

Program for the Peace of the World

By PRESIDENT WILSON, January 8, 1918

I. Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind, but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.

II. Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants.

III. The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.

IV. Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will reduce to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.

V. Free, open minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the population concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.

VI. The evacuation of all Russian territory and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy, and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing; and, more than a welcome, assistance also of every kind that she may need and may herself desire. The treatment accorded Russia by her sister nations in the months to come will be the acid test of their goodwill, of their comprehension of her needs as distinguished from their own interests, and of their intelligent and unselfish sympathy.

VII. Belgium, the whole world will agree, must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys in common with all other free nations. No other single act will serve as this will serve to restore confidence among the nations in the law which they have themselves set and determined for the government of their relations with one

another. Without this healing act the whole structure and validity of international law is forever impaired.

VIII. All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored, and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.

IX. A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy should be effected along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.

X. The people of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity of autonomous development.

XI. Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro should be evacuated; occupied territories restored; Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea; and the relations of the several Balkan States to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality; and international guarantees of the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of the several Balkan States should be entered into.

XII. The Turkish portions of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees.

XIII. An independent Polish State should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.

XIV. A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small States alike.

Wilson's 14 Punkte

1. Offene, öffentlich abgeschlossene Friedensverträge. Keine geheimen Abmachungen.
2. Uneingeschränkte Freiheit der Schifffahrt auf den Meeren, außerhalb der Territorialgewässer.
3. Beseitigung aller wirtschaftlichen Schranken und Herstellung einer Gleichheit der Handelsbedingungen für alle Nationen.
4. Beschränkung der Rüstungen der Nationen auf das niedrigste, mit der Sicherheit im Innern vereinbare Maß.
5. Freier Ausgleich aller kolonialen Ansprüche, wobei die Interessen der betreffenden Bevölkerungen ebenso ins Gewicht fallen.
6. Räumung des ganzen russischen Gebietes mit dem Ziel für Russland eine Gelegenheit zur unabhängigen Bestimmung seiner eigenen politischen Entwicklung herbeizuführen und ihm eine herzliche Aufnahme in der Gesellschaft der freien Nationen zu bereiten.
7. Belgien muss geräumt und wiederhergestellt werden.
8. Das ganze französische Gebiet muss geräumt werden. Das Unrecht, das Frankreich im Jahre 1871 in Beziehung auf Elsass-Lothringen durch Preußen angetan worden ist, muss wiedergutmacht werden.
9. Berichtigung der Grenzen Italiens nach den genau erkennbaren Abgrenzungen der Volksangehörigkeit.
10. Den Völkern Österreich-Ungarns muss die freieste Gelegenheit zu autonomer Entwicklung zugestanden werden.
11. Rumänien, Serbien und Montenegro sollten geräumt werden. Serbien sollte ein freier und sicherer Zugang zur See gewährt werden.
12. Den türkischen Teilen des Osmanischen Reiches sollte eine unbedingte Selbstständigkeit gewährleistet werden. Die Dardanellen sollten unter internationalen Bürgschaften als freie Durchfahrt für die Schiffe und den Handel aller Nationen dauernd geöffnet werden.
13. Ein unabhängiger polnischer Staat sollte errichtet werden, der alle Gebiete einzubegreifen hat, die von unbestritten polnischer Bevölkerung bewohnt sind.
14. Ein allgemeiner Verband der Nationen muss gegründet werden mit dem Zweck gegenseitiger Bürgschaften für die politische Unabhängigkeit und die territoriale Unverletzbarkeit der kleinen sowohl wie der großen Staaten.