THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS
Creating the League of Nations.

**Mission:** design a League of Nations that will: stop future wars, improve lives, disarm, enforce the treaties of WW1.

- Where will the League be based?
- How often will League members meet?
- How will decisions be made?
- Will Germany and the USSR be invited to join?
- Will the League have an army of its own?
- Will the League have a leader, if so, who?
- Will some countries have more power than others?
- What if a non-League member breaks the rules?
- What if a League member breaks the rules?
- Any other suggestions about the League?
## The League of Nations - unit key words

**Let's get started**: match the key words with their definitions. **Extension**: add similar words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Related word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refugee</td>
<td>A person who has been forced away from their home.</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Someone who thinks that ‘perfect is possible’.</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To be in need or want something very badly.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A form of punishment, often involving a ban on trade.</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The threat or use of force.</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>About things being fairly decided or voted for.</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A region controlled by China in 1934.</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joining together to stop aggression and create peace.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To refuse to listen or to follow rules.</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A way of reducing foreign imports by putting tariffs on them.</td>
<td>J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A powerful (law making) part of the American government.</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When a decision is made by EVERYONE agreeing.</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A place in Ethiopia, Africa.</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Argument or disagreement.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taxes on goods.</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To make something happen.</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The relationship / behaviour / actions towards other countries.</td>
<td>Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To tell off - say something is wrong.</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To claim something is wrong - then doing that exact thing yourself.</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A powerful blocking ‘vote’.</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When a country is a ‘alone’ and stays out of overseas affairs.</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The shape of something or how it is built.</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When the public / people get angry.</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A agreement between a group of ... people / countries.</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Mission:** to understand the basics about the League and its creation.

The League of Nations was an _________ (1) organization developed after World War One as a way to solve disputes between countries before they exploded into open warfare. A _________ (2) to today’s United Nations, the League achieved some victories but overall had a mixed record of success, sometimes putting self-interest before becoming involved with conflict resolution. It also had issues with some countries that _________ (3) to accept its authority. The League has its origins in the Fourteen _________ (4) speech of American President Woodrow Wilson, given in January 1918 during the final year of WW1. In this speech Wilson outlined his ideas for peace after the _________ (5) caused by the war. Wilson imagined an organization that would resolve conflicts before they exploded into bloodshed and warfare. By December of the same year, Wilson left for Paris to transform his 14 Points into what would become the Treaty of _________ (6). Seven months later, he returned to the United States with a peace treaty that also included the idea for what became the League of Nations. In America, the Republican Congressmen, Henry Cabot Lodge led a battle against allowing America into the League. He believed that membership of the League would weaken US _________ (7) in international matters. Wilson took the _________ (8) to the American people via a 27-day train journey to sell the treaty to live audiences across country - he eventually cut his tour short due to exhaustion and sickness. Soon after, Wilson had a stroke dying in 1924. The Congress did not _________ (9) the treaty, and the US did not take part in the League of Nations. The _________ (10) argued that being in the League would draw the United States into international affairs unnecessarily. In other countries, the League of Nations was a more popular idea. Under the leadership of Lord Cecil, the British Parliament created an exploratory _________ (11) and soon after announced support of the League. French liberals followed, with the leaders of Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Greece, Czechoslovakia and other smaller nations agreeing also. In 1919 the structure and process of the League were laid out in a _________ (12) developed by all the countries taking part in the Paris Peace Conference. The League began organizational work in late 1919, in London before moving to _________ (13) in Switzerland. The Covenant of the League of Nations went into effect in January, 1920, formally starting the League’s work. By 1920, 48 countries had joined.

**Text from History.com (Edited)**

1: What was the main argument used by isolationists in the US Congress?

2: What is the meaning of covenant?

3: What is the message of the cartoon pictured right?
The League’s Structure and Organisation

Know: about the League’s structure and the roles of each ‘body part’.

Like any large organisation (consider the structure of your school) the League had a number of parts to its body. Some of these parts were involved with decision making while others carried out the actual work. The most powerful decision making part of the League was the Council. The Council contained four permanent members: Britain, France, Japan and Italy. Each of these permanent member held a powerful blocking vote called a veto. This allowed them to stop any decision they did not agree with. The Council met 5 times a year. The second decision making body was the Assembly. This was made up of the remaining members of the League. The Assembly was the League’s parliament. It could decide which countries were allowed into the League and make recommendations that could then be put to the Council. Any decisions or recommendations made by the Assembly had a unanimous one - every member had to agree for a decision to be made. The Assembly met once a year. The International Court of Justice was the forum where disputes (arguments) between countries could be heard. It was based in the Hague, in the Netherlands. The Court also gave legal advice to the Council and Assembly. However, unlike normal courts it had no power to make sure that rulings were followed because the League did not have an army of its own. The League also contained four committees or commissions. They were largely responsible for carrying out the humanitarian (helping people) work of the League - thus helping achieve its aim of improving lives. The Refugee Committees job was to help prisoners of war and others displaced by WW1 back into their homes. The Slavery Commission was given the job of ending slavery that existed in some parts of the world. The Health Committee worked to prevent/reduce deadly diseases such as smallpox and provide education in areas such as sanitation + hygiene. The Mandates Commission was created to ensure that the colonies under the League’s control were fairly run in the interests of the people living there. Aside from the commissions the International Labour Organisation was a separate body that looked to improve workers’ rights and make the workplace safer. It also offered advice and encouraged employers to follow its strategies. The final body part was the Secretariat. It connected everything by keeping records and preparing reports to guide all the other agencies.

Constructing the League of Nations.

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The Manchuria Invasion
Japan over China (1931-32)
The Manchuria Invasion - 1931 / 1932

**Task 1:** Number statements into a sensible order  **Task 2:** Colour code (A) Causes (B) How League failed (C) Why failed (D) Effects.

1. The Manchuria invasion encouraged other countries to act without fear of League action - countries such as Britain acted out of self not collective interest.

2. Manchuria was rich in resources - minerals, forest and lands. The Depression had meant less trade so Manchuria offered a good opportunity to grab resources.

3. Japan was also crowded with an increasing population. Manchuria was almost 200,000 square kilometers – more than enough to house a growing population.

4. The Depression hit Japan hard. The government found that it had no solutions to the problems created by the depression – the army took control.

5. The League decided to send Lord Lytton to investigate - it was painfully slow and after almost a year the ‘Lytton Report’ concluded Japan should leave.

6. The League also lost its most powerful member in the Far East—later Japan would join forces with Germany and Italy.

7. At China’s request the League ordered the Japanese to withdraw - the army did not listen and instead invaded the rest of Manchuria by the end of 1931.

8. Britain did not want to lose trade with Japan, a major trade partner and Britain was also worried about her Far East colonies (Hong Kong and Singapore).

9. The Japanese had a very low opinion of the Chinese (Manchuria was part of China) and saw them as inferior and even subhuman.

10. Many of the League members were also more focused on dealing with their own problems not solving those in a far away land - they did not want conflict.

11. The League had 2 main options - the first, a warning had no effect. The second, economic or trade sanctions were considered.

12. Japan ignored the report - this showed that the League was powerless to deal with larger nations that ignored its rulings

13. The Mukden Incident: an explosion on the South Manchuria Railway gave the army the excuse it needed to blame Manchuria and to invade.

14. At China’s request the League ordered the Japanese to withdraw - the army did not listen and instead invaded the rest of Manchuria by the end of 1931.
The Manchuria Invasion - 1931 / 1932

Task 1: Write statements into a sensible order  Task 2: Colour code (A) Causes (B) How League failed (C) Why failed (D) Effects.
The Manchuria Invasion - 1931 / 1932

Task 1 = Write a short summary to explain each image Task 2 = Colour code ( A ) Causes ( B ) How League failed ( C ) Why failed ( D ) Effects.

**Empire + Resources**
Japan wanted to build its own empire. Japan needed resources. (timber, coal, iron)

**The Mukden Incident**
Explosion on South Manchurian railway. A convenient excuse for Japan.

**The Issue of Trade.**
Japan was a major trading partner with Britain. Britain feared losing this trade link and the USA could easily fill in any trade gap created.

**General Hatred + Racism**
The Japanese viewed the Chinese as sub-human and Manchuria had to be colonised/civilised/stabilised.

**Military took power in Japan**
Prompted by economic problems - the Japanese military had taken control. Militarism led to the invasion of Chinese controlled Manchuria.

**The Lytton Report**
Set up by Britain. It took 12 months for the report to be issued and it only advised that Japan to leave Manchuria.

**League Structure**
Slow react = 12 months Poorly led = British selfish Weak = infective sanctions

What’s the message here?
League is scared/confused. The report was big/slow. Japan is aggressive. League values betrayed League is weak + ineffective

Japan walks over the League League is cowardly Japan is aggressive League is damaged League has been humiliated

What’s the message here?
League is scared/confused. The report was big/slow. Japan is aggressive. League values betrayed League is weak + ineffective
The Manchuria Invasion - 1931 / 1932

Task 1 = Write a short summary to explain each image  
Task 2 = Colour code (A) Causes (B) How League failed (C) Why failed (D) Effects.

- Empire + Resources
- Military took power in Japan
- The Mukden Incident
- The Lytton Report.
- The Issue of Trade
- General Hatred + Racism
- League Structure

[Images of various historical events and figures related to the Manchuria Invasion]

What’s the message here?
The Manchuria Invasion
1931 - 1932

Why did Japan attack Manchuria in 1931?

How League failed...

Why did the League fail?
(Consider absence of USA)

Consequences of the Manchuria invasion for the League?
Comparing Cartoon Sources

**Task:** to compare two cartoons use COP - Content, Origin and Purpose

**Skill:** cartoon analysis and evaluation - including corroboration.

---

**How similar are sources A and B?**

**Introduction:** the sources are not similar, somewhat similar, largely similar.

---

**Content 1:** (what it shows) The MAIN messages are / are not similar.

---

**Content 2:** (what it shows) The sub-message are / are not similar.

---

**Origin:** is the (who, when, where) are / are not similar.

---

**Purpose:** (why/ motive) the motives are / are not similar.
The League of Nations

Teaching + revision aid ...

I have a bad feeling about this ...
### 1. The League of Nations Beginnings - Wilson’s Impossible dream?

1919: Once upon a time there was a man named Woodrow Wilson. He was an idealist and wanted a League of Nations to help create a safer, better world.

January 1920: Wilson’s dream came true. The League of Nations was created. It was to be based in Geneva, a city on a beautiful lake in Switzerland.

The League of Nations had four main aims. Use the website to identify the aim AND show the reason behind the aims.

- **Stop War**: The League aimed to stop war using the principle of **Collective Security**. Watch the following video:

  - **www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU8DDYz68kM**

March 1920: The USA rejects the treaty of Versailles AND refuses to join the League of Nations.

- **Americas refusal to ratify (support) the Treaty of Versailles or to join the League of Nations would have serious effects on the future of the world.**

- **A League for Winners?**
  - The League was criticised because it only allowed the winning countries of WW1 to join.

- **The structure of the League**: The League was divided into many different parts. Sketch + label a diagram of structure.

  - **www.johndclare.net/league_of_nations_revision.htm**

Why do you think the League was criticised for this?

Two decision making parts of the League:

1: 
2: 
3: 

The most powerful one was the ...
## 2. The League of Nations in the 1920s - Structural Weakness and Setbacks.

### Structural Problem 1: The COUNCIL was dominated by the four permanent and most powerful members. Research online or use textbooks to find out who they were.

### Structural Problem 2: The Council’s Power.
The four Council members had a veto. What was the power of veto?

### Structural Problem 3: Finding time to meet.
The COUNCIL met ____ times a year.
The ASSEMBLY met ____ times a year.

Imagine you work for the League Secretariat - create the best meeting schedule for the Council and Assembly for the year on the calendar.

- Council
- Assembly

### Structural Problem 4: The Assembly.
Assembly decisions had to be unanimous. What does unanimous means?

If a decision could be agreed upon. The League had x 3 main ways to deal with countries causing trouble. Only 2 of the 3 were realistic.

### Structural Problem 5: No Army.
The League of Nations didn’t have its own army.

#### Dispute, Vilna 1920: Vilna was a city in Lithuania. Poland invaded because more Poles lived there compared to Lithuanians. Lithuania asked the League to help them.

#### Dispute, Ruhr Occupation 1923: Germany could not pay its reparations in 1922. In response, France (and Belgium) sent troops into the German industrial area of the Ruhr.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What was the problem of the power of VETO?</th>
<th>Why could this be a problem?</th>
<th>Decisions of the Assembly had to be unanimous. Problem?</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>1:</th>
<th>2:</th>
<th>3:</th>
<th>4:</th>
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</table>

### What would you do? If a decision could be agreed upon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What would you do?</th>
<th>Blame Poland</th>
<th>Blame Lithuania</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do Nothing</td>
<td>Morale Pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apply Sanctions</td>
<td>Use Military Force</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What would you do?</th>
<th>Blame France</th>
<th>Blame Germany</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do Nothing</td>
<td>Morale Pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apply Sanctions</td>
<td>Use Military Force</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Which of the above would be the most effective? Which of the above was not realistic?

### What is the message of this cartoon? What message did this send out about the League?

### What did the League decide? How did the League respond?

### What message did this send out about League Council?
3. The League of Nations in the 1920s - From Failure to Success.

1923 - The Corfu Incident: During an investigation in Albania, Italian general Enrico Tellini and four companions were shot dead. Blaming Greece, Italy bombed then invaded Corfu. Greece appealed to the League.

1924: The Geneva Protocol: The Corfu Incident showed the League could be weakened even by COUNCIL members. A plan was made to ensure this didn't happen again.

1920s Weakness = Poor Guardians: The League was Woodrow Wilson’s baby. However, he was forced to give his baby over to Britain + France. They were poor guardians.

1920s Weakness = Structural Problems: The League was said to have many structural weaknesses that would make it's functioning very difficult.

The Geneva Protocol, official name Protocol for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, was a League of Nations draft treaty to ensure Collective Security worked in Europe. The French enthusiastically supported the protocol, but it failed after it was rejected by the British in 1924.

Strength: The League DID have some success. For example, 42 countries joined the League at the start and this would rise to over 60 by 1930.

Dispute, Upper Silesia 1921: Upper Silesia was an industrial area bordering Germany + Poland. A plebiscite (vote) to decide who should control it was split almost 50 - 50.

Dispute, Aaland Islands 1921: the islands lay between Finland and Sweden. They threatened to go to war but instead asked the League to decide what to do with them.

Dispute, The War of the Stray Dog 1925: A Greek soldier chased his dog into Bulgaria. The soldier was shot dead. In response, the Greeks invaded the Bulgarian town of Petrich.

What did the League decide? What did the Geneva Protocol propose / aim to do? Give an example of League Council members behaving badly: Give one structural problem or difficulty for each below:

Britain: League Council:

Why did the League make this decision? Which country effectively VETOED the Geneva Protocol? France: League Assembly:

Italy: Enforcing Decisions:

Strength: The League DID have some success. For example, 42 countries joined the League at the start and this would rise to over 60 by 1930.

What would you do? Give to Poland Give to Germany Give to Sweden Do Nothing Arrage 2nd vote

What would you do? Give to Finland Give to Sweden Do Nothing Arrage plebiscite

What would you do? Blame Bulgaria Blame Greece Do Nothing Morale Pressure

www.historylearningsite.co.uk/leagueofnations.htm

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Strength: The League DID have some success. For example, 42 countries joined the League at the start and this would rise to over 60 by 1930.

What would you do? Give to Poland Give to Germany Give to Sweden Do Nothing Arrage plebiscite

What would you do? Give to Finland Give to Sweden Do Nothing Arrage plebiscite

What would you do? Blame Bulgaria Blame Greece Do Nothing Morale Pressure

www.historylearningsite.co.uk/leagueofnations.htm

www.historylearningsite.co.uk/leagueofnations.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incident_at_Petrich
### 4. Successes of the League in the 1920s - Humanitarian Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helping Refugees:</th>
<th>Helping Workers:</th>
<th>Improving Health:</th>
<th>Abolishing Slavery:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The League did great work getting POWs home and refugees home after WW1. It also helped refugees after an earthquake hit Turkey, 1922.</td>
<td>ILO helped improve conditions for workers - lead was banned from paint, working hours for children reduced and a maximum 48 hr week suggested.</td>
<td>The League helped reduce diseases such as leprosy, smallpox and malaria. Even the USSR followed its advice after a plague in Siberia the early 1920s.</td>
<td>League created the Slavery Convention. In 1926 many countries signed up and pressured Burma and Sierra Leone into making slavery illegal in 1927.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

In the 1920s, the League was successful in its aim to create a b _ _ _ _ _ world. It helped half a million P _ _ _ s return home after WW1. Also helped T _ _ _ _ _ after an earthquake hit Vallenar.

**BBC History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main achievements of the REFUGEE Commission</th>
<th>Why was a 48 hr working week hard to enforce?</th>
<th>Give two achievements if the Health Commission</th>
<th>Give two achievements if the Slavery Commission</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1:</td>
<td>1:</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:</td>
<td>Which League body was responsible for this work?</td>
<td>2:</td>
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League aim addressed ( SIDE ) =

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Washington Conference 1921-22:</th>
<th>The Kellogg Briand Pact:</th>
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<tr>
<td>following WW1 many countries still had huge armies, navies and weaponry. The League was given the job of reducing them.</td>
<td>This could be argued to be the HIGH POINT and greatest success of the League. Over 60 countries signed up to it!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1925, Locarno Treaty: Delegates from Britain, France, Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia met in Locarno, Switzerland. [http://gssibhistory.wikispaces.com/Locarno](http://gssibhistory.wikispaces.com/Locarno)

1928, The Kellogg Briand Pact: This could be argued to be the HIGH POINT and greatest success of the League. Over 60 countries signed up to it!

---

‘The Locarno agreements gave new hope that the League of Nations might assume the role which Wilson had expected of. If one looks at the European scene between 1925 and 1929 and without the knowledge of what came after there seemed to be some grounds for hope.’

**Historian: James Joll, 1983.**

‘The Kellogg-Briand Pact was an agreement between 62 countries which also included Germany as an equal partner. The agreement was for countries to agree not to use war as to settle disputes. Crucially the agreement included the United States (not a League member) but who still wanted to help secure peace. This was also significant for Germany as it showed Germany to be a respected + trusted European nation again.’

**Tutoru.net (Edited)**

### The Global Depression: The good work of the League would be destroyed in 1929 after the American economy went into meltdown. This would impact the whole world.

**Why was the Kellogg - Briand Pact significant?**

1: Mass Unemployment

Factories close as there is no one to sell goods to. This creates mass unemployment.

2: USA Recalls Loans

America stops / recall loans made to struggling post war countries. [E G Germany]

3: Protectionism

To protect their economies many countries tax imports. International trade dries up.

4: The Wall Street Crash

The American economy completely collapses.

5: Social Unrest

Hungry, unemployed, people become desperate for solutions to their problems.

6: The Rise of Dictators

People look to aggressive, leaders such as Hitler and Mussolini. They will push the League to its limits.

---

What was agreed at the 1921 Washington Conference?

1: France and Germany agree to settle problems through the League

2:

League aim addressed ( SIDE ) =

What was agreed at Locarno?

1: France and Germany agree to settle problems through the League

2: The delegates from Britain, France, Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia met in Locarno, Switzerland.

League aim addressed ( SIDE ) =

Why was the Kellogg - Briand Pact significant?

1: The Kellogg-Briand Pact was an agreement between 62 countries which also included Germany as an equal partner. The agreement was for countries to agree not to use war as to settle disputes. Crucially the agreement included the United States (not a League member) but who still wanted to help secure peace. This was also significant for Germany as it showed Germany to be a respected + trusted European nation again.

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Put the statements in a logical order numbering 1 - 6.
5. The Death of the League in the 1930s - Manchuria and Abyssinia.

**Manchuria Invasion 1931:** The Japanese claimed that Chinese soldiers blew up a Japanese built railway in Manchuria. Japan invaded the disputed area of Manchuria.

Who controlled Manchuria before the invasion in 1931?

What was the Lytton Report?

How long did the Lytton Report take?

**A cartoon about the Manchuria response …**

![Manchuria Map](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z3x3nbk/revision/1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What would you do?</th>
<th>Blame Japan</th>
<th>Blame China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do Nothing</td>
<td>Morale Pressure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply Sanctions</td>
<td>Use Military Force</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why did Japan invade Manchuria in 1931?

1:

2:

3:

What position did Japan have in the League?

Why did the League fail in Manchuria?

1:

2:

3:

**The Abyssinia Crisis 1935:** Following an argument over an oasis 80Km inside Abyssinia, Ethiopia. Mussolini the Italian leader began to ready his army to invade Abyssinia.

Who did Abyssinia belong to before the invasion in 1935?

What was the Hoare-Laval Pact?

What did the Hoare-Laval Pact say about Britain and France?

**A quote about Abyssinia:** the Abyssinia incident and how the League dealt with it is seen as the final nail in the coffin. “The real Death of the League came in 1935” AJP Taylor.

![Abyssinia Map](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z3x3nbk/revision/1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What would you do?</th>
<th>Blame Italy</th>
<th>Blame Ethiopia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do Nothing</td>
<td>Morale Pressure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply Sanctions</td>
<td>Use Military Force</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why did Italy invade Abyssinia in 1931?

1:

2:

3:

What position did Italy have in the League?

Why did the League fail in Abyssinia?

1:

2:

3:

How did the League respond to the Abyssinian invasion?

What did Italy do next and what happened to Abyssinia?

1:

2:

3:

How did the League fail in Abyssinia?

1:

2:

3:

Why did the League fail in Abyssinia?

1:

2:

3:

Italy's behaviour was very …

H _ _ _ _ _ 

S _ _ _ _ _
6. Summary and Reflections - Why did The League Fail?

**Disarmament Conference Fails, 1933:** Germany argued only she had disarmed and other countries should too. After talks Germany quit the League and talks collapsed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Decision Making</th>
<th>Lacked Real Power</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example 1</strong></td>
<td>No USA</td>
<td>Missed USA’s power and resources</td>
<td>No Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain</td>
<td>USA free to trade...</td>
<td>This was a powerful block vote</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link</td>
<td>Weak as had no strong leader</td>
<td>This was not democratic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example 2</strong></td>
<td>A League for winners</td>
<td>Defeated powers not invited</td>
<td>Sanctions were not effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain</td>
<td>Every country had to agree</td>
<td>Non League countries free to trade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain</td>
<td>Seen as unfair and undemocratic</td>
<td>Very hard to make a decision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link</td>
<td>Weakened the League’s reputation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weakened the League’s reputation:**
- Membership: No USA, Missed USA’s power and resources, USA free to trade...
- Decision Making: Very hard to make a decision, Non League countries free to trade
- Lacked Real Power: Sanctions were not effective

**Making connections:** Use arrows to show connections between factors behind the failure of the League Nations.

**Rank Order:** order the five factors that led to the League failure into order of importance. Put the most important one at the top and least important at the bottom.

1. Decision Making
2. Membership
3. Global Depression
4. Lacked Power
5. Poor Leadership

Why did you choose this as the most important factor?

**Global Depression:**
- The Global Depression: League members had own problems
- Example 1: League members had own problems
- Explain: By 1935 the ‘League was dead’

**Poor Parenting / Leadership:**
- Bad Parents / Leadership: Aggressive leaders rise to power
- Example 2: Aggressive leaders rise to power
- Explain: By 1935 the ‘League was dead’

**Complete a structured PEEL paragraph of your own.**

- PEEL = Point, Example, Explain, Evidence, Link back to the question.

---

**Drawing arrows to show connections between factors behind the failure of the League Nations.**
The League of Nations - why did it fail?

Mission: to analyse, evaluate and compare historical sources to find out reasons why the League ultimately failed.

'The clue lies in the name: the League of Nations. Not 'states' or 'countries' - 'Nations'. Wasn't it Wilson who insisted that self-determination was at the centre of the Treaty of Versailles? Wilson made a Peace which created a world of nations, but he formed a League which relied on 'moral persuasion' and 'collective security'. The League never had any chance of success. As soon as any of his nations found that its national self-interest was threatened, the League could go hang.'

The modern historian John Duncan suggests that the tension between national interest and the League's needs made the eventual failure of the League inevitable - book extract, 2000.

I know this sounds all wrong, perhaps immoral, when Japan is flouting the League of Nations, but:

1 - she (Japan) was greatly provoked.
2 - she must ere long expand somewhere - for goodness sake let or rather encourage her to do so there instead of Australia.
3 - her control of Manchuria means a real block against Communist aggression.

A letter from the Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge University, to his friend

There had to be unanimity for decisions that were taken. Unanimity made it really hard for the League to do anything. The League suffered big time from the absence of major powers — Germany, Japan, Italy ultimately left — and the lack of U.S. participation. The League showed the inherent limitations of collective security, which is basically an “all for one and one for all” ethos; countries have to treat the outbreak of war anywhere as worrisome and a threat and we have to respond to it. The reality is [that doctrine] doesn’t take into account countries’ other interests or the context. For instance, when Italy invaded Ethiopia in the mid-1930s, Britain and France who needed Italy as it was cozying up to Nazi Germany, chose to appease. Same thing when Hitler started gobbling up little bits of nearby countries.

The period following the Wall Street Crash can be seen as one of the great turning points in history. The collapse of the American economy came at a time when the League of Nations was beginning to show some potential. (The Kellogg Briand Pact had been signed in 1928). However, events after 1929 would result in the destruction of the League. As a result of the Wall Street Crash the USA stopped or recalled its loans. Many countries such as Germany relied on (needed) these loans. To try and protect their own goods countries began putting high tariffs on imports. This policy of protectionism only made the problem worse and global trade decreased. As a consequence, many factories were unable to sell what they made and they were forced to close. This created massive unemployment and the world fell into a global, economic depression. People became more and more angry and desperate. This was the perfect environment that allowed extreme leaders into power. Aggressive leaders such as Mussolini in Italy and Hitler in Germany offered radical promises to desperate people. Once in power these dictators would push the League beyond its limits. For example Italy invaded Abyssinia in 1935, which ended in a humiliating defeat for the League. After this, the League was no longer taken seriously. The impact of the depression is well summed up by AJP Taylor who wrote. “The real death of the League was in 1935”.

1929  The death of the League was a domino effect.  1935
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