*Wilson’s Fourteen Points Speech*

We entered this war because violations of right had occurred which touched us to the quick and made the life of our own people impossible unless they were corrected and the world secured once and for all against their recurrence. What we demand in this war, therefore, is nothing peculiar to ourselves. It is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world as against force and selfish aggression. All the peoples of the world are in effect partners in this interest, and for our own part, we see very clearly that unless justice be done to others it will not be done to us. The program of the world’s peace, therefore, is our program; and that program, the only possible program, as we see it, is this: (*The Fourteen Points below are summarized and paraphrased*)

1. Public diplomatic negotiations and an end to secret treaties (Alliances).
2. Freedom of navigation of the seas, during times of peace and war.
3. Free trade among nations.
4. Reduction of armaments to the level needed for domestic security.
5. Fair resolution of colonial claims taking local populations and imperial claims into account.
6. Evacuation of Russia and restoration of its conquered territories. Support for Russia from other countries as they work out their change of government.
7. Preservation of Belgium’s sovereignty.
8. Restoration of France’s territory, including the region of Alsace-Lorraine (a region of the border with Germany that Germany had taken from France in 1871).
9. Redraw Italy’s boundaries according to nationalities.
10. Divide up Austria-Hungary into smaller countries according to nationalities.
11. Redraw the borders of the Balkan States according to nationalities.
12. Self-determination for the Turks and other nationalities under the Ottoman Empire rule
13. Creation of an independent Polish nation, with guaranteed access to the sea, and international recognition.
14. The creation of a League of Nations: “A General association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike…”