

The Signing of the Peace Treaty of Versailles (June 28, 1919)

Abstract

After six months of negotiations between the Allied Powers at the Paris Peace Conference, representatives of all of the formerly combatant countries finally signed the peace treaty on June 28, 1919, in the opulent palace of Versailles, thereby officially ending the First World War. The location had tremendous symbolic significance, given that Germany had earlier chosen that same palace as the site for France's signing of the humiliating peace treaty after its 1871 defeat in the Franco-Prussian War. This film clip, shot by the U.S. military, captured the crowds gathered outside the Palace of Versailles and in its gardens, as well as the arrival of the many officials and dignitaries: French Foreign Minister Pichon, French Premier Georges Clemenceau, U.S. Secretary of State Robert Lansing, U.S. General Tasker Bliss, Herbert Hoover (head of the American Relief Administration at the time), French General Michel-Joseph Maunory, U.S. Generals Henry T. Allen and John J. Pershing, Colonel Edward M. House (adviser to President Wilson), British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour, Polish prime minister Ignace Paderewski, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, Italian Foreign Minister Baron Sonnino, U.S. Ambassador to France Hugh Wallace, and President Woodrow Wilson, and his wife, the First Lady, Edith Wilson. The clip also shows Clemenceau addressing the conference and the U.S. and British delegates signing the treaty itself. Finally, Prime Minister Lloyd George, Italian Prime Minister Orlando, French Premier Clemenceau, and President Wilson pose for pictures while the large crowds around them celebrate the peace. The clip does not include any footage, however, of German Foreign Minister Hermann Müller (SPD) and Colonial Minister Johannes Bell (Center Party), who reluctantly signed the treaty on behalf of Germany.

Source

Source: The Signing of the Peace Treaty of Versailles, June 28, 1919. Historical Film No. 1243, Office of the Chief Signal Officer, 1936. National Archives and records Administration ID: 24746, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/24746>

NARA

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