

*Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States. The Paris Peace Conference, 1919.* Volumes V and VI, *The Council of Four: Minutes of the Meetings March 20 to May 24, 1919; May 24 to June 28, 1919.* [Department of State, Publications 2212 and 2253.] (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1946. Pp. vi, 949; v, 1021. \$2.25; \$2.25.)

These documents reveal how the provisions of the Versailles Treaty were determined almost exclusively by the heads of the Big Four governments—President Wilson of the United States, Mr. Lloyd George of Great Britain, M. Clemenceau of France, and Signor Orlando of Italy. In the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 this Council of Four was the supreme authority from the time of its inception in March, 1919, to the signature of the Treaty of Versailles and the departure of President Wilson from Paris on June 28, 1919. The two-hundred-odd meetings of the Big Four during this period were held in secrecy. The full official records of these conversations are now made public, twenty-seven years later, in Volumes V and VI of the State Department's documentary coverage of the 1919 conference.

The early meetings of the Council were conducted without a secretary or a formal record, but the resulting inconvenience led to the appointment of Sir Maurice Hankey of the British delegation as secretary in mid-April of 1919. Thenceforward the proceedings were recorded in the indirect discourse style typical of British reporting and the Council's decisions were drawn up in formal language for the drafting committee which then translated them into the articles of the treaty. A total of 185 recorded discussions are contained in these two State Department volumes along with the pertinent papers and several hundred pages of the correspondence with the German delegation regarding the terms of peace.

For purposes of historical interpretation, these documents are perhaps the richest of all the materials yet published by the Department of State on the peace Conference.

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*Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States. The Paris Peace Conference, 1919.* Volumes VIII and IX, *The Council of Heads of Delegations: Minutes of Meetings August 29 to November 5, 1919; November 6, 1919 to January 10, 1920.* [Department of State, Publications 2531 and 2599.] (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1946. Pp. iii, 986; iv, 1053. \$2.25; \$2.75.)

These two volumes, together with Volume VII which was published early in 1946, contain the minutes of the Council of the Heads of Delega-