

Ask students to research and summarize the views of David Lloyd George and Georges Clemenceau on how the defeated powers should be treated. As a follow-up, debate the extent to which World War II and contemporary international issues are related to geopolitical decisions made in 1919.

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.llgc.org.uk/ardd/dlgeorge/dlg0002.htm
The Department of Pictures and Maps at the National Library of Wales offers a wealth of information and images related to David Lloyd George.
- www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/llgeorge.html
BYU offers the full text of David Lloyd George's "Mansion House" speech.
- news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/the_westminster_hour/4936730.stm
The BBC provides a two-part program analyzing the Lloyd George Papers.

Suggested Print Resources

- Gooch, John (ed.) *The Boer War: Direction, Experience and Image*. Frank Cass, Portland, OR; 2000.
- Lowe, Rodney. *The Welfare State in Britain Since 1945*. Palgrave Macmillan, New York, NY; 2005.
- MacMillan, Margaret. *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World*. Random House, New York, NY; 2002.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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Historical Overview

By the dawn of the 20th century, the influence of the powerful British Empire had spread to all four corners of the world and created economic prosperity for many British people. However, the working classes of Great Britain did not share in the benefits of empire, toiling long hours in often dangerous conditions for meager wages. David Lloyd George used his oratorical skills to smash through long established walls of social injustice and promoted progressive policies that helped lay the foundation for the modern welfare state. His policies helped usher in the age of popular democracy just as the specter of World War I was about to ravage Europe.

Time Line

1863 — David Lloyd George is born in Manchester, England.

1890 — Lloyd George is elected Liberal Member of Parliament.

1899–1902 — The Second Boer War is fought in South Africa.

1905 — Lloyd George is appointed the president of the Board of Trade.

1908 — Lloyd George is promoted to Chancellor of the Exchequer and begins introducing social reforms.

1914 — World War I begins.

1916 — Lloyd George becomes prime minister of Great Britain.

1916 — A wartime coalition forms between Liberals and Conservatives.

1918 — World War I ends.

1919 — Lloyd George clashes with Clemenceau over the Versailles Treaty.

1921 — Lloyd George is ousted from power.

1945 — Lloyd George dies.

Vocabulary

Industrial Revolution — The process of using machine power to replace people and animal power that began in England during the 18th century.

World War I — The first major war of the 20th century that involved the Allied Powers, led by Great Britain, France and Russia, and their opponents, the Central Powers, which included Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Wehrmacht — The armed forces of Germany in the World War II era.

Nonconformist — A term used for a Protestant who is not part of the Church of England.

House of Commons — The powerful lower house of Parliament in the United Kingdom.

Liberal Party — A major political party in Great Britain that formed in the early 19th century and helped pass numerous social reforms in the early 20th century. The party has since merged with the Social Democratic Party to form the Liberal Democrats.

Boer War — A war fought between 1899 and 1902 in which the British Empire fought Dutch colonists for imperial control of the valuable resources of South Africa.

Old Age Pensions Act — A 1908 law introduced by David Lloyd George that guaranteed an income to people who were too old to work.

The People's Budget — A controversial budget proposed in 1909 by David Lloyd George that called for higher taxes on the wealthy to pay for increased military expenditures and social programs.

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House of Lords — The unelected, upper house of the U.K. Parliament, where power is traditionally held by the elected House of Commons.

Welfare State — A system of government in which the state provides a number of social services to support the welfare of its citizens.

Parliament Act (1911) — An act that limited the veto power of the House of Lords and elevated the legislative power of the House of Commons.

National Insurance Act — A program introduced by David Lloyd George in 1911 that gave British working classes protection against illness and unemployment.

The Shell Crisis (1915) — A military-preparedness scandal during World War I that brought down the Liberal government of Prime Minister Asquith.

Labour Party — The main left-wing political party of Great Britain, which grew out of the social reform parties of the 19th century.

fascist — An advocate of a system of government that glorifies the state and the leadership of a single powerful ruler.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the social and economic background of the Lloyd household?
2. What is a Nonconformist?
3. What was the Boer War? What was Lloyd George's position on the conflict?
4. What programs did Lloyd George promote as Chancellor of the Exchequer?
5. What was Lloyd George's position on British imperialism?
6. How did Lloyd George justify Great Britain's involvement in World War I?
7. What was the Shell Crisis of 1915?
8. Why did Lloyd George clash with French Premier Georges Clemenceau?
9. Why did Lloyd George resign as Prime Minister in 1922?

Activities

- In support of his controversial "People's Budget," David Lloyd George said, "It is rather a shame for a rich country like ours, probably the richest country in the world, if not the richest country the world has ever seen, that it should allow those who have toiled all their days to end in penury and possible starvation." Ask students to write position papers evaluating this statement. As an extension, students may research and discuss social, political and economic issues related to the "demographic revolution" that is taking place all over the world—an increasingly ageing population. Students may learn more information at: www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/waa/
- Because of his strong opposition to the Boer War, many had assumed that David Lloyd George was a pacifist and anti-imperialist. Ask students to read Lloyd George's "Mansion House" speech and analyze his views on Great Britain and British interests. The complete text of his speech may be found at the following web site: www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/1914m/llgeorge.html
- After World War I, world leaders gathered at the 1919 peace conference in Paris. Here, they carved up fallen empires, created new countries and, many historians would argue, created the conditions that were responsible for future German aggression.

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