the Council of the League of Nations.

ARTICLE 81. Germany, in conformity with the action already taken by the Allied and Associated Powers, recognizes the complete independence of the Czecho-Slovak State which will include the autonomous territory of the Ruthenians to the south of the Carpathians. Germany hereby recognizes the frontiers of this State as determined by the Principal Allied and Associated Powers and the other interested States....

ARTICLE 87. 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 (of Poland).

ARTICLE 119. Germany renounces in favour of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers all her rights and titles over her overseas possessions....

ARTICLE 159. The German military forces shall be demobilized and reduced as prescribed hereinafter.

ARTICLE 160. By a date which must not be later than March 31, 1920, the German Army must not comprise more than seven divisions of infantry and three divisions of cavalry.

After that date the total number of effectives in the Army of the States constituting Germany must not exceed one hundred thousand men, including officers and establishments of depots. The Army shall be devoted exclusively to the maintenance of order within the territory and to the control of the frontiers.

The total effective strength of officers, including the personnel of staffs, whatever their composition, must not exceed four thousand.

(OVER)

(A)The Great German General Staff and all similar organizations shall be dissolved and may not be reconstituted in any form....

ARTICLE 181. After the expiration of a period of two months from the coming into force of the present Treaty the German naval forces in commission must not exceed:

* 6 battleships of the Deutschland or Lothringen type.

6 light cruisers

12 destroyers

12 torpedo boats

* No submarines are to be included.

All other warships, except where there is provision to the contrary in the present Treaty, must be placed in reserve or devoted to commercial purposes.

* ARTICLE 198. The armed forces of Germany must not include any military or naval air forces...

ARTICLE 231. THE ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS AFFIRM AND GERMANY ACCEPTS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GERMANY AND HER ALLIES FOR CAUSING ALL THE LOSS AND DAMAGE TO WHICH THE ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR NATIONALS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE WAR IMPOSED UPON THEM BY THE AGGRESSION OF GERMANY AND HER ALLIES.

ARTICLE 232. THE ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS RECOGNIZE THAT THE RESOURCES OF GERMANY ARE NOT ADEQUATE, AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PERMANENT DIMINUTIONS OF SUCH RESOURCES WHICH WILL RESULT FROM OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE PRESENT TREATY, TO MAKE COMPLETE REPARATION FOR ALL SUCH LOSS AND DAMAGE.

THE ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS, HOWEVER, REQUIRE, AND GERMANY UNDERTAKES, THAT SHE WILL MAKE COMPENSATION FOR ALL DAMAGE DONE TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF THE ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED POWERS AND TO THEIR PROPERTY DURING THE PERIOD OF THE BELLIGERENCY OF EACH AS AN ALLIED OR ASSOCIATED POWER AGAINST GERMANY BY SUCH AGGRESSION BY LAND, BY SEA AND FROM THE AIR, AND IN GENERAL ALL DAMAGE AS DEFINED IN ANNEX I HERETO.