The Treaty of Versailles was a peace treaty created by President Woodrow Wilson in order to achieve peace between the Allies and the Axis nations after World War I. Although the treaty seemed like a credible document, when implemented, it did not play out the way Wilson expected.

The treaty was created to resolve disputes between nations. The League of Nations was hard to create due to the fact that Wilson was never being able to convince the United States into his peace treaty before leaving office.

Why did Woodrow Wilson’s League of Nations fail while trying to create peace after World War I?

Woodrow Wilson

- Woodrow Wilson knew that he could no longer let the United States remain neutral during World War I.
- On April 7th, 1918, the United States declared war on Germany.
- Wilson quickly realized how out of hand the war became and thus began creating the Fourteen Points.
  - He envisioned that the Fourteen Points would bring peace and security.
  - These points tried to resolve territorial issues between combating nations, treaties, freedom of the seas, free trade, reduction of arms, self-determination, and the League of Nations.

The Points

1. No more secret agreements ("Open covenants openly arrived at").
2. Free navigation of all seas.
3. An end to all economic barriers between countries.
4. Countries to reduce weapon numbers.
5. All decisions regarding the colonies should be impartial.
6. The German Army is to be removed from Russia. Russia should be left to develop her own political set-up.
7. Belgium should be independent like before the war.
8. France should be fully liberated and allowed to recover Alsace-Lorraine.
9. All Italians are to be allowed to live in Italy. Italy's borders are to "along clearly recognizable lines of nationality."
10. Self-determination should be allowed for all those living in Austria-Hungary.
11. Self-determination and guarantees of independence should be allowed for the Balkan states.
12. The Turkish people should be governed by the Turkish government. Non-Turks in the old Turkish Empire should govern themselves.
13. An independent Poland should be created which should have access to the sea.
14. A League of Nations should be set up to guarantee the political and territorial independence of all states.

Treaty of Versailles

- The Treaty of Versailles was a peace treaty that got signed after World War I.
- The Treaty of Versailles was a very long document; it was made up of 440 Articles and it was divided into 15 parts.
- It was signed on June 28, 1919.
- It was signed between the Allies and the Germans.
- Germany signed the Treaty as in reality they had no choice.
- Prime Minister David Lloyd George of the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau of France, and President Woodrow Wilson of the United States were known as the big three.
- On May 7, 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was handed to the Germans, and they only had three weeks to sign.
- Germany didn’t like the Treaty of Versailles because the Germans noticed that they were being punished for everything that happened in World War I.
- They sent many arguments about the Treaty, but the Allies didn’t pay any attention to them at all.

Interpretation of Wilson’s Fourteen Points

The Fourteen Points allowed the people to decide for themselves what kind of government they wished to live in. The purpose of these points, and the wishful thinking that Wilson had, was to have the countries agree with each other on militarism, allies, imperialism, and nationalism. It’s very difficult for all countries to have the same views on one idea or the other. Each country has its own perspective when it comes to the type of government they would like implemented. The Fourteen Points also addressed freedom of seas and trade, which Great Britain and France did not agree on. The Fourteen points created more tension rather than peace.