WP: According to President Wilson the United States entered World War I to make the world safe for democracy. What do you think he meant by this?

Introduction:
After years of battle the final Allied assault came on September 26, 1918. Over a million troops began the drive to expel the Germans from France and cut their supply lines. The German commanders begged for peace, but still hoped to dictate some terms. The Allies refused. Revenge was too sweet. By the time armistice or cease fire came, the Kaiser had fled. On November 11, the guns finally fell silent.

More than 50,000 American soldiers died in battle and many more died of disease. These losses were minute in comparison to those suffered by the Europeans. The total death toll of 8 million soldiers and sailors is only an estimate. The French alone suffered over a million war dead and 4,000 towns completely destroyed.

With the fighting in Europe over, the nations involved in the conflict began the difficult task of shaping the peace. President Wilson who feared that the failure to craft a treaty acceptable to all parties would lead to future wars, was determined to play a large role in this effort. But the postwar world__in Europe and at home seemed almost as divided as before the war. (America 1998).

Lecture Notes Activity:
Hand out student guided note worksheet. Have students define words first using their textbook or a dictionary. Then fill in the rest as a class.

Click here for student guided notes

*Wilson delivered the Fourteen points: Peace program by Wilson
- call for end to secret alliances
- restoration of freedom of seas
- reduction in armaments
- self-determination:

*Paris Peace Conference
- Wilson attends himself as the U.S. delegate
- Believed that no one was in this for the rewards - WRONG
People did want rewards
France wanted to humiliate and destroy Germany so it could never conquer again.
-Wilson forced to give up self determination idea

*League of Nations
-10 days of hard work
-League of Nations: organization in which the nations of the world would join together to ensure security and peace for all members.

*Article 10
-provision that stated an “attack on one as attack on all”
-League would have no military power - moral power only
-congress rejected it - Why do you think they did?
   A: afraid of losing power and respect

*The Peace Treaty
-Return to peace conference a few months later “The Big Four”
   Britain, France, Italy, and US
-Allies accepted Wilson’s plan for a League of Nations with exceptions
   -15 year French control of the mineral resources in Alsace-Lorraine
   -French insisted on German war guild and financial responsibility
   -British want reparations: payment from enemy for the economic injury suffered in the war.
   -Ruled that Germany owed Allies $33 billion dollars
-As Wilson feared, Germany would never forget or forgive this humiliation

*The Versailles Treaty
-Presented treaty to Germans on May 7, 1919
-Refused at first but at threat of invasion they had no choice but to sign
-All signed at Versailles - therefore the name

ASSIGNMENT: World War One Study Guide

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