**Activity 4.1: How did Wilson’s Fourteen Points Influence the Korean Independence Movement?**

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| **Excerpt 1: From the Opening to** [**President Woodrow Wilson’s Speech to Congress, January 8, 1918**](https://kr.usembassy.gov/education-culture/infopedia-usa/living-documents-american-history-democracy/woodrow-wilson-fourteen-points-speech-1918/)  Gentlemen of the Congress ...  It will be our wish and purpose that the processes of peace, when they are begun, shall be absolutely open and that they shall involve and permit henceforth no secret understandings of any kind. The day of conquest and aggrandizement is gone by; so is also the day of secret covenants entered into in the interest of particular governments and likely at some unlooked-for moment to upset the peace of the world. It is this happy fact, now clear to the view of every public man whose thoughts do not still linger in an age that is dead and gone, which makes it possible for every nation whose purposes are consistent with justice and the peace of the world to avow now or at any other time the objects it has in view. |
| 1. **When was this speech given?** |
| 1. **Who is President Wilson addressing?** |
| 1. **Now that the war is over, what does Wilson believe should be the goal of the peace process?** |
| **Excerpt 2: From the Body of** [**President Woodrow Wilson’s Speech to Congress, January 8, 1918**](https://kr.usembassy.gov/education-culture/infopedia-usa/living-documents-american-history-democracy/woodrow-wilson-fourteen-points-speech-1918/)  We entered this war because violations of rights had occurred which touched us to the quick and made the life of our own people impossible unless they were corrected and the world secured once for all against their recurrence. What we demand in this war, therefore, is nothing peculiar to ourselves. It is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world as against force and selfish aggression. All the peoples of the world are in effect partners in this interest, and for our own part we see very clearly that unless justice be done to others it will not be done to us. The program of the world's peace, therefore, is our program; and that program, the only possible program, as we see it, is [the Fourteen Points]. |
| 1. **Put the underlined sentence in your own words.** |
| 1. **What do you think about this idea put forth by Wilson? Explain your answer.** |
| 1. **In the last sentence, what does Wilson say is the purpose of the Fourteen Points?** |
| **Excerpt 3: Point V (5) of** [**Wilson’s Fourteen Points**](https://kr.usembassy.gov/education-culture/infopedia-usa/living-documents-american-history-democracy/woodrow-wilson-fourteen-points-speech-1918/)  V. A free, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined. |
| 1. **Sovereignty is the authority of a state to govern itself or another state. How does Wilson feel that sovereignty should be determined?** |
| **Excerpt 4: From the Conclusion of** [**President Woodrow Wilson’s Speech to Congress, January 8, 1918**](https://kr.usembassy.gov/education-culture/infopedia-usa/living-documents-american-history-democracy/woodrow-wilson-fourteen-points-speech-1918/)  We have spoken now, surely, in terms too concrete to admit of any further doubt or question. An evident principle runs through the whole program I have outlined. It is the principle of justice to all peoples and nationalities, and their right to live on equal terms of liberty and safety with one another, whether they be strong or weak. Unless this principle be made its foundation no part of the structure of international justice can stand. The people of the United States could act upon no other principle; and to the vindication of this principle they are ready to devote their lives, their honor, and everything that they possess. The moral climax of this the culminating and final war for human liberty has come, and they are ready to put their own strength, their own highest purpose, their own integrity and devotion to the test. |
| 1. **What principle does Wilson emphasize as the key to world peace?** |
| **Excerpt 5: From** [**The Crack-Up: 1919 & the Birth of Modern Korea, Kyung Moon Hwang**](https://www.carnegiecouncil.org/studio/multimedia/20190314-crack-up-1919-birth-modern-korea-kyung-moon-hwang) **(Carnegie Council, 2019)**  By the time 1919 came, Korea had been a Japanese colony for nine years. The circumstances of the end of World War I led to Koreans in Northeast Asia—so both in and outside of Korea [China, Japan]—to start gathering and organizing themselves to take advantage of the situation [and] to try to push for some kind of action. There was a confluence of forces—intellectual, political, and otherwise—at the end of February and early March, and it was decided that on March 1 [that] the leaders of this organized effort in Korea who had signed a declaration of independence would read [it] aloud on [that date] in a park in central Seoul. They were quickly arrested, which they knew in advance would happen, and then some of the leaders fanned out to lead [more] demonstrations. This pattern of reading aloud the declaration and then going out to march peacefully—at least [peacefully] initially—was repeated throughout the Peninsula thereafter for several weeks.  he leadership was very much aware of the ethos of self-determination on the part of smaller nations, and they were aware of the strategy behind using the Paris Peace Conference as a platform to voice their aspirations on a global stage. I can't say that the average Korean was aware of this as a percolating idea around the world, but certainly the intellectuals, the social leaders, and educational leaders were aware of this. I think it proved to be a powerful, unifying force in 1919 in Korea. Korea, unlike many other colonized peoples actually was an independent state for over a millennium before the Japanese conquest of the early 20th century. [This] certainly was a major point of grievance, and this was an opportunity that the leadership used to express that grievance.  If you believe that success more or less hinged upon gaining immediate independence, then of course the March 1 demonstrations and the efforts thereafter did not succeed. But if you look at this from the perspective not necessarily of national independence but rather of the forwarding of development of Korean society in different ways, then it certainly did bring about a loosening of the major restrictions of Japanese colonial rule that had been in place for the first decade.  Historians look at [the results of the March 1 movement] in a different way than the [Korean] public. The ensuing one-and-a-half decades after March 1 really was a period of liberalization, and it did result in tremendous developments in terms of modern Korean culture, to the extent that one can suggest that modern Korean culture [and modern Korean nationhood] was born at this time in so many ways. The period of the 1920s to the early 1930s was a direct outcome from the March 1 demonstrations [and was] a considerable period of liberalization and cultural activity as well as associational and social activity. |
| 1. **How did the concept of self-determination and the Paris Peace Conference influence the March 1st Movement?** |
| 1. **In your opinion, how was the March 1 Movement a success?** |