

"Woodrow Wilson's refusal to compromise was chiefly responsible for the defeat of the Treaty of Versailles."

Assess the validity of this statement.

Thesis Statement

- Woodrow Wilson's failure to compromise lead directly to the treaty not being ratified by the senate. This is because the senate did not want to protect the countries in the League of Nations and they also did not want to be the security force. Probably if Woodrow Wilson would of comprised on this single issue the Treaty of Versailles probably would of had a better chance of being ratified.

Treaty of Versailles

- The treaty consisted of Wilson's "Fourteen Points" and this included article X, the League of Nations.
- Later Woodrow Wilson led the Paris peace conference in Versailles to reach the final agreement on international peace.

Why the Treaty was Unpopular in Congress?

- The growing idea that we needed to go back into an isolationist state and the treaty required the United States needed to protect other countries in the League of Nations
- The United States congress also did not want to be responsible for the other countries security after the world war.

Wilson's Stubborn Attitude

- Wilson's stubborn attitude was part of the reason that the treaty failed. He was totally unwilling to compromise with the republican dominate senate (including Henry Cabot Lodge). It has been said that if article X had been proposed by any democrat Wilson would have accepted it. However, he persuaded all democrats to vote against the League of Nations. Herbert Hoover tried to convince Wilson that after the treaty was ratified, it could be altered to please everyone. However, Wilson could not be swayed.



Conclusion

The statement, "Woodrow Wilson's refusal to compromise was chiefly responsible for the defeat of the Treaty of Versailles," is valid because the main thing that the senate wanted to change about the treaty was something that Woodrow Wilson was never going to compromise on. His refusal to compromise probably also lead to the defeat of the treaty because the senate was completely set on what they wanted done and the one change Wilson would of had to make to get the treaty passed was something that he did not want to change, this being having to protect the other countries in the League of Nations. Overall, Wilson's refusal to compromise lead to the failure of the Treaty of Versailles.