

THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES

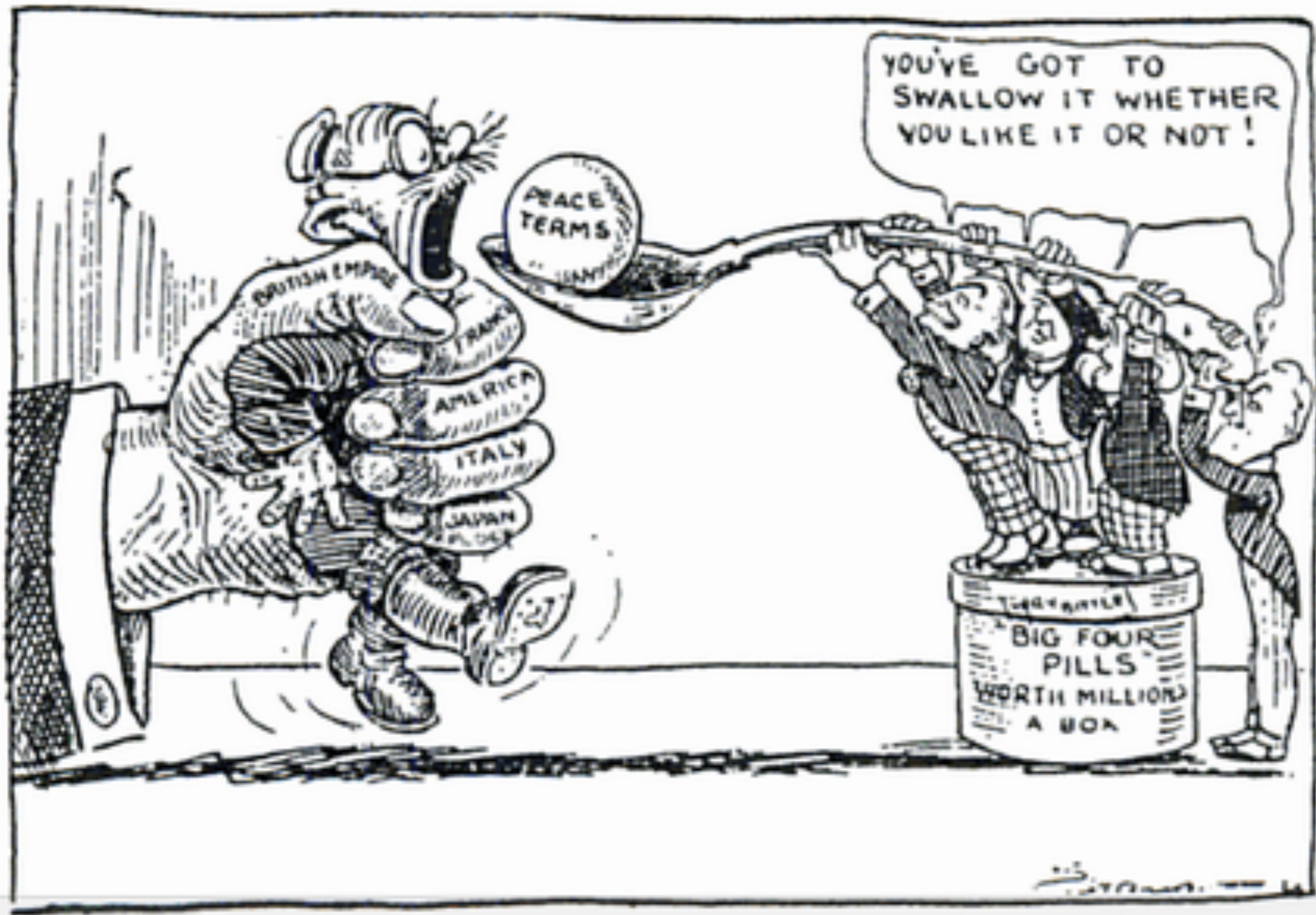


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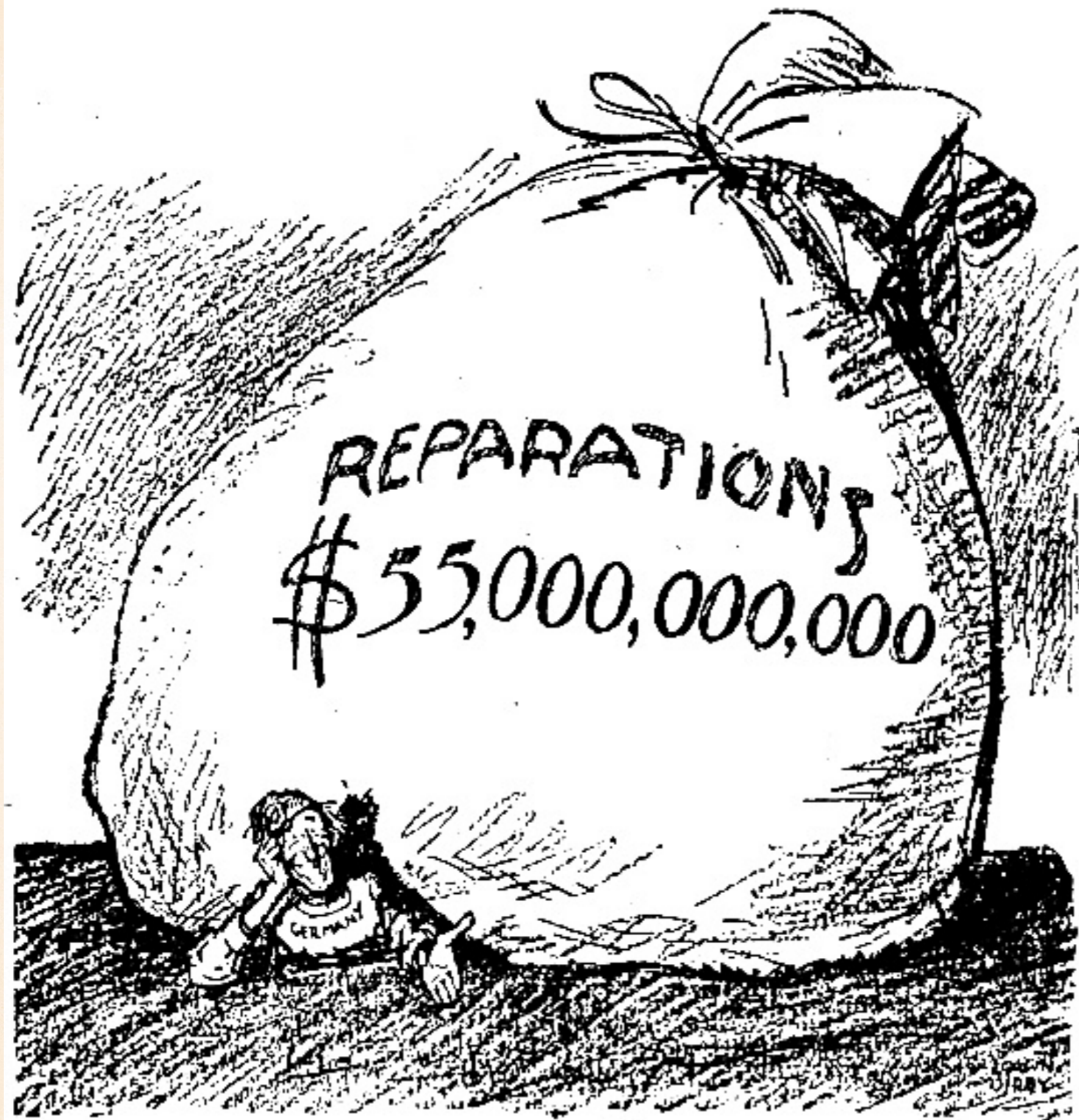


BACKGROUND

- ❖ The Treaty of Versailles was the compromise peace agreement created in Versailles, France in 1919 that ended the First World War. It put full blame on Germany for the cause of the war, and required that they pay extensive reparations (\$33 billion), give up large amounts of land, and reduce their army for solely defensive purposes. This created the German bitterness that allowed for Hitler to take over power and eventually begin WWII.

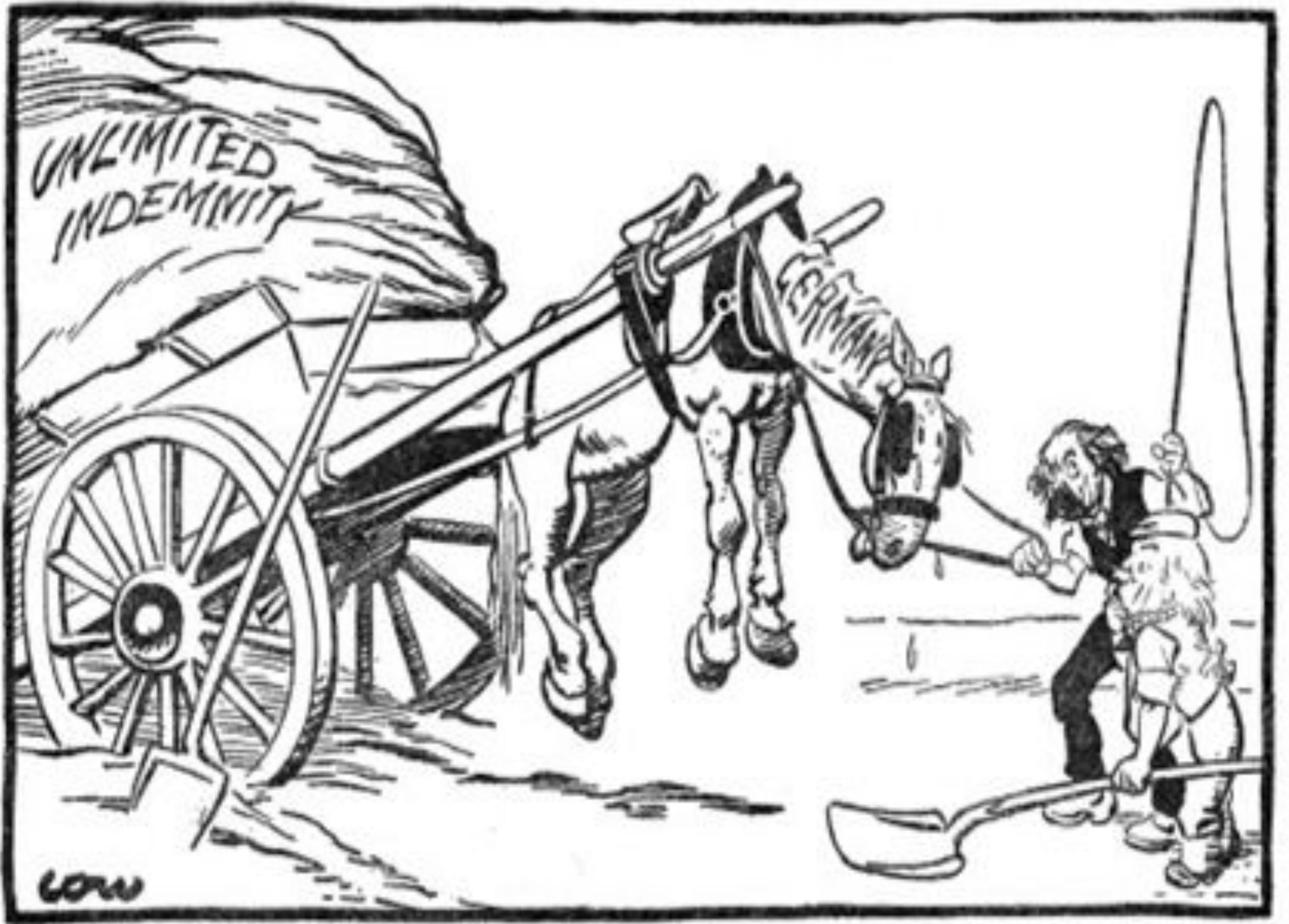


DER TAG!

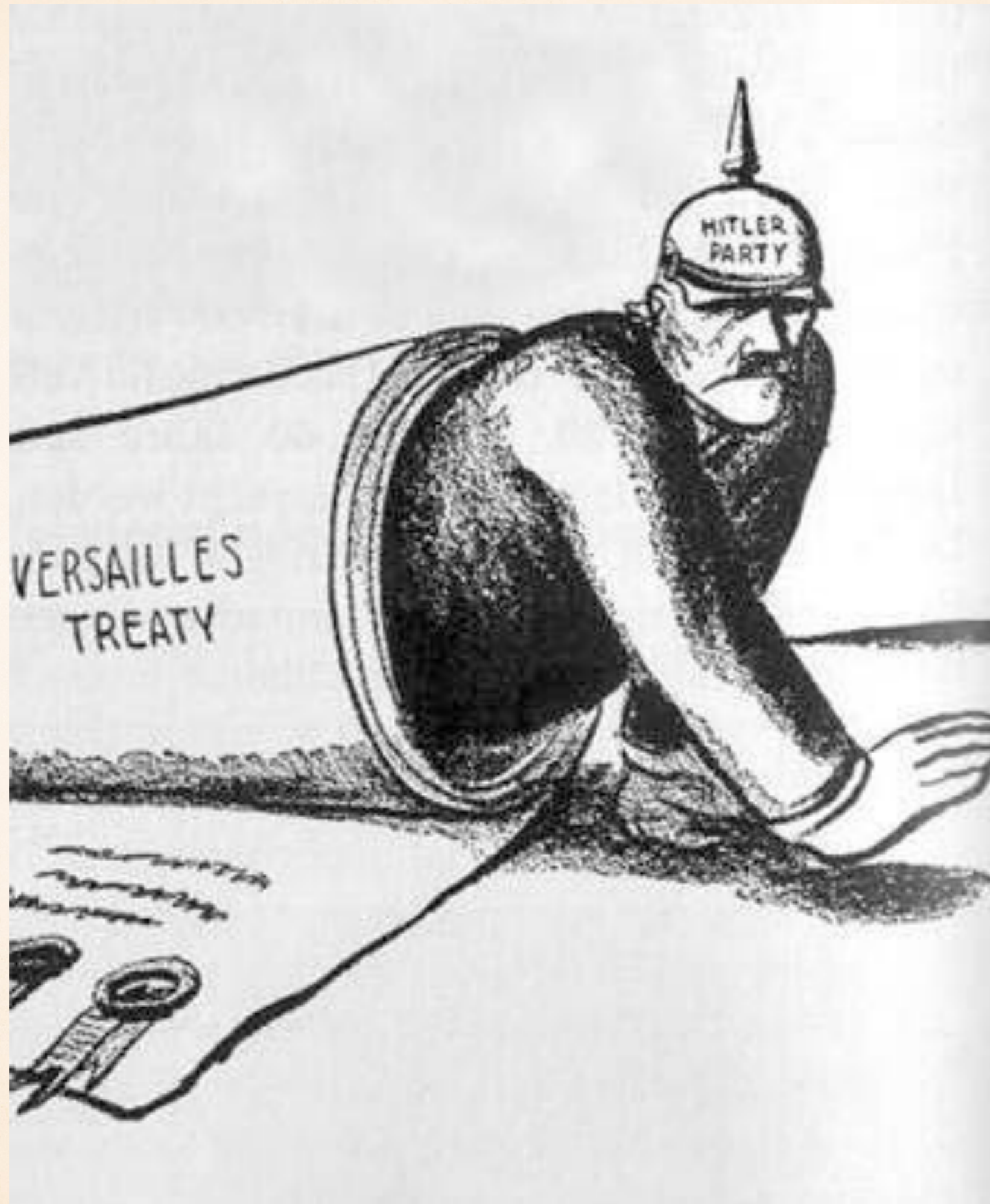


"Let's see
you collect
it."

—New York
World.



" PERHAPS IT WOULD GEE-UP BETTER IF WE LET IT TOUCH EARTH "



#1

- ❖ Identification: The man held between the fingers labeled America, Britain, Italy, etc. is Germany, who is being forced to eat a piece of food on a spoon, the Treaty of Versailles being the piece of food.
- ❖ Phrases: The "You've got to swallow it whether you like it or not!" being spoken by the winning side of WWI shows the German perspective being that the peace treaty and the blame were forced down their throats.
- ❖ The spoon is the Versailles Treaty, the man being held is Germany, the fingers wrapped around Germany are the winning powers of WWI. The winning powers are "forcing" Germany to accept the terms of the peace agreement even if they don't want to.
- ❖ People from Germany would agree that the blame was pushed on them for the war, which is what the Versailles Treaty stated--that Germany was at fault and would pay any reparations deemed fit by the winning side.

#2

- ❖ Identification: The man squished under the extremely large bag is Germany. The bag represents the large debt that Germany had to pay off for the war.
- ❖ Phrases: The "Let's see you collect it. --New York World" is what is said by the winning forces of WWI that all agree that Germany should be punished for the war, that they need to pay for the damage caused, which was a requirement of the Treaty of Versailles.
- ❖ A German man is being smashed underneath a huge bag labeled \$55,000,000,000, representing Germany's insurmountable debt that was slowly killing the country, squeezing the life out of it.
- ❖ Once again, Germany would agree with this because the country would agree that they were being squished by this debt, and that they would also never be able to survive paying off what was forced on them.

#3

- ❖ Identification: The horse being lifted by the weight of the carriage is Germany, and the bag in the back of the carriage is the amount of debt owed by Germany to the winning sides of the war.
- ❖ Phrases: "Perhaps it would gee-up better if we let it touch the earth" is spoken by the people (farmers) watching the horse, symbolizing that those speaking are equal to countries such as the U.S., France, Italy, etc. "Unlimited indemnity" is defined as the money paid as compensation.
- ❖ A huge weight is being drawn in a carriage by a horse labeled Germany, showing that the Treaty of Versailles completely held the horse off the ground so that there was no chance of recovery for Germany's economy if they had to pay every cent back that was used to fight the war.
- ❖ Germany would agree with the point of view because, once again, they were to carry the burden of such an extreme amount of debt, a burden that was weighing them down and holding them back.

#4

- ❖ Identification: A man in a Nazi uniform (symbolizing the rise of Hitler) is climbing out from a rolled up Treaty of Versailles.
- ❖ Phrases: The Nazi's helmet is labeled "Hitler Party," showing that the man represents the rise into power that Hitler took.
- ❖ From inside the Treaty of Versailles a German Nazi emerges, signifying that the Treaty is what ultimately caused the beginning of Hitler's reign in Germany. The bitterness of Germany created by the peace agreement is what allowed for Hitler to take power.
- ❖ People from both sides of the war such as the U.S., France, Britain, as well as Germany would agree with this because without the Treaty of Versailles, there's a large probability that Hitler never would have been able to come into power.