

Wilson's Fourteen Points

Adapted and simplified from: www.valc.edu/lawweb/avalon/wilson14.htm

- I. A peace openly arrived at, after which there shall be no secret international agreements of any kind, but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.
- II. Absolute freedom of the seas, outside nations' waters, during peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international agreements.
- III. The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of equality of trade conditions among all the nations agreeing to the peace.
- IV. Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety. This also said that this safety would be kept in place for years to come.
- V. A free, open-minded, and absolutely fair adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict principle that in determining all such questions the interests of the people concerned must have equal weight with the claims of the government whose role in it is to be decided.
- VI. The evacuation of all Russian territory and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in giving her an unhampered opportunity to decide the fate of her own political development and national policy and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations; and, more than a welcome, help also of every kind that she may need and may herself desire. The treatment given Russia by her sister nations in the months to come will be a test of their good will, of their understanding and care of her needs apart from their own interests, and of their intelligent and unselfish sympathy.

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- VII. Belgium, the whole world will agree, must be 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 parts restored, and the wrong done to France in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.
- IX. The frontiers of Italy should be redrawn along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.
- X. The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be given the freest opportunity for independent development.
- XI. Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro should be restored; Serbia given free and secure access to the sea; and the relations of the several Balkan states to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality...
- XII. The Turkish portion of the Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured a security of life and an absolute opportunity for independent development, and the Dardanelles Strait should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations.
- XIII. An independent Polish state should be established which should include the territories of Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea...
- XIV. A general association of nations must be formed for the purposes of protecting the independence and the lands of great and small states alike.