

# 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]

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

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**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]

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## 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

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**3.2** The mandate system was administered by [1]

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

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**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]

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## Solutions

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**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.