# League of Nations Revision

1919 - 1936



# LEAGUE OF NATIONS EVENTS RECAP

NO GERMANY, USA, USSR, OTHER DEFEATED NATIONS







Vilna



1920

THE LEAGUE WOULD BE DOMINATED BY THE COUNCIL - BRITAIN, FRANCE, ITALY + JAPAN.



**S** top Wars

I improve Lives

**D** isarmament

E nforce Peace Treaties

1920



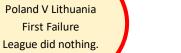


1925

**Incident at Petrich** 

Bulgaria V Greece Greece did as told

BUT - hypocrisy!







**Aaland Islands** 

Sweden + Finland **Sweet Success Sweden Accepts** 

1921



COLLECTIVE SECURITY?

1923

The League begins. Geneva

Switzerland.

**Corfu Incident** Italy V Greece Greece had to pay! **BAD Council!** 

**Upper Silesia** Poland + Germany

Plebiscite Sharing = caring

1921



1923

**Ruhr Occupation** France V Germany 100 workers killed **Bad Council!** 



**Washington Conference** An agreement to limit size of navies



1921

# 19205

#### THE LOCARNO AGREEMENT

Germany allowed into the League Council-borders also confirmed.

Se son

# 1925-6

1924



# **Humanitarian Work**

**Refugees** = half a million POWs back home after WW1.

Slaves = 200 000 freed in Burma and Sierra Leone.

**Health** = reduction of smallpox and leprosy.

**Health** = advise given to the USSR how to combat plague outbreak in Siberia.

**Work** = pushed for a 48 hour work week.

Work = poisonousness lead removed from paints.



**Geneva Protocol** Britain blocks Benes' proposals to

strengthen collective security



**Manchuria Invasion** 

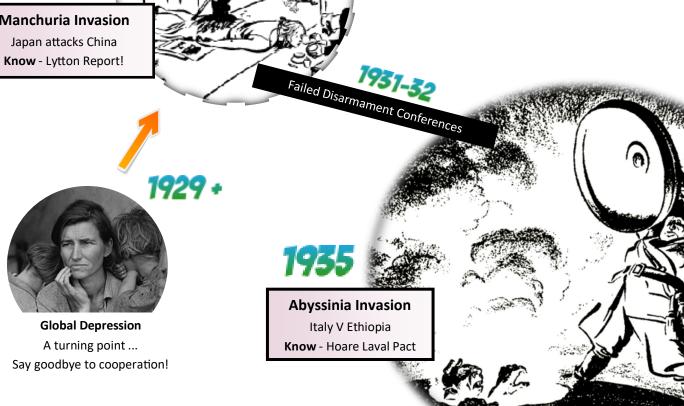
Japan attacks China



**Kellogg Briand Pact** 

62 Countries re-affirm commitment to achieving peace though collective security





# The League of Nations Review



		<b>4</b> 5.
Aims	20's	30's
S	TOP WARS	
	50%	0%
	improve lives	
	80%	0%
D	isarmament	
	40%	0%
	enforce treaties	
E	50%	0%
League Powers		
المالية	Moral Pressure	
Economic		omic
	Sanctions	
W. Carlotte	Force = X	

**Health Commission** 

Slavery Commission + ILO

League agree to the slavery

#### Successes Aaland Islands - 1921 Sweden V Finland Small disputed islands Swedes appealed to League League gave to Finland + Sweden accepted Showed 'small' countries listened to League **Upper Silesia** Germany V Poland Both claimed the area League arranged a plebiscite (people voted) Agreed to split area + even share infrastructure! This was how League worked in the IDEAL. Washington Conference - 1921 USA, UK and Japan agree to limit naval building. Note, the US organised - so not directly a League success but was in the spirit of the League's aims. Working (ILO) ILO was had limited success in getting employers to keep to a 48 hour workweek. Did mange to get lead banned from paint Incident at Petrich (Stray Dog) Greek soldier shot by Bulgarian solder on border Led to fighting between the two countries League ordered Greece to pay £45 000 and to withdraw their troops. Greece did as told.

# 1925 1926 Locarno Treaties 1925 - 1926 Arranged between Brit, France, Belgium, Italy + Germany. This guaranteed existing western borders and Germany was admitted into the League as a permanent council member. Helped to combat disease such as smallpox and leprosy. Also advised USSR how to cope with a plague outbreak in Siberia Refugee Commission League helped get 400 000 POW's back home after WW1. Also helped rehome people in Turkey after an earthquake. convention in 1926. Helped free 200 000 slaves from Sierra Leone and Burma 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact - 1928 62 countries ratified the agreement not to use force to settle disputes. This was like a 'renewal of vows' and a

#### **Failures** Vilna - 1920 1920 Poland V Lithuania Poland invaded the Lithuanian capital The League ordered that Poland withdraw 1921 Poland ignored this decision The League did nothing 1921 Ruhr Occupation - 1923 France + Belgium V Germany 1922 Germany unable to pay reparations in 1922 French + Belgian soldiers marched into the German Ruhr to take over production. Worker unrest - 100 workers killed. 1923 Corfu Incident - 1923 Italy V Greece. General Tellini murdered on Greek soil. Mussolini invaded the Greek island of Corfu-League told Greece to pay compensation. 1923 Greeks agreed but upset Council members got their own way! 1924 The Geneva Protocol - 1924 Proposal by Benes to use sanctions as a tool for collective security. Loved by France - VETOED by Britain 1925

# Incident at Petrich (Stray Dog) See success element of this The Greeks withdrew but complained comparing it to CORFU. They said same rules didn't apply to more powerful nations = hypocritical. The Wall Street Crash is a key turning point ... NO notable successes after 1929!

#### Why The League Failed

#### Structure and Organisation



- P Veto
- E Undemocratic
- E Misused by Council



- P Slow decision making
- E Unanimous
- E-'A talking shop'.

#### No Army



- P No Army
- E Could not enforce
- E-'All bark no bite'

#### Membership



- P No USA
- E Missed leadership
- E- "If the USA does not ...



- P League for winners
- E Seen as unfair
- E Argentina boycott

#### Poor Parents / Leadership



- P Hypocritical
- E Actions of members
- E Italy / Corfu 1923



- P Greedy
- E Self Interest of BR / FR
- E Geneva Protocol

#### **Global Depression**



A domino effect that led to a rise of extremism. League members had their own problems and were unwilling unable to stand up to aggressive actions of Japan, Italy and Germany

# League Failures 1930's

1931

1932

1935

#### How did the Global Depression weaken the League?

A domino effect – put in order and explain each step.

1

5

**Aggressive Foreign Policy** Jap, Italy and Germany pushed the League beyond it limits and exposed it's weaknesses.

#### WSC - Global Depression.

promise to follow the concept of peace via Collective Security

The Wall Street Crash destroyed the US economy.

This would have a global impact.

#### Protectionism.

In an attempt to protect their own trade countries began to put tariffs on imports. This created a 'tit for tat' response. It also damaged relationships.

#### Militarism

Extreme leaders began to build up their military capabilities.

#### Socio / Economic Problems

As trade dried up jobs were lost creating unemployment, homelessness and hunger. (40% Japan's factories closed)

#### The Rise of Extremism.

Desperate people turned to extreme leaders who promised radical solutions.

3 Slow - weak leaders - no army

1 Japan left ( Council member)

2 League humiliated

"with interest"

#### Japan Attacks Manchuria



#### Why Japan Invaded?

- 1 Military had taken over
- 2 Hit hard by G Depression
- 3 Manchuria = land + resources
- 4 Chinese = sub human

#### **HOW THE LEAGUE FAILED**

- 1 Slow = 12 months
- 2 KNOW= Lytton Report
- 4 Only condemned Japan
- WHY THE LEAGUE FAILED?

- 1 Global Depression impact
- 2 Japan major Brit trade partner

- CONSEQUENCES
- 3 Hitler + Mussolini watched

#### Disarmament Conferences FAIL





The League said the military restrictions on Germany were unfair. League tried to get other countries to disarm

BUT, other countries refused - e.g. France.

Britain signed its own naval agreement with Germany!

Hitler became Chancellor and took Germany out of the League. He began re-arming in 1933.

#### Italy Attacks Abyssinia



#### Why Mussolini Invaded?

- 1 To boost his falling popularity 2 Revenge - 1896 Adowa defeat
- 3 Hit by G Depression
- 4 Abyssinia = Land + Minerals

#### **HOW THE LEAGUE FAILED**

- 2 KNOW = Hoare Laval Pact
- 3 Sanctions weak = No Oil
- 4 Britain didn't block Suez Canal

#### WHY THE LEAGUE FAILED?

- 1 Global Depression impact 2 Keep Mussolini on side +
- away from Hitler
- 3 General weakness exposed

#### CONSEQUENCES

- 1 Italy left (Council member) 2 Rome Berlin Axis = 1936
- 3 "The real death of the League
- was in 1935". AJP Taylor.

# The League of Nations was Woodrow Wilson's baby. Sadly, for him the USA never took part in it due to its entry being blocked by Congress. Instead his baby would be given to poor guardians. Bri + France + Italy + Japan.



Stop Future Wars

**I**mprove Lives

Disarmament

**E**nforce WW1 Treaties



**NO TO WAR** 

# **Collective Security**



One of the KEY principles behind the League was achieving peace through Collective Security.

Banding together to stand up to bullying and aggression.

# **Membership = Absentees**

**USA** = Congress blocked

**USSR** = Communist

The defeated powers of WW1 were not allowed to join - Germany, Austria, Turkey.



## **Vilna**

#### Poland V Lithuania

Poland invaded - Lithuanian capital. League ordered Poland to withdraw. Poland ignored this decision. The League did ... nothing.

"All bark no bite".

1st Test = 1st Failure

#### **Aaland Islands**

# FINLAND ALAND SWEDEN

#### Sweden + Finland

Small disputed islands.
Swedes asked to
League help decide.

League gave to Finland+ Sweden accepted.

Showed 'small' countries listened to League.

1921

**1st Success!** 

# **League Assembly- structure**

All countries - not in Council

**Unanimous Decisions** 

Met once a year - decided who was in / out of League. Sent recommendation to Council.



A Talking Shop?

# **Upper Silesia**

Germany with Poland

Both claimed the area - League
arranged a plebiscite - vote.

Agreed to split area + even share
infrastructure! This was how
League worked in the IDEAL.

**1921** 

1920

That's the way to do it!

### **League Council - structure**

Brit, France, Italy + Japan

They had VETO power

Met 5 times a year and made decision put forth to them from the Assembly.



**Democratic?** 

# **No USA Impact - Membership**

Without the USA the League of Nations was critically weak / damaged.

It lost the drive and leadership of Wilson.

It lost the power, resources + prestige of the USA

Also, the USA would be free to trade with any country - thus weakening any sanctions placed on countries by the League.



'If the USA does not join the League of Nation there will be another war in 25 years'

# **Washington Conference**



#### **Washington Conference**

The USA, UK and Japan agree to limit naval building. Note, the US organised — therefore not directly a League success but was in the spirit of the League's aim of disarmament.

**Disarmament - 1921** 

# **Ruhr Occupation**

#### France + Belgium V Germany

Germany unable to pay reparations in 1922.
French + Belgian soldiers marched into the
German Ruhr to take over industrial / coal
production.

Worker unrest = 100 workers killed League did not intervene



1923



## **Corfu Incident**

Italy V Greece.

Italian general Tellini murdered on Greek soil.

Mussolini invaded - Greek island of Corfu.

League told Greece to pay compensation.

Greeks agreed but upset!!

Council members got their own way!

1923

# **Geneva Protocol**

Proposal by Benes ( Czech leader) to use sanctions as a tool for collective security.

Loved by France - VETOED by Britain.

**POOR PARENT = UK** 



1924

# **Humanitarian Work**

**Refugees** = half a million POWs back home after WW1.

Slaves = 200 000 freed in Burma and Sierra Leone.

Health = reduction of smallpox and leprosy.

**Health** = advise given to the USSR how to combat plague

outbreak in Siberia.

Work (ILO) = poisonousness lead removed from paints.

Work (ILO) = pushed for a 48 hour work week.

1920s

#### **Incident at Petrich**

#### Greece V Bulgaria

AKA - The 'War of the Stray Dog'. A border skirmish led to Greek captain shot getting the dog! Greece then invaded Petrich. League ruled against Greece. The Greeks withdrew but complained - comparing it to CORFU. They said same rules didn't apply to more powerful nations = hypocritical.



**Mixed Result** 

1925

# **Locarno Treaties**



Arranged between Britain, France, Belgium,
Italy + Germany. This guaranteed existing
western borders and Germany was
admitted into the League as a permanent
Council member. It demonstrated the
progress made since WW1 and
commitment to future peace.

**1925 - 26** 

'The Spirit of Locarno'

# **Kellogg Briand Pact**

62 countries ratified the agreement not to use force to settle disputes. This was like a 'renewal of wedding vows' and a promise to follow the concept of peace via the principle **Collective Security.** 



1928

# League Revision Part 1 of 2

# Part 1 - is a free member resource.

You can access more supporting revision material and THOUSANDS more history teaching resources using the <a href="Site Pass Discount.">Site Pass Discount.</a>

If you have questions about the resources or details about the site pass offer you can message me directly .... <a href="mailto:phil@ichistory.com">phil@ichistory.com</a>

www.icHistory.com

