

President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points

January 8, 1918

Wilson laid down his “Fourteen Points” in a message to Congress:

- I.** Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at...
- II.** Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war...
- III.** The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace...
- IV.** ...[N]ational armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.
- V.** ...[I]mpartial adjustment of all colonial claims.
- VI.** The evacuation of all Russian territory...
- VII.** Belgium...must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys in common with all other free nations.
- VIII.** All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored, and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine...should be righted...
- IX.** A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy should be effected along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.
- X.** The peoples of Austria-Hungary...should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development.
- XI.** Rumania, Serbia, and Montenegro should be evacuated; occupied territories restored; Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea...
- XII.** The Turkish portion of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development...
- XIII.** An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea...
- XIV.** A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.