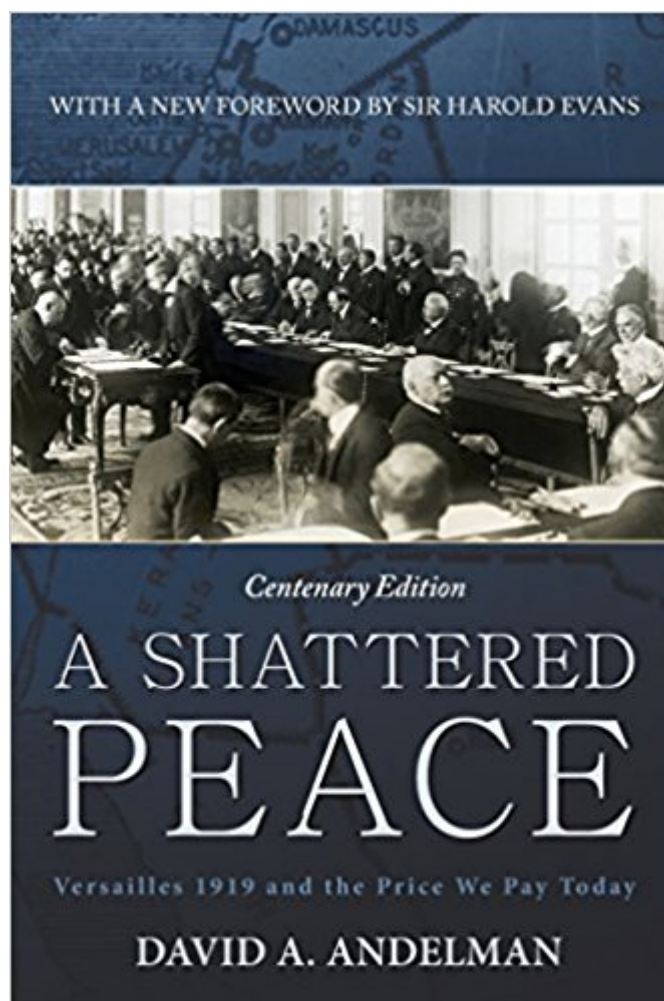


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# A Shattered Peace: Versailles 1919 And The Price We Pay Today



## Synopsis

For more than half a century, it has been widely recognized that the Treaty of Versailles, founded on retribution against Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, created the circumstances that led inevitably to World War II. Less acknowledged and understood is the treaty's profound impact on many other parts of the world—an impact that echoes to this day across Asia, the Balkans, and throughout the Middle East. In *A Shattered Peace*, veteran foreign correspondent David A. Andelman takes a fresh new look at the Treaty of Versailles as the point of origin for many of today's most critical international issues. This revealing history exposes the powerful lessons that a six-month period in a long ago era has for us today. Andelman turns the spotlight on the many errors committed by the peacemakers that directly led to crises and bloodshed from Algeria to Kosovo and wars from Israel to Vietnam. Focusing on the small nations and minor players at the negotiations, including figures such as Ho Chi Minh and Charles de Gaulle who would later become major names, he traces the outcome of the deliberations through the history of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. His conclusion is ominous: not only did the paternalism, ignorance, and self-serving approach of the Great Powers who sculpted the treaty lead to disastrous consequences that were predicted at the time, but current policies of the world's developed nations continue to repeat and reaffirm these same mistakes. Andelman also paints a vivid picture of the glittering and often chaotic social whirl that accompanied the negotiations. Elsa Maxwell threw her first party; young Franklin Delano Roosevelt flirted with Parisian widows to the humiliation of his wife, Eleanor; princesses and young gentlemen in formal attire danced gaily to the hot new sound of American jazz—all this as prime ministers Georges Clemenceau and David Lloyd George ogled huge maps, dividing up territories and cementing their nations' positions as leading world powers for decades to come. Complete with a new preface by Sir Harold Evans, a new introduction from the author, and a never-before-published chapter on establishing a global economy, as well as insightful quotations from the diaries and correspondence of participants and previously unpublished photographs of the proceedings and their surroundings, *A Shattered Peace* will change the way you think about twentieth-century history, its influence on current events, and where we should go from here.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The peace settlements that followed World War I have recently come back into focus as one of the dominant factors shaping the modern world. The Balkans, the Middle East, Iraq, Turkey, and parts of Africa all owe their present-day problems, in part, to these negotiations. David Andelman brings it all back to life--the lofty ideals, the ugly compromises, the larger-than-life personalities who came to Paris in 1919. And he links that far-away diplomatic dance to present-day problems to illuminate our troubled times. A tremendous addition to this vitally important subject." --Ambassador Richard Holbrooke

"The peace conference in Paris at the end of World War I was the first and last moment of pure hope for peace in the history of world affairs. Our president Woodrow Wilson was the sorcerer for this hope, and he kindled great expectations in people everywhere. David Andelman, a classic reporter and storyteller, tells this fascinating tale of hope falling finally and forever on the shoals of naivete and hard-headed cynicism."--Leslie H. Gelb, former columnist for the New York Times and President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations

"The failed peace settlement following the Great War of 1914-1918 has been the subject of many fine books. In many respects, David Andelman's *A Shattered Peace* is the best of these. It is compact and compellingly written. Moreover, it explains more clearly than any other work how the failure of peacemaking in 1919 shaped later history and, indeed, shapes our own era." --Ernest R. May, Charles Warren Professor of American History, Harvard University

"It is the power and fascination of David Andelman's new book, *A Shattered Peace*, that he shows us--with the clarity of a first-rate reporter and the drama and detail at the command of a first-rate novelist--that we are all still enmeshed in the loose ends of the Treaty of Versailles. Andelman brings us to Korea, to Vietnam, to the Persian Gulf, and to Iraq in our own vexed era. His story is

How the Treaty of Versailles is still influencing current eventsâ with a new Preface by Sir Harold

Evans and a new Introduction by the author

“Shattered Peace” is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding what is happening in the world today, particularly in the Mideast, and comprehending the events that occurred in Asia in the last century. I believe it should be a mandatory read for politicians who think they understand the world as it exists today. Unfortunately, today’s political leaders each have his/her own agenda, like those peacemakers who attended the conference in 1919, and whose attitude was well documented in the book. I found the book gave me a clearer understand of the treaty, how it was derived, and the people involved in its preparation. It also introduced me to a number of individuals who had no direct sway on the committee, but who later had great influence on world politics. I had no idea that many of these individuals attended the conference with the idea of trying to influence the peacemakers to their views. David Andelman did a commendable job writing this book and making it an interesting and informative read without overloading it with academic details.

This was a good read and provided a lot of details on the formation of the Versailles Peace Treaty. My only negative is that I feel the author pointed out many of the wrongs done at this time but not many solutions to what they should or could have done at that time. Obviously in hindsight we can see what would have worked better but I’d have liked him to explore more of what options would have better worked that were feasible at that time.

I read this book as a member of a book club that is focused on the back stories of WW I, WW II, and Korea and how these wars have influenced today’s world. It is very detailed and goes into great depth explaining the issues around the Austrian-Hungary Empire, The Ottoman Empire and the Baltic states. It also brings to life a lot of the "players" who were involved in more than one war. Could very well be a book that would be used in a college course on this subject.

Widened my Great War perspective greatly.

And the world irreversibly got screwed up after this. Very important topic. These problems in the middle east stem back to this treaty, as well did WW2 in Europe and even the Pacific

If you don’t learn from history you are doomed to repeat past mistakes. This book shines a light on

the causes of all of our current hot points around the world

Great overview

Arrived in record time. The book is a keeper. Informative, well written.

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