

International Law Studies – Volume 19

International Law Documents: The Treaty of Peace with Germany, June 28, 1919

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TREATY OF PEACE WITH GERMANY.

PRELIMINARY NOTE.

The Austrian declaration of war against Serbia on July 28, 1914, was followed by many other declarations.¹

The United States declared war against Germany April 6, 1917. An armistice between Germany and the allied and associated powers was agreed upon on November 11, 1918. The representatives of the allied and associated powers assembled at Paris on January 18, 1919, for drawing up a treaty of peace. This treaty was handed to the German representatives on May 7, 1919. The treaty was signed at Versailles on June 28, 1919. The treaty was submitted to the Senate of the United States on July 10, 1919. The "advice and consent" of the Senate was necessary for putting the treaty into operation. After long debate this advice and consent was not given and accordingly for the United States the treaty was not operative.

According to the provisions of Article 440 of the treaty—

A first procès-verbal of the deposit of ratification will be drawn up as soon as the treaty has been ratified by Germany on the one hand, and by three of the principal allied and associated powers on the other hand.

From the date of this first procès-verbal the treaty will come into force between the high contracting parties who have ratified it. For the determination of all periods of time provided for in the present treaty this date will be the date of the coming into force of the treaty.

In all other respects the treaty will enter into force for each power at the date of the deposit of its ratification.

Under the provisions of the treaty (Art. 5) the first meeting of the Council of the League of Nations was held at Paris, January 16, 1920, and representatives of the following members of the League of Nations were present: Belgium, Brazil, the British Empire, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Spain. The following States had also adhered to the League of Nations Covenant: The Argentine Republic, July 18, 1919; Paraguay, October 29, 1919; Chile, November 14, 1919; Persia, November 21, 1919.

¹ See Naval War College, International Law Documents, 1917, p. 15, and 1918, p. 11.