

8.4 Versailles Conference and Peace Settlement

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS mandate system 委任统治 • league of nations 国际联盟 • peace settlement 和平安排

Objective

Build the skills to explain why the **peace settlement** 和平安排 failed.

You must be able to:

- state the conflicting goals in Paris
- state the CED's verdict on the settlement
- describe the mandate system and its two consequences
- explain why the failure lies in the goals

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Conflicting goals

The conflicting goals of the peace negotiators pitted **diplomatic idealism** against **the desire to punish Germany**, producing a settlement that **satisfied few**.

■ The verdict

“Satisfied few” is the CED's own assessment. “Few” is not none — the settlement had defenders as well as enemies.

■ The mandate system

The League distributed former German and Ottoman possessions to France and Great Britain through the mandate system, thereby **altering the imperial balance of power** and **creating a strategic interest in the Middle East and its oil**.

■ Why the goals

The CED locates the failure in the goals, not the negotiators' competence. Any settlement had to disappoint one of two incompatible aims.

2 Practice

2.1 State the two conflicting goals. [2]

2.2 State the two consequences of the mandate system. [2]

2.3 The CED locates the failure in the goals.

(a) State what this rules out as an explanation. [1]

(b) State why any settlement had to disappoint someone. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The CED's verdict on the settlement is that it [1]

- **A** satisfied everyone
- **B** satisfied few
- **C** satisfied nobody at all
- **D** was never signed

3.2 The mandate system was administered by [1]

- **A** the Ottoman Empire
- **B** the League of Nations
- **C** Germany
- **D** Russia

3.3 A body founded to replace power politics carries out a transfer of empire.

(a) State the tension. [1]

(b) Explain the long-term consequence the CED names.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 diplomatic idealism; the desire to punish Germany.

2.2 altering the imperial balance of power; creating a strategic interest in the Middle East and its oil.

2.3 (a) the negotiators' competence. (b) the two aims were incompatible, so satisfying one meant disappointing the other.

3.1 B. "few" is the CED's word.

3.2 B. the League ran the mandates.

3.3 (a) the institution created to end power politics redistributed empire. (b) a strategic interest in the Middle East and its oil, which shaped policy long after the mandates ended.