

Signature Pen, Kellogg-Briand Agreement, also known as the Pact of Paris, 1928

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If only it were possible to outlaw war by decree. This large pen represents world leaders' hopes for peace when they signed the anti-war Kellogg-Briand Pact in 1928. The Pact never lived up to its expectations, and the pen is a reminder just how elusive the quest for peace can be.

The Pact originated with French foreign minister Aristide Briand, who convinced Secretary of State Frank Kellogg to join him in the peace effort in 1927. Ten years after the end of World War I (1914-1918), they agreed to condemn war as a solution to international disputes. Diplomats from 16 nations originally signed the agreement in 1928, and 62 ultimately ratified it. Although both Kellogg and Briand won the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts, the Pact failed since there were no provisions to enforce it.

Secretary Kellogg received this pen from the mayor of Le Havre, France while en route to the signing ceremony in Paris. Words in Latin on the pen read, "*Si Vis Pacem Para Pacem*," or "If You Want Peace Prepare for Peace." The signers dipped it in the ink holder that Benjamin Franklin used to sign the Treaty of Alliance with France in 1778, the agreement that helped gain the American colonies' independence from Britain.



President Coolidge signs Kellogg-Briand Pact, January 17, 1929. Secretary of State Kellogg also seated at table.

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Frank B. Kellogg
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