

Document A: Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, 1919

The following is from an address delivered by Massachusetts senator Henry Cabot Lodge on February 28, 1919. Lodge, a “reservationist,” was the leader of the Republicans in the Senate at the time.

[By ratifying the Treaty of Versailles], we abandon entirely the policy laid down by Washington in his **Farewell Address** and the **Monroe Doctrine**. . . . Washington declared against permanent alliances. . . . Now, the Washington policy is to be entirely laid aside and we are to enter upon a permanent and indissoluble alliance. . . . Let us not overlook the profound **gravity** of this step. . . .

If we put aside forever the Washington policy, we must always remember that it carries with it the **Monroe Doctrine**. . . . Europe will have the right to take part in the settlement of all American questions. . . . Europe and Asia are to take part in policing the American continent. . . .

There is no need of arguing whether there is to be . . . force behind this league. It is there in article 10 absolutely and entirely by the mere fact of these guaranties. The ranks of the armies and the fleets of the navy made necessary by such pledges are to be filled and manned by the sons, husbands, and brothers, of the people of America. . . .

We now in this draft bind ourselves to submit every possible international dispute or difference either to the league court or to the control of the executive council of the league. That includes immigration, a very live question, to take a single example. Are we ready to give to the other nations the power to say who shall come into the United States? . . . If we accept this plan for a league, this is precisely what we promise to do.

Source: Address by Senator Lodge to the United States Senate, February 28, 1919; reprinted in the *The Sun*, a New York City newspaper.

Vocabulary

Farewell Address: a farewell speech by President George Washington in 1796 in which he warned against foreign alliances

Monroe Doctrine: an 1823 statement by President James Monroe warning European nations against taking territory in North or South America; by the 20th century, the U.S. used the Monroe Doctrine to justify its military intervention in Latin America and the Caribbean and to oppose European and Asian influence in the hemisphere

gravity: seriousness

Document B: Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, 1915

This is also from speech was a speech by Henry Cabot Lodge. It was delivered at Union College on June 9, 1915, four years before Document A. At the time, some leaders in the Republican Party supported a league of nations to ensure international peace, including powerful former Presidents Teddy Roosevelt and William Howard Taft. At the time, President Wilson did not publicly support the league idea, and other powerful Democrats opposed it.

What can we do in the larger sense toward securing and maintaining the peace of the world? . . . Nations must unite in order to preserve peace and order. The great nations must be so united as to be able to say to any single country, you must not go to war, and they can only say that effectively when the country considering war knows that the force which the united nations place behind peace is irresistible.

Source: Address by Senator Lodge at Union College, June 9, 1915.

Document C: John Milton Cooper

The following information was compiled by historian John Milton Cooper. The column on the far right shows the percentage of votes cast in the Senate that supported President Wilson's policies on the Treaty of Versailles. The column second from the right shows the percentage of senators in each region who were Republican.

| Region of the Country | Number of Senators | % of Senators who are Republican | % of votes in support of President Wilson |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Northeast | 26 | 85% | 27% |
| South | 25 | 0% | 90% |
| Midwest | 26 | 85% | 31% |
| West | 26 | 50% | 65% |

Source: *Breaking the Heart of the World: Woodrow Wilson and the Fight for the League of Nations*, written by John Milton Cooper in 2001.

Document D: Senator George Norris

This is from a speech by Senator George Norris of Nebraska to the Senate on November 11, 1919. Norris was a Republican and was among the “irreconcilables” who opposed the Treaty of Versailles at all costs.

The real object of article 10 is to maintain the world supremacy of the British Empire. . . . It is there to stifle the cry of freedom from Ireland; it is there to keep in subjection the 400,000,000 of people in India. . . . By its terms we are bound to turn a deaf ear to the struggling cry of freedom, no matter from what part of the world it may come, and we **mortgage** thereby the lifeblood of unborn American boys to stifle this cry and uphold the cruel **aristocratic reign** of greedy kings and **pagan monarchs** the world over.

Source: Speech by Senator Norris to the United States Senate, November 11, 1919.

Vocabulary

mortgage: promise

aristocracy: government run by nobles

reign: period of leadership or control, typically by a king or queen

pagan: not Christian

monarchs: kings or queens

Document E: Senator Hiram Johnson

The following speech was delivered by Senator Hiram Johnson from California on June 2, 1919. Johnson was an “irreconcilable” who strongly opposed US involvement in international conflicts and organizations.

It is absolutely clear that questions like immigration, those arising from the alien land law of California and similar matters will be within the jurisdiction of the league ... As a Californian, I am not willing to submit any race problems we may have to the **jurisdiction** of the Council of the League of Nations, nor to the League itself.

I am unwilling that either body should pass upon possibly the gravest questions that confronts us. You, gentlemen from the South, would resent the suggestion that a race problem of yours should be decided by nations bound to the race affected by secret treaties.

Source: Speech by Senator Johnson to the United States Senate reprinted in the *Topeka State Journal* on June 2, 1919.

Vocabulary

jurisdiction: power to make a decision

domestic: with in a country; not foreign or international

Guiding Questions

Document A – Henry Cabot Lodge, 1919

1. (Close Reading) What are four reasons that Lodge gives for opposing the Treaty of Versailles?
2. (Sourcing) To what extent is Lodge's speech reliable evidence of the reasons why Senators opposed the Treaty of Versailles in 1919?

Document B – Henry Cabot Lodge, 1915

1. (Close Reading) What is Lodge's argument in Document B?
2. (Contextualization) Why might Lodge's argument be different in 1919 (Document A) than it was in 1915 (Document B)?

Document C – John Milton Cooper

1. (Close Reading) What does the data in the table suggest about who supported the Treaty of Versailles?
2. (Contextualization, Corroboration) What might Document C and Document D both suggest about why some Senators opposed the Treaty of Versailles?

Document D – Senator Norris

1. (Close Reading) What reasons does Senator Norris give for opposing the Treaty of Versailles?
2. (Corroboration) To what extent does Senator Norris's speech corroborate Lodge's speech in Document A?

Document E – Senator Johnson

1. (Close Reading) What reasons does Senator Johnson give for opposing the Treaty of Versailles?
2. (Contextualization, Close Reading) What race issues was Senator Johnson likely referring to in California and in the South? Given who supported the Treaty (see Doc C), why might he have made this argument?
3. (Corroboration) To what extent does Senator Johnson's speech corroborate Lodge's speech in Document A?

League of Nations Essay

In the space below, answer the following question: *Why did Senators oppose joining the League of Nations in 1919?*

Write a clear thesis sentence and support it with evidence from the documents.