

The Armistice of Villa Giusti

Villa Giusti Mütarekesi

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Abstract

In the First World War, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was a part of the Central Powers. As from 1916, the Empire had been very keen for the war to end. The Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was deprived of the financial power to continue the war and faced with the demands of independence from the minorities before and during the war, approached the armistice proposals very positively that could end the war in 1916 and 1917. In mid-June 1918, the failure of the attack launched by the Austro-Hungarian troops against the Italian troops and the superiority of the Allied Powers over Germany on the western front in July-August put the situation of the Central Powers in the European fronts in trouble, and after the successful attack launched by the Italian troops on 24 October, there was no possibility for Austria-Hungary to continue the war. The Austro-Hungarian Empire withdrew from the First World War by signing an armistice with Italy on 3 November 1918 at Villa Giusti del Giardino outside the city of Padova. The armistice contained very harsh terms and severely limited the empire in every respect. The Armistice of Villa Giusti consisted of two chapters and nineteen clauses including eight military and eleven naval and maritime provisions. The additional protocol of the armistice consisted of two chapters and nineteen clauses, ten of which were military and nine of which were related to the naval forces and maritime affairs.

Key Words: World War I, Allied Powers, Austro-Hungarian Empire, Armistice, Villa Giusti

Öz

Avusturya-Macaristan İmparatorluğu Birinci Dünya Savaşı'nda İttifak Devletleri Blokunda yer almıştı. Bununla birlikte bu devletin Birinci Dünya Savaşı gibi küresel bir mücadeleyi uzun süre devam ettirebilecek bir gücü yoktu. Dolayısıyla Avusturya-Macaristan İmparatorluğu savaş boyunca tıpkı Osmanlı Devleti ve Bulgaristan Krallığı gibi Almanya'nın askeri ve ekonomik yardımına ihtiyaç duymuştu. Savaşa devam etmekte zorlanan İmparatorluk, bu sebeple 1916'dan itibaren savaşın sona ermesi hususunda oldukça istekli olmuştu. Savaşı devam ettirebilecek maddi güçten mahrum olan ve savaş öncesi ve süresince içerideki azınlıkların bağımsızlık talepleriyle uğraşmak zorunda kalan Avusturya-Macaristan İmparatorluğu 1916 ve 1917 yıllarında savaşı bitirebilecek mütareke tekliflerine oldukça olumlu yaklaşmıştır. Fakat tarafların savaşın sona ermesi konusunda bir türlü anlaşmamaları

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Akademik
Bakış

1
Cilt 17
Sayı 34
Yaz 2024

Avusturya-Macaristan'da büyük hayal kırıklığı yaratmış, bu devlet bir süre sonra Almanya'dan ayrı mütareke yapmayı bile düşünmeye başlamıştır.

1918 yılı Haziran ayı ortalarında Avusturya-Macaristan birliklerinin İtalyan birliklerine karşı başlattıkları saldırının başarısız olması ve Temmuz-Ağustos aylarında batı cephesinde İtilaf Devletlerinin Almanya karşısında üstünlüğü ele geçirmeleri Avrupa cephelerinde İttifak Devletlerinin durumunu sıkıntıya sokmuş, 24 Ekim'de İtalyan birliklerinin başlattıkları başarılı saldırıdan sonra Avusturya-Macaristan'ın savaşa devam etme ihtimali kalmamıştı.

İtalyan birliklerinin Vittorio Veneto'yu işgal etmelerinden sonra Avusturya-Macaristan İmparatorluğu, 3 Kasım 1918 tarihinde Padova kenti dışında Mandria bölgesinde Giusti del Giardino isimli villada İtalya ile mütareke imzalayarak Birinci Dünya Savaşı'ndan çekilmiştir. Mütareke oldukça ağır şartlar içeriyordu ve imparatorluğu her açıdan büyük ölçüde sınırlıyordu. Villa Giusti Mütarekesi sekizi askeri ve on biri deniz kuvvetleri ve denizciliğe ilişkin hükümler olmak üzere iki kısım ve on dokuz maddeden oluşmuştu. Mütarekenin ek protokolü ise onu askeri ve dokuzu deniz kuvvetleri ve denizciliğe ilişkin hükümler olmak üzere iki kısım ve on dokuz maddeden ibaretti.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Birinci Dünya Savaşı, İtilaf Devletleri, Avusturya-Macaristan İmparatorluğu, Mütareke, Villa Giusti.

Introduction

The assassination of Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife, Princess Sophie, by a Serbian organisation in Sarajevo is commonly perceived as the immediate trigger for the outbreak of the First World War. However, it is important to recognise that the underlying causes of the war can be attributed to the rivalries and disputes between the Allied and Central Powers. The Austro-Hungarian Empire joined the war as a member of the Central Powers. The nation had a substantial land army, ranking among the greatest in Europe. However, due to its social structure and financial power, it lacked the necessary resilience to maintain a protracted war of such magnitude. The waning influence of Germany, which had provided assistance to Austria-Hungary over the course of the war, posed a growing challenge for the latter in sustaining its military efforts. Ultimately, within the Central Powers, Bulgaria withdrew from the war by means of the Armistice of Salonika, officially executed on 29 September 1918. Subsequently, the Ottoman Empire followed, signing the Armistice of Mudros on 31 October 1918. The Austro-Hungarian Empire similarly withdrew from the war through the Armistice of Villa Giusti on 03 November 1918, while Germany concluded the war with the Rethondes Armistice¹ on November 11. On 13 November 1918, the Allied Powers signed the Armistice of Belgrade with Hungary, a nation that had previously seceded from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The problem of this study lies on the Armistice of Villa Giusti, which

1 For information on the Armistice of Rethondes, see. Ali Servet Öncü, "Rethondes Mütarekesi" Turcology Research, Atatürk University Journal of Institute of Turcology Studies, No: 74, May 2022, p. 417-428.

görsel

the Austro-Hungarian Empire signed with the Allied Powers, and its content. By reviewing the provisions of the armistice and its supplementary protocol, an attempt will be made to elucidate the scope of the armistice.

In 1916 and 1917, the Austro-Hungarian Empire made an initial effort to negotiate an armistice but ultimately persisted in the war due to ongoing support from Germany and the unsuccessful peace initiatives. However, by 1918, the empire found itself lacking the necessary power to sustain the war. A combination of deteriorating economic conditions and growing demands for independence from the various nations within the empire further compounded this predicament. Consequently, the situation became exceedingly complex and difficult to resolve.²

During July-August 1918, the Allied Powers had achieved a significant advantage over Germany on the Western front. The assault initiated by the Allied States against the German trenches on 08 August 1918 proved to be victorious, followed by a second triumphant assault on the 21st of August. The strategic plan of French Field Marshal Ferdinand Foch involved the coordination of Franco-British forces from the north-west and Franco-American forces from the south in an attack against the German army. This plan also included the participation of Belgian, Italian, and Portuguese troops in an outflanking manoeuvre. Consequently, the initial phase of this siege operation commenced on 26 September 1918, with the assault launched by French and American forces from the Mezieres and Sedan regions. In accordance with the established plan, the British, French, Canadian and Belgian troops launched an assault on September 29, and there was a high degree of cohesion and collaboration among the armies of the Allied Powers. Despite the substantial casualties incurred by American troops and the sluggish progress of the forces attacking from north-western side in Flanders, the Allied Forces swiftly took full control of the initiative. Nevertheless, the absence of German capitulation and the heightened challenges posed by the natural barriers in the assault on Flanders under winter circumstances provoked contemplation over the potential continuation of the war until 1919. Nevertheless, General Ludendorff, the commander of the German armies, considered an armistice the most favourable course for Germany. Austria-Hungary was of the same opinion, leading both nations to approach the United States of America and formally seek an armistice, citing the principles outlined by Wilson's Fourteen Points. In this context, the Armistice of Villa Giusti was signed between the Allied Powers and Austria-Hungary on 3 November 1918, followed by the Armistice of Rethondes between the Allied Powers and Germany on 11 November 1918.³

2 Fahir Armaoğlu, "20. Yüzyıl Siyasi Tarihi", Alkım Publications, 18th Edition, Istanbul 2009, p.185.

3 Keith Robins, *I. Dünya Savaşı*, Dost Bookstore, 1st Edition, Ankara 2005, p. 85-86, Lajos Arday, "The Question of an Armistice and of the Military Occupation of Austria-Hungary in October-November 1918, Traced in the Relevant British Documents", *Acta Historica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, Vol. 26, No. 1/2, 1980, p. 167.

Giusti

Akademik
Bakış

3

Cilt 17
Sayı 34
Yaz 2024

The Last Days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

Germany's call to seek an armistice was also motivated by the dire predicament faced by its allies in every aspect, namely the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and the Kingdom of Bulgaria. Germany could not get the support it wanted from its allies during the spring offensive on the western front. On the other hand, the Austro-Hungarian armies could not exclude Italy from the war as Germany had requested.⁴

In the middle of June 1918, the Austro-Hungarian troops launched two uncoordinated attacks against the Italians and the French and British troops, who had not yet returned to the western front, failed, and the Austro-Hungarian armies had to retreat, although they briefly crossed the Piave River. The Italian troops, on the other hand, did not attack straight once but instead waited for organisation and the proper opportunity.⁵ On October 24, under the command of General Diaz, the Italian troops launched the long-awaited attack that had been subject to many delays. The Italian Army's decision to attack then was associated with the prevalent revolutionary climate in Austria-Hungary, the economic downturn in the country, the army's inability to adequately address its requirements, and the notable surge in the number of slackers.⁶

According to the attack plan of the Italian army, the VIIIth Army, led by General Caviglia, would be reinforced by two British divisions on the right flank and a French division on the left flank; this attack would involve the crossing of the Piave River, with the intention of isolating the Vth and VIth Austro-Hungarian armies from one another, while the IVth Italian Army would strike Mount Grappa. Despite the absence of a definitive triumph by the army that stroked on Mount Grappa, Army VIII managed to accomplish victory. Under the leadership of General Caviglia, this army was able to build many bridgeheads on the eastern bank of the Piave River. As a consequence of these events, the Austro-Hungarian troops were defeated, resulting in the conquest of Vittorio Veneto by Italian troops on 30 October 1918. Despite the Austro-Hungarian Army's some attempts, facilitated by the efforts of German soldiers inside its ranks, to mount many counterattacks and delayed the Italian assault, it was no longer possible to keep the army together. On this particular front, a total of thirty imperial divisions refused to fight, and the soldiers stationed in the barracks located in Fiume staged a revolt, subsequently seizing control of the city; the Italian assault in Vittorio Veneto was remarkably successful, as it targeted the demoralised Austro-Hungarian troops who were deprived of essential resources such as arms and ammunition, and also suffered from hunger and overall destitution. Consequently, the Austro-Hun-

4 Robins, *op. cit.*, p. 86.

5 Robins, *op. cit.*, p. 86.

6 Pierre Renouvin, *1. Dünya Savaşı ve Türkiye*, Örgün Publishing House, 1st Edition, Ankara 2004, p. 723.

görsel

Akademik
Bakış

4

Cilt 17
Sayı 34
Yaz 2024

garian Emperor and the General Staff were forced to seek an armistice.⁷

Meanwhile, the condition of the Austro-Hungarian naval forces began to deteriorate, and on 31 October 1918, Miklos Horthy, the Admiral of the Austro-Hungarian Empire Navy deployed in the Adriatic Sea, sent a telegram to the Austro-Hungarian Emperor Karl II, declaring his allegiance and surrendering his flagship, SMS Viribus Unitis, to the Allied Powers.⁸

Concurrently with these problems encountered by the Austro-Hungarian army on fronts, the nations inside the empire also took action in pursuit of independence. In response, the imperial administration took several moves to avert this state of affairs. Emperor Karl II issued a proclamation on 18 October 1918, whereby he declared to acknowledge the autonomy of minorities and to establish a federal system.⁹ On 27 October 1918, Gyula Andrassy, the subsequent Foreign Minister to Stephan Burian, sent a note to US President Wilson, stating that they would accord the peoples within their territories the right to establish state organisations as they wished and that they conveyed their desire to initiate armistice and peace discussions, without waiting result of the ongoing armistice negotiations with Germany, without delay. Two days later, Emperor Karl opted to extend a similar proposition to the Italian High Command. Emperor Karl had the intention of establishing a Danube Federation as a means to preserve the empire's survival, and Foreign Minister Andrassy conveyed this proposal to the British and French representatives in Switzerland.¹⁰

However, prior to the capitulation of the Austro-Hungarian Army, the structure of the empire commenced a process of fragmentation provoked and endorsed by the Allied Powers. Consequently, the nations within the empire initiated dissolution through a series of peaceful and nationalistic revolutions, with the ultimate objective of achieving independence. Similar to the formation of "Soviets" in Russian urban and rural areas that had embraced Bolshevism a year earlier, "National Councils" emerged one after the other in the Austro-Hungarian geography in 1918.

Despite the large German population inside the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Central European and Balkan nations also held considerable representation within the empire. Apart from the German population, the Austro-Hungarian Empire accommodated several other nationalities, including Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Polish, Serbians, Croatians, Bosnians, Ukrainians, Romanians, and Slovenes.¹¹ The collapse of Bulgaria expedited the dis-

7 Arday, *op. cit.*, p. 168, Vlademir Potyemkin... (et al.), *Uluslararası İlişkiler Tarihi (Diplomasi Tarihi)*, Vol: 1, (trans. Attila Tokatlı), Evrensel Press Publishing, 1st Edition, İstanbul 2009, p. 450-451, Renouvin, *loc. cit.*, p. 723.

8 Robert Gerwarth, *Mağluplar Birinci Dünya Savaşı Neden Bitmedi 1917-1923*, Doğan Book, 1 st Edition, Ankara 2018, p. 202.

9 Robins, *op. cit.*, p. 85.

10 Renouvin, *op. cit.*, p. 725.

11 Bilge Karbi, "Milliyetçilik Çağında Çok Uluslu İmparatorlukların Sonuna Doğru Avusturya (-Macaristan) İmparatorluğunun Dış Politikasının Ana Hatları: 1848-1914", Yeditepe University History Department Research Journal, Volume:3, Issue:6, July 2019,

gazi

Akademik
Bakış

5

Cilt 17
Sayı 34
Yaz 2024

solution of Austria-Hungary Empire. The possibility of an invasion of Austria-Hungary from the east by the armies commanded by General Franchet d'Esperey served as a significant motivation for the minorities residing within the empire.

The establishment of the German-Austrian Provisional National Assembly took place on October 21 in Vienna, the capital city. On 11 November 1918, Emperor Karl II made a public declaration in which he announced his decision to relinquish the initiative to make decisions in state administration without abdicating the throne; subsequently, on November 12, the Provisional National Assembly officially proclaimed the German-Austrian Republic. Social Democratic Karl Renner established a coalition with members from the Social Democratic, Christian Socialist, and German nationalist groups, afterwards assuming the duty of Prime Minister. In accordance with Wilson's Principles, the recently established government asserted its ownership over the territories populated by Germans, including Austrian Silesia, some parts of South Tyrol and Bohemia, which had fallen within the borders of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Besides, the government argued that Austria was a part of the German Reich on the basis of Wilson's Principles.¹²

While the Germans in the Austro-Hungarian Empire were acting as such, the Hungarians took action to draw their own road map, and in the last days of the war, on 16 October 1918, the war government led by Sandor Wekerle declared that the Austro-Hungarian compromise of 1867, which established the Dual Monarchy, was no longer binding on them, although this situation failed to fully appease the Hungarian opposition.¹³ However, the decisive step was taken on October 23 by the social democrats and radicals, who formed a National Committee led by the liberal Count Mihaly Karolyi and proclaimed themselves the legitimate representatives of the Hungarian people. In the scope of a twelve-article programme, the Committee officially declared the independence of Hungary and the necessity for the cessation of the war, the establishment of voting rights, the abolition of censorship, and the implementation of agricultural reforms.¹⁴ The principles advocated by the National Committee were similarly supported by workers and other societal strata, who gave their support for the committee's policies through strikes and demonstrations in Budapest, the capital city. On October 30, the National Committee officially renounced its allegiance to the union and the emperor, and a day later, Karolyi was appointed as the prime minister, while the committee members were appointed as members of the new cabinet. In demonstrations attended by hundreds of thousands of people, the Hungarian flag, characterised by its red, white, and green colours, on public buildings in lieu of the flag representing the dual monarchy, and on the same day, a group of

p. 63-64, Alan Palmer, *Savaş Biterken 1918* (trans. Hakan Abacı), Alfa Publications, 1st Edition Istanbul 2015, p. 413.

12 Renouvin, *op. cit.*, p. 719, 720, Gerwarth, *op. cit.*, p. 202, 204.

13 Gerwarth, *op. cit.*, p. 202-203.

14 Palmer, *op. cit.*, p. 413, Gerwarth, *op. cit.*, p. 203.

görsel

soldiers raided the house of Count Istvan Tisza, a former prime minister who was known for his allegiance to Vienna and killed him.¹⁵

The attempts for independence among the nations within Austria-Hungary Empire were not limited to the Germans and Hungarians within the empire but expanded farther, and the other nations also took action to pursue their own quests for independence upon the defeats of the imperial armies in the war in October 1918 and the successful Italian assault that launched in Vittorio Veneto on 24 October 1918, in which some soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian armies refused to fight.¹⁶ As the Imperial Government was forced to ask for an armistice on 28 October 1918, the Czechoslovak National Committee, realising that the empire was about to dissolve, seized power in Prague on the same day, supported by thousands of demonstrators brandishing Bohemian flags and engaging in acts of aggression against Austro-Hungarian symbols. Moreover, on October 30, the Slovaks also established their national council in Tureiansky Sveti Martin. The British Government had already recognised the Czechoslovak National Council as an allied military force in August 1918. The independence efforts of the Czechoslovak National Committee were supported by the Allied Powers and these states recognised Tomas Garrigue Masaryk as the head of state of Czechoslovakia.

Similar events also took place in Croatia, and the National Committee of South Slavs, which was established in Zagreb on October 6 under the leadership of Slovenian clergyman Anton Korosec, proclaimed the independence of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes on 29 October 1918 in Zagreb.¹⁷ The Transylvanian Romanians, under the leadership of Iuliu Maniu, also established a National Council in Oradea on October 12 and soon moved its headquarters to Arada.¹⁸ The National Councils of the Ukrainian Ruthenians, within the borders of the Empire, continued their activities in Lubovna and Khust. The Germans of Silesia and Moravia also established a Sudeten Council in Troppau, while a National Council, supporting Karolyi, was established in Uzhgorod in Ruthenia, where the majority of representatives were Jewish Hungarians.¹⁹

The independence revolutions in the Austro-Hungarian territories also caused some conflicts between the nations that declared their independence, and on 1 November 1918, former Austro-Hungarian troops of the Ukrainian National Committee in Lemberg (Lwow/Lviv), the capital of Galicia, seized public buildings, held the imperial governor captive, and proclaimed the Republic of Western Ukraine, designating Lemberg as its capital. This attracted the reaction of Poland to assert its claims over Lemberg and eastern Galicia,

15 Gerwarth, *op. cit.*, p. 203.

16 Gerwarth, *op. cit.*, p. 203-204.

17 Robert Hoffmann, "The British Military Representative in Vienna, 1919, The Slavonic and East European Review", Vol: 52, No: 127, April 1974, p. 252, Gerwarth, *op. cit.*, p. 204, Palmer, *op. cit.*, p 413, Amaoğlu, *op. cit.*, p. 186.

18 Palmer, *op. cit.*, p. 413

19 Palmer, *op. cit.*, p. 413

gost

Akademik
Bakış

7

Cilt 17
Sayı 34
Yaz 2024

and the battle between the two parties persisted until July 1919.²⁰

Surrender of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Armistice of Villa Giusti

Within a week, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, whose army had been largely disarrayed after the campaign of the Italian troops, completely fell apart. On October 29, Staff Captain Ruggera, a member of the Austro-Hungarian Army, approached the Italian trenches while holding a flag of truce and asked to cease fire. Nevertheless, the captain was sent back by Italian General Armando Diaz due to his lack of formal duties and authorisation. The French Prime Minister, Georges Clemenceau, and the British Prime Minister, Lloyd George, who had been informed of this incident by the Italian Prime Minister, Vittorio Emanuele Orlando, reacted to General Diaz's action, which kept Austria at war and delayed the march of Allied Powers on Germany, even for a day.²¹ Meanwhile, the Inter-Allied Conference, which was held at Versailles between 5-9 October, set out the principles that would guide the military delegates in drafting the terms of the armistice.²²

The Allied Powers and the United States had agreed that General Diaz would conduct the armistice negotiations with Austria-Hungary, with the support of General Pietro Badoglio. On 30 October 1918, a plenipotentiary delegation from the Austro-Hungarian Army, led by General Victor Weber Edler Von Webenau, restated the proposal for an armistice. The delegation, led by General Weber, was escorted to the residence of Giusti, a member of the Italian parliament, in Padova.²³

On the morning of 1 November 1918, General Badoglio read to the Austro-Hungarian delegation the draft armistice, which the Supreme War Council had approved on 31 October 1918, and emphasised that the delegation was expected to either accept or reject the terms without engaging in further negotiations on the draft and that the delegation was afforded thirty hours to communicate its response.²⁴

After the Austro-Hungarian delegation communicated the draft armistice to Vienna, Emperor Karl II summoned the cabinet and made an assessment. The draft armistice treaty not only imposed rather harsh conditions but also contained provisions that would prevent Karl II from fulfilling the commitments he had just made to Germany. On October 30, Emperor Karl II appealed to Italy to inform Germany of his request for an armistice and assured Germany that if the Allies asked for permission to pass through his country to attack Germany, he would refuse to do so and would instead lead his army and fight. Undoubtedly, this promise could not be possible; it would

20 Gerwarth, *op. cit.*, p. 205.

21 Dilek Elvan Öz, "Birinci Dünya Savaşı'nı Bitiren Ateşkes Antlaşmaları, Uygulamaları ve Uluslararası Hukuk", Ege University The Institute of Social Sciences, İzmir 2005, (Unpublished Master's Thesis) p. 215.

22 Arday, *op. cit.*, p. 168.

23 Dilek, *op. cit.*, p. 126.

24 Dilek, *op. cit.*, p. 126.

görsel

have been impossible for Austria-Hungary, having been defeated in the war, to fight for Germany again. After deliberating over the issue and considering the commanders' warnings that the empire would fall apart if the armistice was not signed, the Austro-Hungarian government approved the draft armistice and instructed the delegation in Italy to sign the draft armistice at the night of November 2. General Badoglio's insistence on the cessation of the hostilities immediately one day after the signing of the armistice raised objections from the Austro-Hungarian delegation, but despite their reservations, they had to acquiesce to this condition as well.²⁵

Eventually, the Austro-Hungarian Empire retreated from the First World War by signing an armistice with Italy on 3 November 1918 at the Villa Giusti del Giardino in the Mandria region outside the city of Padova.²⁶ The armistices that put an end to the First World War were generally signed on the territory of the states that would enforce and supervise the terms of the armistice on the surrendering state, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire concluded the armistice on Italian territory and with Italian delegates within this framework.²⁷

After the armistice, which entailed an unconditional surrender accompanied by stringent conditions and marked a significant step towards the ultimate defeat of Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Government expected support from the Allied Powers for the establishment of the Danube Federation, but the Allied Powers refused to engage in any discussions on this issue with the imperial government instead they recognised the legitimacy of the states that had seceded from Austria-Hungary and proclaimed their independence. Emperor Karl's aspirations to become the ruler of Austria, a nation inhabited only by Germans, were significantly thwarted upon receiving news of the proclamation of a republic in Berlin, and one day following the emperor's departure from Vienna on 11 November 1918, a republic was proclaimed in Austria. Emperor Karl, who travelled to Hungary, realised that the Hungarian government presided by Karolyi also had the intention of proclaiming a republic.²⁸

The armistice, which entered into force on 4 November 1918, was signed by the delegates General Victor Weber Edler Von Webenau, Colonel Karl Schneller, Frigate Captain Johannes Prinz von und zu Liechtenstein, Lieutenant Colonel J. V. Nyekhegyi, Corvette Captain Georg Ritter von Zwierkowski, Lieutenant Colonel Victor Freihher von Seiller, and Captain Kamillo Ruggera, acting on behalf of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Lieutenant General Pietro

25 Dilek, *op. cit.*, p. 126.

26 Renouvin, *op. cit.*, p. 725.

27 Temuçin Faik Ertan, "Birinci Dünya Savaşı'nı Sona Erdiren Mütarekelerin Karşılaştırma Analizi", The First World War Symposium in its 100th Year, Book of Declarations, 16-18 October 2014, Dokuz Eylül University Publications, İzmir 2015, p. 497, Bengül Bolat-Burak Güneş, "Uluslararası Hukuk Açısından Mütareke Kavramı ve Mondros Mütarekesi", Eurasia Journal of International Studies, Vol: 10, No: 21, June 2022, p. 237

28 Arday, *op. cit.*, p. 168-169, Hoffmann, *op.cit.*, p. 252, Renouvin, *op. cit.*, p. 725.

görsel

Akademik
Bakış

9

Cilt 17
Sayı 34
Yaz 2024

Badoglio, Major General Scipione Scipioni, Colonel Tullio Marchetti, Colonel Pietro Gazzera, Colonel Pietro Maravigna, Colonel Alberto Pariani, and Captain Francesco Accinni signed the armistice on behalf of Italy.²⁹

The armistice consisted of two chapters and nineteen clauses, eight of which were military (land forces) and eleven of which were naval and maritime provisions, while the supplementary protocol to the armistice consisted of two chapters and nineteen clauses, ten of which were military (land forces) and nine of which were naval and maritime provisions.³⁰

The first clause of the chapter on military affairs of the armistice stipulated the immediate cessation of hostilities by land, sea, and air. This provision was elaborated in the first clause of the supplementary protocol, which stipulated that hostilities on all Austro-Hungarian fronts on land, at sea, and in the air would cease twenty-four hours after the signing of the armistice, i.e., at 3:00 a.m. Central European time on 4 November 1918 and that Italian and allied troops would not be allowed to move beyond their designated lines from that time onwards. The troops of Austria-Hungary and its allies would retreat at least three kilometres, as the crow flies, behind the line reached by the troops of Italy or its allies, and the inhabitants of the three-kilometre zone between these two lines would be supplied by the armies of Austria-Hungary or its allies. After the cessation of hostilities, all Austro-Hungarian troops who remained within the battle lines reached by Italian troops would be considered prisoners of war.³¹

The second clause of the Armistice stipulated the total demobilisation of the Austro-Hungarian army and the immediate retreat of the Austro-Hungarian forces fighting on the fronts from the North Sea to Switzerland. Furthermore, the third clause stipulated that a maximum of twenty divisions, which had been restored to their normal strength before the war (peacetime), would be retained in the demarcated Austro-Hungarian territories but only as an organisational military force. Nevertheless, half of the divisional and army corps artillery and supplies would be gathered at points they would designate to be surrendered to the Allied and United States forces, together with all the assets available in the regions that the Austro-Hungarian forces would evacuate.³²

The third clause of the Armistice stated that all territories that Aus-

- 29 *Treaties, Conventions, International Acts, Protocols and Agreements Between the United States of America and Other Powers 1910-1923, Compiled Under Resolution of the Senate of August 19, 1921 (S. Res. No.130. Sixty- Seventh Congress Second Session) Volume III, Continuing Treaties, Conventions International Acts Protocols and Agreements Between the United States of America and Other Powers 1776-1909*, Washington Printing Office, Washington 1923, p. 3144
- 30 "Papers relating to the foreign relations of the United States, 1918. Supplement 1, *The World War. Volume I 1918*", United States Department of State Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 1918, p. 433-435, *op. cit.*, p. 3141-3148.
- 31 *op. cit.*, p. 3141, 3144, Rudin Harry Rudolph., *Armistice 1918*, Archon Books New Haven 1967, p. 406.
- 32 *op. cit.*, p. 3141, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 406.

gost

tria-Hungary had occupied since the beginning of the war would be evacuated and emphasised that the Austro-Hungarian armies must retreat behind the line demarcated below within times to be determined by the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Powers on each front. The line would follow the peak of the Rhetian Alps from Piz Umbrail to the north of Stelvio, reaching the springs of the Adige and Eisach and passing through Reschen and Brenner and the hills of Oetz and Ziller, from where it would turn southwards, passing Mount Toblach to the existing frontier of the Carnic Alps, beyond which it would extend to Mount Tarvis, and thence to the basin of the Julian Alps via Col de Predil, Mount Mangart, Tricorno (Terglou), Podberdo, Podlaniscan, and the Idria basin. From that point, the line would turn south-east towards Schneeberg, except for the entire basin of the Save River and its tributaries, and would go down the coast from Schneeberg to encompass Castua, Matuglia, and Volosca in the evacuated territories. Thence, the line would follow the administrative borders of the province of Dalmatia, including North Lisarica and Tribania, and the southern region bounded by Cape Planka, and all the valleys and watercourses, such as the Cicola, Karka, and Butisnica, and their tributaries flowing towards Sebenico, in the evacuated territory, as well as the peaks of the basin to the east. Furthermore, all the islands north and south of Dalmatia would be included, i.e., from Premuda, Selve, Ulbo, Scherda, Maon, Pago, and Puntadura to Meleda in the north and Sant Andrea, Busi, Lissa, Lesina, Tercola, Curzola, Cazza, and Lagosta in the south. The neighbouring rocks and islets and Pelagosa would also be included, except for the large and small islands of Zirona, Bua, Solta, and Brazza. Thus, all the occupied territories from South Tyrol to the Brenner Pass, Istria, fifteen islands in the Adriatic Sea, and all of Dalmatia would be evacuated. All the territories that had been evacuated accordingly would be occupied by Allied and American troops, and all military supplies and railway installations, including coal, would be left in place and surrendered to the Allied and American troops according to special orders given by the commanders of the Allied Powers on the different fronts. No further destruction, looting or seizure shall be allowed by the armies of Austria-Hungary or its allies in the territories that would be evacuated by Austro-Hungarian troops but occupied by the armies of the Allied Powers.³³

The provisions of the second and third clauses of the armistice were elaborated in the second, third, fourth, fifth, eighth and tenth clauses of the supplementary protocol. The second clause of the supplementary protocol stated that the Italian plenipotentiaries, representing all Allied and Associated Powers, would implement the following practice in relation to the provisions of the second and third clauses of the armistice on artillery supplies and ordnance to be gathered or left at the points designated in the territories to be evacuated:

“Any supplies or parts thereof which could be utilised for war would be

33 *op. cit.*, p. 3141-3142, Palmer, *op. cit.*, p. 417-418, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 406-407.

gost

Akademik
Bakış

11

Cilt 17
Sayı 34
Yaz 2024

left to the Allied and Associated Powers. The Austro-Hungarian army and the German troops could take only the personal weapons and accoutrements of the troops, which had evacuated the territories referred to in the third clause, as well as the officers' cargoes, the transport trains and the horses specially allocated to each unit for the transport of foodstuffs, kitchens, officers' trunks and medical supplies, provided that this provision applied to the entire army and to all army services. The Austro-Hungarian army and the German troops would abandon all artillery supplies and ordnance in the territory to be evacuated.”

The Allied and Associated armies would make the necessary calculations to obtain a complete and accurate total supply of the divisional and army corps artillery commanded by Austria-Hungary, half of which would be surrendered to the Allied Powers upon the cessation of hostilities and, if necessary, deliver other artillery supplies of Austria-Hungary, and more likely return such supplies to the Austro-Hungarian Army later. All artilleries which did not actually form a part of the corps and divisional artillery units would be surrendered without any exception; nevertheless, it would not be required to calculate their quantity. On the Italian front, the surrender of corps and divisional artillery troops would take place at Trento, Bolzano, Pieve di Cadore, Stazione per la Carnia, Tolmino, Gorizia, and Trieste.³⁴

The third clause of the supplementary protocol stated that special commissions to be selected by the commanders of the allied armies deployed on the various Austro-Hungarian fronts would promptly proceed, accompanied by suitable escorts, to locations they deemed suitable for verifying the enforcement of the preceding provisions.³⁵ The fourth clause of the supplementary protocol stated that the names Toblach Mountain and Tarvis Mountain on the 1/300000 sketch map appended to the armistice for elucidation referred to the mountain groups dominating the Toblach Saddle and the Tarvis Valley, and the fifth clause stipulated that the Austro-Hungarian troops and their allies on the Italian front must retreat beyond the lines referred to in the third clause of the armistice, within fifteen days of the cessation of hostilities, and that on the fifth day, Austro-Hungary and its allies on that front must retreat beyond the Tonale - Noce - Lavis - Avisio - Pordoi - Livinallongo - Falzarego Pieve di Cadore - Colle Mauria - Alto Tagliamento - Fella - Raccolana Sella di Nevea- Isonzo line. On the fifth day, the Austro-Hungarian troops would also evacuate the above-mentioned Dalmatia region, and any Austro-Hungarian troops on land or sea, or their allies, who did not evacuate the specified regions within fifteen days, would be considered prisoners of war.³⁶ The eighth clause of the supplementary protocol stated that all mines on roads or railways, all minefields and all mechanisms that interrupt road or railway transport would be made non-functional and safe inside the desig-

34 *op. cit.*, p. 3145.

35 *op. cit.*, p. 3145.

36 *op. cit.*, p. 3145-3146.

gost

nated territories to be evacuated upon the cessation of hostilities.³⁷ The tenth clause of the supplementary protocol stated that Austria-Hungary would bear the financial responsibility for ensuring the protection, security and supply of subsistence to the various commissions selected by the Allied governments to take over war material and to exercise overall control in the designated territories to be evacuated or elsewhere in Austria-Hungary.³⁸

The fourth clause of the Armistice stipulated that the Allied armies would have the right of free mobility on all roadways, railroads, and waterways and the right to use the Austro-Hungarian means of transport to the extent necessary for their needs on Austro-Hungarian territories. The armies of the Allied Powers could occupy strategic points in Austria-Hungary whenever they deemed it necessary to conduct military operations or to maintain public order, and the Allies would have the right to demand payment for their troops in the areas where they were deployed.³⁹

This clause in the Armistice allowed the Allied and Associated Powers to occupy strategic points on Austro-Hungarian territory at any time, either for military operations or to maintain public order. This clause also had significant importance for the Allied Powers, as it secured the possibility of opening a back door for the invasion of Germany, that is, allowing for military operations to be conducted in Southern Germany. Consequently, much deliberation on this matter took place within the British General Staff until the conclusion of the armistice with the Germans at Compiegne. Nevertheless, the declaration by Germany of its readiness to sign the armistice earlier than expected led to Britain's decision to make military action in Austria-Hungary in order to occupy Southern Germany.⁴⁰

This provision, included in the fourth clause of the armistice text, is elaborated in the sixth and seventh clauses of the supplementary protocol. The sixth clause of the supplementary protocol stipulates that reimbursement for claims by the armies of the Allied and Associated Powers on Austro-Hungarian territory would be governed by the rules laid down in the first paragraph of page two hundred and twenty-seven of "Servizio in Guerra-Part II, edizione 1915" (Service in War - Part II, 1915 edition) in force in the Italian army. The seventh clause of the supplementary protocol stipulated that the railway lines of Austria-Hungary would be used for the transport of troops, war material, and ammunition for the Allied Powers and Associated States in connection with the railway and operating rights confirmed by the fourth clause of the Armistice Treaty between Austria-Hungary and the Allied Powers. The routes and operation of the railways in the territories evacuated under the provisions of the Armistice would be undertaken by the railway administration of the Austro-Hungarian Government under the supervision of

37 *op. cit.*, p. 3146.

38 *op. cit.*, p. 3146.

39 *op. cit.*, p. 3142, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 407.

40 Ulysses S. Grant, "The Armistice of 1918" World Affairs, Vol: 129, No: 1 April, May, June 1966, p. 14, Hoffmann, *op. cit.*, p. 252.

gazi

Akademik
Bakış

13

Cilt 17
Sayı 34
Yaz 2024

special commissioners selected by the Allied Powers and Italian headquarters to be established where necessary. The Austro-Hungarian authorities would give priority to allied military trains and guarantee their safety.⁴¹

The fifth clause of the Armistice stipulated that all German troops would be fully evacuated from not only the Italian and Balkan fronts but from all Austro-Hungarian territories within fifteen days and stated that all German troops who had not departed from Austro-Hungarian territory before that date would be arrested. The sixth clause stated that the governance of the evacuated territories of Austria-Hungary would be temporarily intrusted in local administrations that were controlled by the Allied and associated armies of occupation.⁴² The seventh clause stipulated the immediate repatriation, without reciprocity, of all prisoners of war held by Austria-Hungary, as well as all interned Allied subjects and the civilian population displaced from their residences, on conditions to be determined by the commanders-in-chief of the Allied Powers deployed on the various fronts, as further elaborated in the ninth clause of the supplementary protocol. Accordingly, Italian subjects and prisoners held in Austria-Hungary would stop working for eight days following the cessation of hostilities, except for prisoners and detainees who had been employed in agricultural activities before the signature of the armistice, and in any case, would be ready to depart immediately upon the request of the Commander-in-Chief of the Italian Army.⁴³ The eighth clause of the Armistice stipulated that sick and wounded Austro-Hungarian or allied soldiers who were unable to depart from the evacuated territories would get medical treatment from Austro-Hungarian personnel who would stay on-site, equipped with the necessary medical equipment.⁴⁴

The second chapter of the Armistice of Villa Giusti contained provisions on naval forces and maritime affairs.

The first clause of this chapter stipulated the immediate cessation of all hostilities at sea and the provision of accurate information to the Allies on the location and movements of all Austro-Hungarian vessels. Also, the neutral states would be notified of the right of move freely in all territorial waters for both the naval and merchant vessels of the Allied and Associated States and of the waiver of all neutrality problems.⁴⁵ These provisions in the first clause of the armistice text were elaborated in the first clause of the supplementary protocol on naval forces and maritime affairs. Accordingly, the cessation of hostilities at sea would take place simultaneously with the cessation of hostilities on land and in the air. Concurrently, the Austro-Hungarian Government would be legally obligated to provide the Italian Government and the associated forces with the necessary information on the location and navigation of all Austro-Hungarian vessels through the wireless station at Pola, which

41 *op. cit.*, p. 3146.

42 *op. cit.*, p. 3142, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 407.

43 *op. cit.*, p. 3142, 3146, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 407.

44 *op. cit.*, p. 3143, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 407.

45 *op. cit.*, p. 3143, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 408.

would transmit the information to Venice.⁴⁶

The second clause in this chapter of the Armistice stipulated the surrender of fifteen Austro-Hungarian submarines built from 1910 to 1918, as well as any German submarines that were present in Austro-Hungarian territorial waters or may intrude into said waters in the future, to the Allies and the United States of America. All other Austro-Hungarian submarines would be paid off, fully disarmed and released under control of the Allied Powers.⁴⁷

The third clause in the chapter of the Armistice concerning naval forces stipulated that three battleships, three light cruisers, nine destroyers, twelve torpedo boats, one minelayer, and six Danube Monitors to be designated by the Allies and the United States of America would be surrendered to the Allies and the United States of America with all their armament and equipment. Additionally, it was stipulated that all other surface warships (including river craft) would be assembled at Austro-Hungarian naval bases to be designated by the Allies and the United States, would be drydocked and fully disarmed, and released to the control of the Allies and the United States of America.⁴⁸

These considerations in the second and third clauses of the armistice were elaborated in the second and third clauses of the supplementary protocol. The second clause of the supplementary protocol stated that the naval vessels referred to in the second and third clauses, which would be surrendered to the Allied Powers, must return to Venice between 8:00 and 15:00 on 6 November 1918, with a guard ship accompanied fourteen miles from the shore. There was an exception here with regard to the Danube Monitors, which were decided to navigate to a harbour designated by the commander of the allied powers deployed on the Balkan front under such conditions as he might determine. The third clause of the supplementary protocol listed the names of the vessels to be sent to Venice and identified three battleships and three light cruisers as Teghethoff, Prinz Eugen, Ferdinand Max, Saida, Novara and Helgoland. It was stated that the nine destroyers would be recently built Tatra type of at least eight hundred tonnes, twelve torpedo boats would be two hundred tonnes type and minelayers, would be the vessel named Chamaleon. It was also stated that fifteen submarines, built between 1910 and 1918, and all German submarines that were or might be in Austro-Hungarian waters would be surrendered. The Allied Powers emphasised that deliberate damage to the vessels that would be surrendered, or any other damages inflicted by other reasons, would be deemed a material breach of the terms of the armistice. It was also resolved that the Lake Garda fleet would be surrendered to the Allied Powers in the harbour of Riva del Garda, on the northern side of the lake, and that all vessels to be surrendered directly to the Allied Powers would be mustered in the harbours of Buccari and Spalato within for-

46 *op. cit.*, p. 3147.

47 *op. cit.*, p. 3143, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 408.

48 *op. cit.*, p. 3143, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 408.

gazi

Akademik
Bakış

15

Cilt 17
Sayı 34
Yaz 2024

ty-eight hours of the cessation of hostilities.⁴⁹

The fourth clause in the chapter of the Armistice concerning naval forces stipulated that all warships and merchant vessels of the Allied and Associated Powers would be allowed to navigate freely in the Adriatic, including the territorial waters of Austria-Hungary, and in the upper Danube and its tributaries within the borders of that state. The Allies and the associated powers would also be entitled to clear all minefields and roadblocks, with Austria-Hungary providing the necessary information about their location. The Allies and the United States of America would also be empowered to occupy or dismantle all fortifications or defensive structures to ensure free navigation on the Danube.⁵⁰

These considerations were elaborated in the fourth clause of the supplementary protocol, and with regard to the right to clear minefields and to remove artillery trenches, the Austro-Hungarian Government guaranteed to deliver maps of the minefields and trenches laid in the harbours of Pola, Cattaro, and Fiume to the commander of the Port of Venice and the naval admiral in Brindisi within forty-eight hours of the cessation of hostilities, as well as maps of the minefields and trenches laid in the Mediterranean and Italian lakes and rivers, together with information on any minefields or trenches laid within the knowledge of the German Government, within ninety-six hours of the cessation of hostilities. The Austro-Hungarian Government was obliged to give the same notice concerning the Danube and the Black Sea to the commander of the relevant forces on the Balkan front within ninety-six hours.⁵¹

The fifth clause stated that the prevailing conditions of the blockade enforced by the Allied and Associated Powers would remain unchanged and the Allied Powers and the United States of America would obligate all Austro-Hungarian merchant vessels at sea to be seized, with such exceptions to be imposed by a commission authorised by the Allies and the United States of America. The fifth clause of the supplementary protocol stipulated that the Allied Powers would reserve the right to inform the Austro-Hungarian Government about the statutes, functions, and venue of the commission.⁵²

The sixth clause stipulated that all seaplanes would be mustered and incapacitated at Austro-Hungarian bases, to be designated by the Allies and the United States of America, and the sixth clause of the supplementary protocol stated this naval base as Spalato.⁵³

The seventh clause stipulated that Austria-Hungary would evacuate all harbours occupied by it beyond its national borders and all Italian coasts and would release all floating vessels, naval supplies, equipment, and materials used for transportation of inland waters. The seventh clause of the supple-

49 *op. cit.*, p. 3147.

50 *op. cit.*, p. 3143, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 406.

51 *op. cit.*, p. 3147.

52 *op. cit.*, p. 3143, 3148, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 408.

53 *op. cit.*, p. 3143, 3148, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 408-409.

görsel

mentary protocol stipulated that the evacuation would take place within the time specified for the retreat of troops beyond the armistice lines, the Austro-Hungarian authorities would not destroy any stationary, mobile, or floating assets in the harbours, and the evacuation process would be facilitated by Austro-Hungarian vessels, which could be sourced externally and would navigate through the Lagoon canals.⁵⁴

The eighth clause stated that the Allies Powers and the United States of America would occupy the land and naval fortifications built for defence as well as the shipyards and arsenals on the islands and Pola, while the eighth clause of the supplementary protocol stipulated that the occupation would take place within forty-eight hours of the cessation of hostilities. The Austro-Hungarian authorities would guarantee the safety of vessels involved in the transportation of troops for the occupation of Pola and the islands and other places envisaged in the terms of the armistice. The Austro-Hungarian Government would instruct that the vessels of the allied powers heading for Pola should be intercepted at a distance of fourteen miles by a guard ship which could lead them to the safest route to the harbour.⁵⁵

The ninth clause of the Armistice stipulated the return of all merchant vessels of the Allied and Associated Powers that were held hostage by Austria-Hungary, and the fifth clause of the supplementary protocol stated that merchant vessels of the Allied Powers would be returned within ninety-six hours after the cessation of hostilities on the basis of principles to be notified to the Austro-Hungarian Government by each of these Powers.⁵⁶ The tenth clause in the chapter of the Armistice concerning maritime affairs stipulated that the destruction of vessels or equipment before evacuation, surrender, or repair would not be allowed, and the eleventh clause stated that all naval and merchant prisoners of war held captive by Austria-Hungary, who were members of the Allied and Associated Powers, would be repatriated without any reciprocity, while the ninth clause of the supplementary protocol emphasised that any damage inflicted upon individuals persons or property of the Allied Powers would be deemed a grave breach of the terms of the established armistice.⁵⁷

Conclusion

The Armistice of Villa Giusti was a truce that imposed rather stringent conditions and contained provisions that closely resembled the armistices concluded by the Allied Powers with the other Allied Powers. As the clauses of the Villa Giusti and other armistices show, the Allied Powers had rendered the Central Powers incapable of acting in many matters with the armistice trea-

54 *op. cit.*, p. 3143, 3148, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 409.

55 *op. cit.*, p. 3144, 3148, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 409.

56 *op. cit.*, p. 3144, 3148, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 409.

57 *op. cit.*, p. 3144, 3148, Rudin, *op. cit.*, p. 409.

Giusti

Akademik
Bakış

17

Cilt 17
Sayı 34
Yaz 2024

ties they compelled them to sign. In the last days of the war, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was de facto dissolved and thereby sustained a great blow. The Allied Powers had struck a second blow to that state with the Armistice of Villa Giusti, imposing significant stipulations. The Armistice of Villa Giusti took away the initiative of Austria-Hungary to exercise state power, a part of its territory, army, navy, means of transport and facilities, and merchant vessels, and made the country vulnerable to occupation.

The primary objective of the Allied Powers was to effectively neutralise Austria via the enforcement of an armistice and make it no longer a threat until the final peace treaty was signed. Following the cessation of the war, a reconfiguration of Europe and the world order was underway, and the first indications of the future structure of Europe and the world were given via the armistices, including Villa Giusti. During the Armistices and the subsequent period, the Allied Powers would not entitle the Central Powers to become determinants in the new world order but would try to neutralise them as much as possible. In fact, this was a predictable situation. Indeed, the war broke out as a consequence of the disputes between the states that arose in the second half of the XIXth century and the resulting tensions, and it was an expected development that whoever won the war would have a voice in the forthcoming world order. Austria-Hungary ought to have foreseen and either refrained from joining the war at all or done a thorough analysis of its circumstances and withdrawn from the war early. Nevertheless, despite Emperor Karl and the government's prior awareness of the deteriorating situation and their desire to withdraw from the war, they were unable to demonstrate a complete will to this course of action, ultimately leading to the downfall of the empire. The First World War, like the wars that preceded it, showed that it was impossible for states with a weak economic and social structure to achieve victory in warfare. Although the Austro-Hungarian Empire had one of the strongest land armies in Europe, its economy was comparatively weaker in relation to Britain, France, Germany, and the United States of America, and it lagged behind such states in industrialization. The ability of the state to sustain the war was mostly dependent upon Germany, serving as a crucial determinant that advised against the state's involvement in the war. Also, this state was an empire, and its imperial structures had been under constant threat of potential dissolution since the French Revolution. From the onset of the war, the Allied Powers deliberately incited some nations inside the Austro-Hungarian Empire that had potential of founding their own states, hence presenting a significant obstacle to the Austro-Hungarian Empire's ability to sustain its war efforts.

As a final word, it can be argued that the lack of a robust structure and dependence on external assistance and assurances while entering a war would lead to catastrophic consequences for a state. The Austro-Hungarian Empire got involved in the First World War by disregarding the delicate balance it was going on in every aspect, and consequently, the empire found itself

gost

compelled to sign a burdensome armistice, namely the Villa Giusti with the Allied Powers. Subsequently, Austria concluded the war by signing the final treaty of Saint Germain-en-Laye, which can be viewed as an extension of this armistice and encompasses similarly burdensome provisions as those found in Villa Giusti.

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gazi

Akademik
Bakış

19

Cilt 17
Sayı 34
Yaz 2024

Extended Abstract

The Austro-Hungarian Empire was a part of the Central Powers in the First World War. However, Austria-Hungary did not have the power to sustain a major war like the First World War for a long time. Therefore, the Empire has been very keen to end the war as soon as possible. The Austro-Hungarian Empire withdrew from the World War I after Italian troops invaded Vittorio Veneto, signing an armistice with Italy on November 3, 1918 at Villa Giusti del Giardino in the Mandria region outside the city of Padova. The Armistice of Villa Giusti consisted of two chapters and nineteen clauses, eight of which were military and eleven of which were related to the naval forces and maritime affairs. The additional protocol of the armistice consisted of two chapters and nineteen clauses, ten of which were military and nine of which were related to the naval forces and maritime affairs. With the Armistice, hostilities ceased, Austria-Hungary's army was demobilised, its military power was limited and it withdrew from the territories it had occupied. Through the Armistice, the Allied Powers were entitled to freely move on the land, rail and waterways of Austria-Hungary and to use the means of transportation of this state. According to the armistice, German troops were to be completely evacuated from the Italian and Balkan fronts and Austro-Hungarian territory within fifteen days.

In addition, the administration of the territories evacuated by the Imperial armies was temporarily to be transferred to local authorities under the control of the Allied armies. However, all prisoners of war held by Austria-Hungary and all interned Allied subjects and civilians displaced from their residences would be returned immediately, without reciprocity. Sick and wounded Austro-Hungarian or Allied soldiers who were unable to depart from the evacuated territories according to the terms of the Armistice would get medical treatment from Austro-Hungarian personnel. In the armistice, it was agreed to cease hostilities at sea and to provide the Allies with precise information about the location and movements of Austro-Hungarian ships. Fifteen Austro-Hungarian submarines built from 1910 to 1918, as well as any German submarines that were present in Austro-Hungarian territorial waters or may intrude into said waters in the future, would be surrendered to the Allies. In addition, three battleships, three light cruisers, nine destroyers, twelve torpedo boats, one minelayer, six Danube Monitors to be determined by the Allies would be delivered with all their weapons and equipment. According to the Armistice, all warships and merchant ships of the Allied Powers would be granted free navigation in the Adriatic, including the territorial waters of Austria-Hungary, and in the upper Danube and its tributaries within the borders of that state. The Allies would have the right to remove all minefields and roadblocks, the blockade conditions established by the Allies would remain unchanged, and all Austro-Hungarian merchant ships at sea would be seized by a commission authorised by the Allies. However, all seaplanes would be concentrated and neutralized at Austro-Hungarian bases to be designated by the Allies. According to the armistice, Austria-Hungary would evacuate all occupied ports and Italian coasts and to surrender all its floating vessels and naval equipment used for inland water transportation. In addition, the Allies would occupy the land and naval fortifications, the islands and the shipyards and arsenals at Pola. All Allied merchant ships held as a hostage by Austria-Hungary would be returned and no destruction of ships or material would be permitted prior to discharge, delivery or repair. Finally, Austria-Hungary was to return all Allied naval and merchant prisoners of war in its possession without reciprocity.

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