



## **CAN THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES HELP US TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE?**

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### **Step 2: Audio slideshow: The World in One City**

Armistice Day – the 11th of November 1918 – was greeted with euphoric celebrations across Europe and beyond. Four long years of World War One had finally come to an end.

To negotiate a lasting peace deal, world leaders gathered in Paris led by the so-called ‘Big Three’ – the prime ministers of Britain and France and the President of the United States.

But away from the cheering crowds, they had a serious crisis on their hands.

Empires had collapsed. There were refugees, food shortages and mounting social unrest. The leaders were well aware of the threat of revolution spreading from Russia. They needed urgent, decisive action.

So delegates from around the world poured into Paris over the months of 1919.

This was an international conference on an unprecedented scale.

Not only were there diplomats, campaigners like suffragettes arrived in Paris to petition for their cause too.

And, of course, hundreds of journalists were eagerly waiting to wire every development to the rest of the world.

The leaders made bold decisions – reshaping nations and creating new ones. Poland became an independent state.

There was also severe punishment for Germany – stripped of land and military might. Despite some opposition, the key powers pushed through their decisions.

News of the signing reached the streets of Paris and parties erupted across Britain.

The Treaty of Versailles ushered in a new world order.

Pictures courtesy of Getty Images.