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Pre-Simulation Position Paper - Treaty of Lausanne

Representing: France

Before the Great War, France and the Ottoman Empire had long maintained significant relations with each other. Commercial Agreement of 1838 allowed the United Kingdom and France to trade within the Ottoman Empire without being subjected to customs regulations.

Ottoman Empire has welcomed French assistance in previous matters, such as military and educational reforms which were carried out in model of French provisions. Furthermore, regularly these reforms were carried out with the assistance of French officers and teachers sent by the Government of Louise-Phillippe.[[1]](#footnote-1) Additionally, the French have previously sent multiple scientific missions to Turkey, including investigating possible economic interests which France could benefit from, such as the manufacturing of paper, various fabrics, iron, steel, potash, pottery and glassware.[[2]](#footnote-2)

During World War I, France had one of the highest casualty rates - 73.3% - and suffered significant economic costs due to fighting on our soil.[[3]](#footnote-3) According to the Reparations Commission, the cost of the destruction during the war is 55 billion francs, which is the equivalent of 125% of our national income in 1913.[[4]](#footnote-4) We need the economic stimulus which can be provided by gaining access to the resources and territory in the regions in question. We therefore request the Conference consider France’s losses during the war and current need for economic stimulus when making decisions regarding mandates and other provisions during this conference.

In accordance with the April 1917 Agreement of Saint-Jeane-de-Maurienne between Great Britain, Italy, and France, we request France be granted the Adana region and Italy receive control over the Southwestern Anatolia, including Izmir (Smyrna).[[5]](#footnote-5) In accordance with the agreement made over Zionist occupation of Palestine, made with Lloyd George’s government, the region of Palestine should be given as a national home for the Jewish people.[[6]](#footnote-6) In accordance with the Conference of San Remo, we requests France maintains the mandates of Syria and Lebanon, and France’s Anglo-French oil agreement - wherein France is given a 25 percent share of Iraqi oil and favorable oil transport terms - be respected and upheld.[[7]](#footnote-7) France’s position controlling the Mandate of Syria is further supported by Article 8 of the 1921 Treaty of Ankara between the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the government of France.[[8]](#footnote-8)

With the passing of this treaty, France maintains a state of peace must be re-established between all parties involved. Within Turkey, France asks that any individuals of French nationality - including those of Morocco and Tunisia - maintain full rights in accordance with the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. Trade between the France and Turkey shall be established through a bilateral agreement between the two nations. All Ottoman pre-war debts should be repaid, including the interest which was agreed upon, within a to-be-agreed-upon time frame. Further, all insurance claims entered into date before 29th October 1914 - when the Ottoman Empire entered the Great War - shall be paid in full in the currency to which they were arranged.

The French government also requests the land in which our soldiers are laid be bequeathed from the Turkish government to the nation whose soldiers are laid there. We further request a commission be created to determine the location of any graves, cemeteries, ossuaries and memorials, for this purpose.

France recognizes the Turkish nationalist regime’s disagreement with the 1920 Treaty of Sévres, and therefore hopes these negotiations result in a more favorable Treaty for all.[[9]](#footnote-9) Finally, any disputes resulting after this treaty should be deferred to arbitration through the Council of the League of Nations. No further military action should be taken.

1. Raccagni, Michelle. 1980. The french economic interests in the ottoman empire. *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 11 (3): 339-76. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “PBS.” Accessed October 19, 2015. <https://www.pbs.org/greatwar/resources/casdeath_pop.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Hautcoeur, Pierre-Cyrille. "Was the Great War a Watershed? The economics of World War One in France." Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, 2003. Web. 01 Dec. 2009. pg. 19 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Helmreich, Paul C. 1976. Italy and the anglo-french repudiation of the 1917 st. jean de maurienne agreement. *The Journal of Modern History* 48 (2): 99-139. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. "The Balfour Declaration." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, n.d. Accessed October 19 2015. <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-balfour-declaration>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. “Conference of San Remo.” *Encyclopedia Britannica.* Accessed October 19, 2015. <http://www.britannica.com/event/Conference-of-San-Remo> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. “Treaty of Ankara.” *Encyclopedia Britannica.* Accessed October 19, 2015. <http://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Ankara> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. “Treaty of Sévres.” *Encyclopedia Britannica.* Accessed October 19, 2015. <http://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Sevres> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)