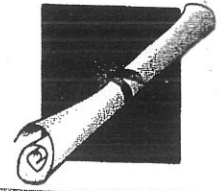


## Woodrow Wilson, The Fourteen Points, 1918



*In January 1918, eight months after the United States entered World War I, President Woodrow Wilson addressed Congress, offering a statement of war aims and an outline for a possible settlement to war. Wilson's program soon became known as the Fourteen Points.*

We 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 secured 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, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement for international covenants. . . .

IV. Adequate guarantees given and taken that

national armaments will be reduced to the lowest points consistent with domestic safety.

V. A free, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty, the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims for the government whose title is to be determined. . . .

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. . . .

An evident principle runs through the whole program I have outlined. It is the principle of justice to all peoples and nationalities, and their right to live on equal terms of liberty and safety with one another, whether they be strong or weak. Unless this principle be

made its foundation, no part of the structure of international justice can stand. The people of the United States could act upon no other principle; and to the vindication of this principle they are ready to devote their lives, their honor, and everything that they possess. The moral climax of this the culminating and final war for human liberty has come, and they are ready to put their own strength, their own highest purpose, their own integrity and devotion to the test.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points

1. According to Wilson, why did we enter the war?
2. As Wilson states it, what do we demand in this war?
3. In his first point, what is Wilson talking about when he says "private international understandings"?
4. In your own words, what is Wilson's 4<sup>th</sup> point?
5. In your own words, what is Wilson proposing in his 14<sup>th</sup> point?
6. What is Wilson's "evident principle that runs through this program"?