

## Summary of Count Hertling's Speech to the Reichstag 24 January 1918

*The following is a summary of the German Chancellor's response to Wilson's 14 points. Overall, the response was generally one of acceptance.*

- (1) The negotiations at Brest-Litovsk prove "that we are quite ready to accept this proposal [President Wilson's first point, on no secret international agreements] and declare publicity of negotiations to be a general political principle."
- (2) There is "no difference of opinion" with Mr. Wilson in respect to his second point, on freedom of the seas; but to realize this it would be well if the fortifications at Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Hong-Kong, and other places should be removed.
- (3) The Central Powers are "in thorough accord with the removal of economic barriers which interfere with trade in a superfluous manner" and "condemn economic war."
- (4) "The idea of limitation of armaments is entirely discussable."
- (5) As to colonies, "Mr. Wilson's principles will encounter some difficulties in the realm of reality," but the "reconstitution of the world's colonial possessions" will "have to be discussed in due time."
- (6) In respect to evacuation of Russian territory, "we are dealing with questions which concern only Russia and the four allied [Central] Powers."
- (7) "The Belgian question belongs to those questions the details of which are to be settled by war and peace negotiations (*Kriegs und Friedensverhandlungen*)."
- (8) "The integrity of our territory [including Alsace] offers the only possible basis of peace discussion. The occupied parts of France are a valuable pawn in our hands; forcible annexation forms no part of the official German policy."
- (9 to 12) Mr. Wilson's points 9 to 12 touch chiefly Austria and Turkey.
- (13) "It may be left to Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Poland to come to an agreement on the future constitution" of Poland.
- (14) The German Government "is gladly ready, when all other pending questions have been settled, to begin the examination of the basis of... a bond of nations."

Source: [http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/fourteenpoints\\_hertling.htm](http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/fourteenpoints_hertling.htm)