

AUTUMN 2018
Short Course Programme
COURSE INFORMATION

HISTORY

A Flawed Peace? The Treaties of 1919-23

Edward Towne MA MSt PGCE

4 weeks

10.30am – 12.30pm

Wednesdays

17, 24 October; 7, 14 November

Course code: 18TON353

Course fee: £60

This course examines the Allies' expectations of the Treaties (Britain, France, Italy, Belgium and the USA) at Versailles, Neuilly, St. Germain, Trianon, Sevres and Lausanne, and considers the feelings of the major powers about the eventual terms. We will also reflect on the problems that arose from the terms in the post war years until 1933.

This course examines the treaties signed between 1919 and 1923 after the Great War. The expectations of each belligerent are a good starting point, for example the yearning by France and Belgium for revenge and compensation from Germany, Britain's support for a balanced settlement and America's quest for a peace based on the worthy principles in President Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points. Germany had signed the armistice, believing that Wilson's proposals would prevail.

The actual treaty terms, for example the Treaty of Versailles, showed that America's allies usually achieved harsher terms than Wilson had wanted. The other treaties were less controversial: except for those imposed on the Ottoman Empire. The second Turkish treaty (Lausanne) carved up the Sultan's Middle Eastern empire in favour of the Allies. The peace settlement was no doubt a compromise, but it left almost all parties dissatisfied: France and Belgium still felt insecure, the USA retreated into a policy of isolation and Germany felt bitter.

We shall discover how international tension persisted and how Germany did her best to evade the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. We shall learn to what extent Hitler's rise to power was caused by German resentment of the terms imposed in 1919. Could the settlement have been much different, given circumstances in 1919?

Week 1. What attitudes did the Powers bring to the talks from January 1919? (The USA, France, Great Britain, Italy and Germany). President Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points and Germany's expectations of a "just" peace need discussion. What were the chances of an agreed peace?

Week 2. There were 6 treaties, and we need to look carefully at the terms of each one: Versailles, St. Germain, Trianon, Neuilly, Sevres and Lausanne. How popular were the terms with all of the belligerents? What were the chances of them being kept?

Week 3. International relations from 1923-29. We look at the tense events before 1925: the German inflation, the 1922 Rapallo Treaty, the Franco-Belgian invasion of the Ruhr of 1924. On the other hand there were some successes for the new League of Nations, and in 1925 the key Treaty of Locarno was signed – we need to ask whether this was such a great success

as all that. All this (the “Locarno Honeymoon”) came to an end in 1929 with the Wall Street Crash. But why was international stability so dependent on the world economy, particularly that of the United States?

Week 4. The events of the 1929-33 period will show in detail the precise impact of the Great Depression on world peace. Events will include the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany, Japan’s invasion of Manchuria in 1931 and Hitler’s eventual seizure of power in Germany by 1933. Thus the question arises: to what extent were these events – especially the last one – brought about by the flaws in the 1919-23 treaties, and how far by other factors?

Recommended reading

M. MacMillan, “Peacemakers” (J. Murray, 2001)

D. Reynolds, “The Long Shadow” (Simon and Schuster, 2014)

D. Stevenson, “World War One and International Politics” (Oxford 1999)

Additional information

This course is suitable for all, no prior knowledge is required. It allows you to spend time exploring a subject for interest, among like-minded people, without formal assessment.

Verbal participation by discussion during the course is encouraged.

Intended learning outcomes

- a. To acquire an understanding of the attitudes of all the powers to the peace talks.
- b. To be able to explain the compromises that eventually emerged.
- c. To be able to indicate the areas of concern following the treaties’ signature.

About the tutor

Edward Towne graduated in European Studies from the University of East Anglia, and later achieved a PGCE from Cambridge, an MA in Early Modern English History from the University of London, and MSt in Twentieth Century British History from the University of Oxford. His professional career was spent teaching History in state and independent Secondary Schools, finally as Head of the History Department. Currently, Edward lectures independently to adults in a variety of organisations, and acts as a reviewer and tour leader on historical topics.



Short Course Programme General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place

These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- Online Booking is preferred. Please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge
- By post to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation

As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full. We advise that you do not buy books or other course materials until that particular course is confirmed as taking place: please contact us if you are unsure.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:

- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:

- a) exclude any student if the student's presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
- b) cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

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- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from www.tmbc.gov.uk . No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection

Those attending our courses are automatically added to our database and kept informed about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.

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