

*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-

tions at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. The Heads of Delegations was the name given to the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference in the form it assumed after the signing of the Treaty with Germany, June 28, 1919, and the departure from Paris of President Wilson and Prime Minister Lloyd George.

The records here contained are concerned with such matters as the negotiations for completing the treaties with Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey; with the necessary steps for carrying out the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, and with many political and economic problems as they developed in war-torn Europe.

Included also in Volume IX are the minutes of those sessions of the International Council of Premiers, held at London and Paris in December, 1919, and January, 1920, at which the United States was represented by an observer, and the minutes of the three meetings of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held at Paris on January 10, 13, and 21, 1920, at two of which the United States had an observer. These bodies may also be considered as manifestations of the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference. Business not completed by these bodies was dealt with by the Conference of Ambassadors.

The release of these volumes completes the publication of the minutes of the Supreme Council of the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 in its several phases as the Council of Ten, the Council of Four, and the Heads of Delegations. The volumes containing these minutes were compiled in the former Division of Research and Publication by a staff consisting of James S. Beddie, Morrison B. Griffen, John W. Foley, Jr., and Matilda F. Axton, under the direction of E. Wilder Spaulding, chief of that division, and E. R. Perkins, editor of the *Foreign Relations* series.

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*Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States, 1931.*

Volumes I and II. [Department of State, Publications 2602 and 2657.] (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1946. Pp. cix, 961; cxvi, 1082. \$2.75, \$3.00.)

With the publication of these two volumes, the Department of State has made public an impressive body of diplomatic correspondence and memoranda covering the challenging year 1931, Volume III (devoted exclusively to the Far East) having been issued some months in advance of Volumes I and II.

The year 1931 was a period not of one but of many crises in which the rapid deterioration in world economic affairs tended as the months ad-