

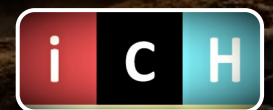
League of Nations

Revision Activities

1919 - 1936

Full Teaching Pack

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LEAGUE OF NATIONS EVENTS RECAP

NO GERMANY, USA, USSR,
OTHER DEFEATED NATIONS



Wilson's League Aims ..
S top Wars
I mprove Lives
D isarmament
E nforce Peace Treaties

1919



Congress blocks Wilson's dream.



The League begins.
Geneva
Switzerland.

1920

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



1920



Vilna
Poland V Lithuania
First Failure
League did nothing.

1925



Incident at Petrich
Bulgaria V Greece
Greece did as told
BUT - hypocrisy!



1921

Washington Conference
An agreement to limit size of navies

1921



Aaland Islands
Sweden + Finland
Sweet Success
Sweden Accepts

**COLLECTIVE
SECURITY?**

1923



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

1923



Ruhr Occupation
France V Germany
100 workers killed
Bad Council!

1921



Upper Silesia
Poland + Germany
Plebiscite
Sharing = caring



1920s

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.

1925-6

THE LOCARNO AGREEMENT

Germany allowed into the League Council— borders also confirmed.



1924



Geneva Protocol

Britain blocks Benes' proposals to strengthen collective security



1931-32

Manchuria Invasion

Japan attacks China
Know - Lytton Report!

1931-32

Failed Disarmament Conferences



1928



Kellogg Briand Pact

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



1929 +



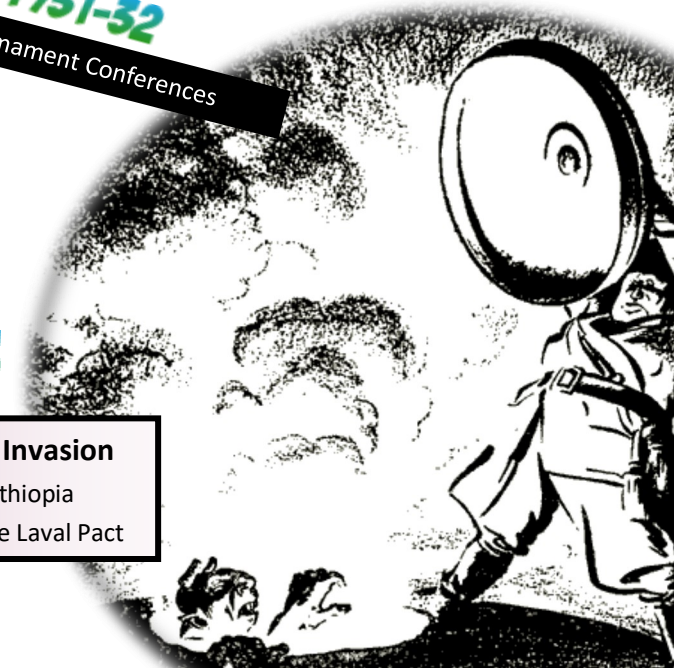
Global Depression

A turning point ...
Say goodbye to cooperation!

1935

Abyssinia Invasion

Italy V Ethiopia
Know - Hoare Laval Pact



Wilson



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.

Idealist

League Aims

Stop Future Wars

Improve Lives

Disarmament

Enforce 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.

ALL FOR ONE + ONE FOR ALL

Membership = Absentees

USA = Congress blocked

USSR = Communist

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



Democratic?

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".

1920

1st Test = 1st Failure

Aaland Islands



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

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?

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No USA Impact - Membership

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

It lost the drive and leadership of Wilson.

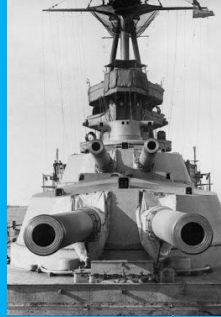
It lost the power, resources + prestige of the USA.

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 Nations there will be another war in 25 years".
Woodrow Wilson

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

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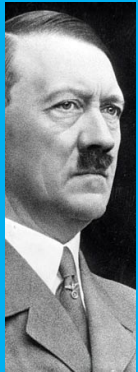
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Impact of Depression

Protectionism - countries put tariffs on imports. Led to trade wars and further hurt the global economy. **Erosion of international goodwill.**

Selfishness - countries too busy dealing with their own problems rather trying to solve global ones.

Social suffering / unrest - leads to extreme suffering and **rise of dictators** - Italy, Germany + Japan. Dictator leaders would push the League + help

1929+

Why Japan Invaded Manchuria?

The backdrop (excuse) for the attack was the Mukden incident - The Japanese blamed China for an attack on the Japanese owned railway.

But ... the impact of the Global Depression (massive unemployment in Japan) the military had taken control.



Lytton Report = How Failed



The Lytton Report followed an investigation by Lord Lytton (UK) into the 'Mukden Incident' and **Japan's subsequent invasion of Manchuria.**

It took 12 months to conclude that Japan should leave Chinese controlled Manchuria. Japan refused and left the League. No actions were taken against Japan.

Manchuria - 1932

Manchuria - Why Failed?



WHY League failed?

- Lack of will to act due to Global Depression
 - Structural problems - slow to act
 - Japan on League Council.
 - Weak, selfish Council members.
 - Britain had strong trade agreements with Japan and wanted to protect these.
- Impact** - Japan left League, humiliating, Japan did not leave Manchuria and kept it.

1931 - 32

JOIN



1932 - 33

Why Invade Abyssinia ?



The impact of the Global Depression had led to **unrest in Italy.**

To **boost Mussolini's falling popularity** - distraction!

Revenge - 1896 for previous embarrassing Adowa defeat.

Abyssinia had = **Land + minerals**

1935

Hoare - Laval Pact = How Fail?



The Hoare - Laval Pact was a secret agreement that involved Britain and France. They agreed (behind the League's back) - to allow Italy to keep parts of Abyssinia. The plan was leaked to the French media and never went ahead but the damage was done.

Note - Britain, France and Italy were all on the League Council!

Abyssinia - 1935

Abyssinia - Why Failed?

WHY League failed?

- Still recovering from Global Depression.
- Failure to apply effective sanctions (e.g. oil)
 - Italy on League Council.
 - Weak, selfish Council members.
- Britain and France feared upsetting Mussolini and pushing him towards Hitler.

Impact - Italy League, killed League, Italy kept Abyssinia + Rome Berlin Axis in 1936. Hitler invades Rhineland in 1936.



1935-36

Why Did The League Fail?

Structurally weak = problems with Council + Assembly.

Structurally weak = No army - sanctions weak - USA free to trade.

Membership = No USA / Wilson - lacked leadership / resources.

Membership = A league for winners - many excluded - undemocratic.

VERY Poor Parents = Council was hypocritical + greedy + selfish!

Manchuria + Abyssinia = exposed ALL of the above weaknesses.



The real death of the League was in 1935' AJP Taylor

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THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS REVIEW

And - know the League's structure ...



Aims	1920s	1930s
S	TOP WARS	
	50%	0%
I	improve lives	
	80%	0%
D	disarmament	
	40%	0%
E	enforce treaties	
	50%	0%

League Powers	
	Moral Pressure
	Economic Sanctions
	Force = X

Successes	Year	Failures
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	1920 1921	Vilna - 1920 Poland V Lithuania Poland invaded the Lithuanian capital The League ordered that Poland withdraw Poland ignored this decision The League did nothing
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.	1921	Ruhr Occupation - 1923 France + Belgium V Germany Germany unable to pay reparations in 1922 French + Belgian soldiers marched into the German Ruhr to take over production. Worker unrest - 100 workers killed.
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.	1922	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. Greeks agreed but upset Council members got their own way!
Working (ILO) ILO was had limited success in getting employers to keep to a 48 hour workweek. Did manage to get lead banned from paint.	1923	The Geneva Protocol - 1924 Proposal by Benes to use sanctions as a tool for collective security. Loved by France - VETOED by Britain.
Incident at Petrich (Stray Dog) Greek soldier shot by Bulgarian soldier 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.	1923 1924	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 .
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.	1925 1926	

Why The League Failed

Structure and Organisation

VETO

- 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.

Health Commission
Helped to combat disease such as small-pox and leprosy. Also advised USSR how to cope with a plague outbreak in Siberia.

Slavery Commission + ILO
League agree to the slavery convention in 1926. Helped free 200 000 slaves from Sierra Leone and Burma.

Kellogg-Briand Pact
62 countries ratified to settle disputes. The pact prohibited the use of force.



How did the Global Depression weaken the League?

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

- Aggressive Foreign Policy**
Jap, Italy and Germany pushed the League beyond its limits and **exposed its weaknesses**.
- 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.
- WSC - Global Depression.**
The Wall Street Crash destroyed the US economy. This would have a **global impact**.
- 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.

The League's Failures 1930's

1932	1935
Disarmament Conferences FAIL <p>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.</p> <p>Britain signed its own naval agreement with Germany!</p> <p>Hitler became Chancellor and took Germany out of the League. He began re-arming in 1933.</p>	Italy Attacks Abyssinia <p>Why Mussolini Invaded?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To boost his falling popularity Revenge - 1896 Adowa defeat Hit by G Depression Abyssinia = Land + Minerals <p>HOW THE LEAGUE FAILED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Slow KNOW = Hoare - Laval Pact Sanctions weak = No Oil Britain didn't block Suez Canal <p>WHY THE LEAGUE FAILED?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Global Depression impact Keep Mussolini on side + away from Hitler General weakness exposed <p>CONSEQUENCES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Italy left (Council member) Rome Berlin Axis = 1936 "The real death of the League was in 1935". AJP Taylor.

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