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**Woodrow Wilson defending the Treaty of Versailles**

“I want to remind you how the permanency of peace is at the heart of this treaty. This is not merely a treaty of peace with Germany... it is nothing less than world settlement, and at the center of that stands the covenant for the future we call the Covenant of the League of Nations. Without it the treaty cannot be worked and without it it is a mere temporary arrangement with Germany. The covenant of the League of Nations is the instrumentality (means) for the maintenance of peace.

 If the treaty is not ratified by the Senate, the war will have been fought in vain, and the world will be thrown into chaos. I promised our soldiers, when I asked them to take up arms, that it was a war to end wars...

-Pres. Woodrow Wilson

**1. According to Wilson, what is at the heart of this treaty? Based on what you know about the Treaty of Versailles, do you agree with Wilson’s claim?**

**2. How does Wilson describe the League of Nation? What is its purpose?**

**3. Observe the closing paragraph; does Wilson make an effective plea for American to join the League of Nations? Write a statement that argues for joining the League of Nations.**

The Opposition

The question before us is whether the League that has been drafted by the Commission of the Peace Conference and laid before us is will it secure the peace of the world as it stands, and whether it is just and fair to the United States of America. That is the question and I want to bring it to the test.

Wars between nations come from contacts. A nation with which we have no contact is a nation with which we should never fight... In this scheme for a League (League of Nations) now before us we create a number of new contacts, a number of new relations, which we have not undertaken before to create.

-Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Massachusetts

**1. Why does Lodge oppose the League of Nations? What does he believe it will cause?**

We are told that this treaty means peace. Even so, I would not pay the price. Would you purchase peace at the cost of you independence?

-Senator William E. Borah, Idaho

**2. Why does Borah oppose the League of Nations?**

The League of Nations is the work "amiable old male grannies who, over their afternoon tea, are planning to denationalize (take away the independence of) America and denationalize the nations manhood."

-Senator Albert Beveridge, Indiana

**3. Why does Beveridge oppose the League of Nations?**

**4. Write a statement that argues for not joining the League of Nations.**