

# Document 8.3

## President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points

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Avalon Project: [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/wilson14.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp)

[The United States] entered this war because violations of right had occurred which touched us to the quick and made the life of our own people impossible unless they were corrected and the world secure once for all against their recurrence. What we demand in this war, therefore, is nothing peculiar to ourselves. It is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world as against force and selfish aggression. All the peoples of the world are in effect partners in this interest, and for our own part we see very clearly that unless justice be done to others it will not be done to us. The program of the world's peace, therefore, is our program; and that program, the only possible program, as we see it, is this:

- I. **Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at**, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.
- II. **Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas**, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war...
- IV. Adequate guarantees given and taken that **national armaments will be reduced** to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.
- X. The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity to **autonomous development**.
- XI. Rumania, Serbia, and Montenegro should be evacuated; occupied territories restored; Serbia accorded 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 present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of **autonomous development**...
- XIII. An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea...
- XIV. **A general association of nations must be formed** under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.

### Questions to Consider:

What was the overall goal of the Fourteen Points? \_\_\_\_\_

Identify at least THREE (3) specific objectives Wilson outlined in order to achieve this goal:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_