

## European Security

### Background

At the Paris Peace Settlement, Clemenceau stood firm in defence of French security.

Remembering the Franco-Prussian War and the First World War, Clemenceau was prepared to use sweeping punishment to fundamentally cripple Germany.

His objective was the elimination of Germany as a potential threat.

This would happen through economic, military, and territorial punishment.

Everything was aimed at destroying the German capacity to threaten France.

When writing the Treaty of Versailles, Clemenceau was forced to compromise.

Having never suffered a German invasion, David Lloyd George and Woodrow Wilson took a softer approach to Germany.

After much negotiation, Clemenceau agreed to withdraw the destruction of Germany, and thus Great Britain and America promised to support France.

The point is that French security rests at the heart of the Treaty of Versailles!

What is security?

Here is my definition . . .

*A nation is secure when it can assume it will not be the victim of an unprovoked attack from another nation. Furthermore, should it be attacked, a nation is secure if it considers itself sufficiently powerful to repel the attack.*

*A nation must also be economically secure!*

How does a country attain national security? Let's brainstorm the matter as a class!

A)

B)

C)

France used all these measures, but its basic policy was to keep Germany weak!

There was a glimmer of hope before the Great Depression, but eventually Germany could no longer be contained and allies were scarce.

France took up a defensive position behind its Maginot Line.

**Assignment**

1. How did America and Germany contribute to a lack of security for France?

<i>America</i>	<i>Germany</i>

2. Why did France “stand alone” against Germany?

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3. Give two reasons why France wanted Germany to pay high reparations.

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4. Was Germany “crippled” by the reparations? Explain.

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5. Summarize the occupation of the Ruhr Valley by France and Belgium.

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6. How did Gustav Stresemann differ from the previous leaders of the Weimar Republic?

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7. What did The Dawes Plan and The Young Plan accomplish? Explain!

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8. Aside from reparation payments, what other measures did the French take in search of security?

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9. Create mind maps describing the other moves towards security in Europe.

*Locarno Pact, 1925*

*Kellogg-Briand Pact, 1928*

*Disarmament Conferences*