

Self-Determination



HISTORY 12

Self-Determination



- *Wilson's 14 Points are at the heart and soul of the Paris Peace Conference.*
- *The most important concept from these points is . . . self-determination!*
- *This concept drove the boundary drawing process at the Paris Peace Settlement.*

Self-Determination



Key Points

- *Self-determination was the opposite of imperialism.*
- *Self-determination was democratic because it allowed people in the effected regions to vote on where they wanted to live.*
- *Self-determination was flawed because it was difficult to apply in mixed race regions, and the strategic interests of new nations sometimes went against the principle of self-determination.*

Self-Determination



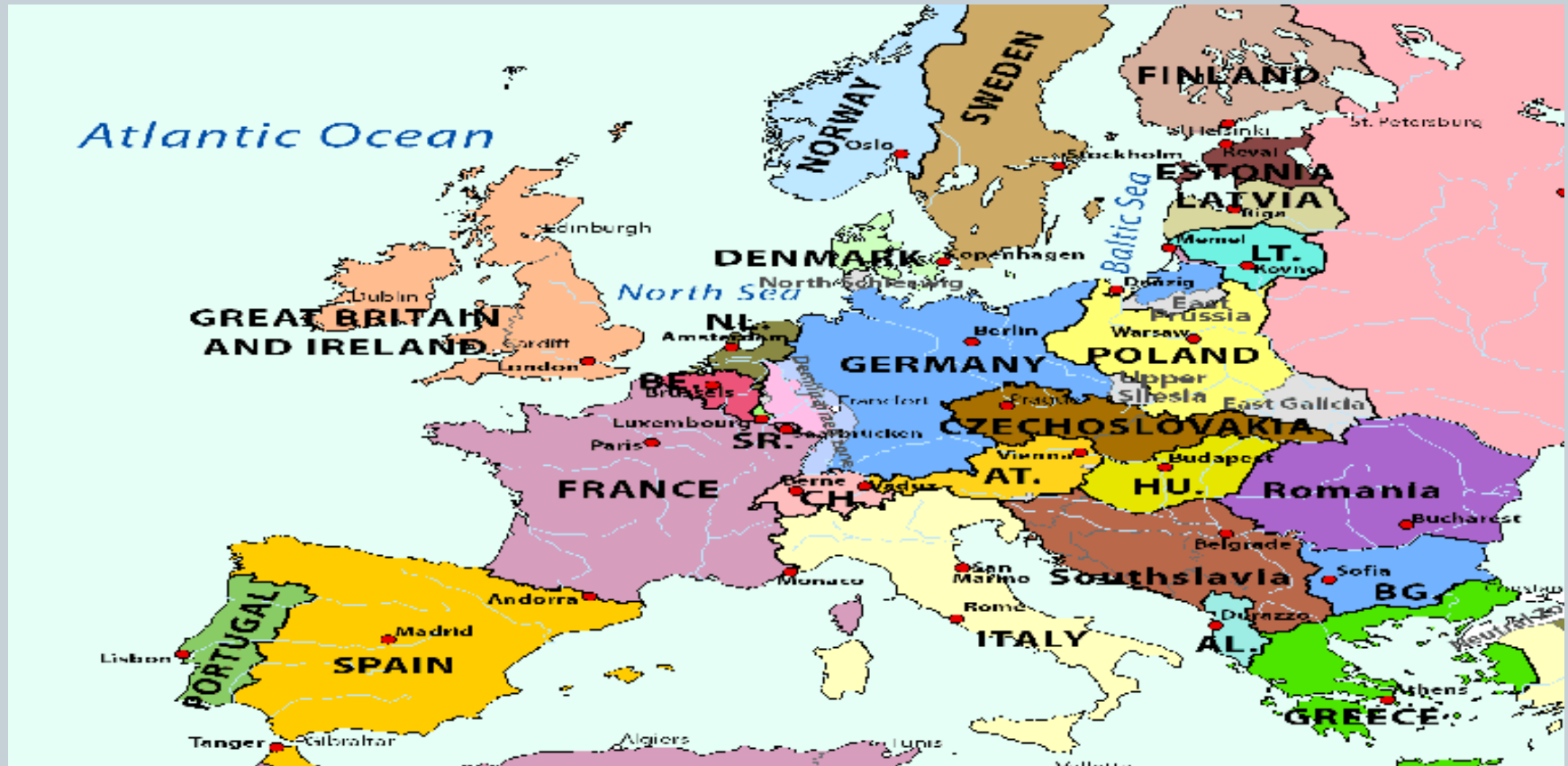
- *Europe in 1914 . . . before Self-Determination*



Self-Determination



- *Europe in 1920 . . . after Self-Determination*



Self-Determination



Problems

- *Self-determination in practice ignored the wishes of the Germans.*
- *Germany and Austria were not allowed to be united as one nation . . . Anschluss.*
- *Places like Alsace-Lorraine, the Sudetenland, and the Polish Corridor were given to new nations despite having huge numbers of Germans.*

Self-Determination



Long Term Consequences

- *Self-determination was a leading cause of the Second World War.*
- *Hitler sought to the re-unification of all German people under the flag of the Third Reich.*
- *At the beginning, western powers were willing to appease this foreign policy demand.*

Self-Determination



Self-Determination & Imperialism

- *Self-determination was not applied in the former colonies of Germany and the Ottoman Empire.*
- *Mandates were set up through the League of Nations, and the former colonies were administered by Britain and France.*
- *Was this just masking imperialism?*

Self-Determination



- ***Middle East Mandates (1920)***



Self-Determination



Picot-Sykes Agreement

- *During WWI Great Britain and France negotiated imperial “spheres of influence.”*
- *This secretly divided the Middle East into regions of British and French control.*
- *These considerations seem to have influenced the League of Nations.*
- *Oilfields were quickly developed in Iraq, Persia, and Arabia.*