

League of Nations Revision

1919 - 1936



LEAGUE OF NATIONS EVENTS RECAP

NO GERMANY, USA, USSR,
OTHER DEFEATED NATIONS

1920

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

The League begins.
Geneva
Switzerland.



Congress blocks Wilson's dream.

1919

Wilson's League Aims ..

Stop Wars
Improve Lives
Disarmament
Enforce Peace Treaties

1920

Vilna

Poland V Lithuania
First Failure
League did nothing.

1925

Incident at Petrich

Bulgaria V Greece
Greece did as told
BUT - hypocrisy!

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

1921

Aaland Islands
Sweden + Finland
Sweet Success
Sweden Accepts

COLLECTIVE
SECURITY?



1921

Washington Conference

An agreement to limit size of navies



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.



THE LOCARNO AGREEMENT

Germany allowed into the League Council— borders also confirmed.

1925-6



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

1929 +



Global Depression

A turning point ...

Say goodbye to cooperation!



1928



Kellogg Briand Pact

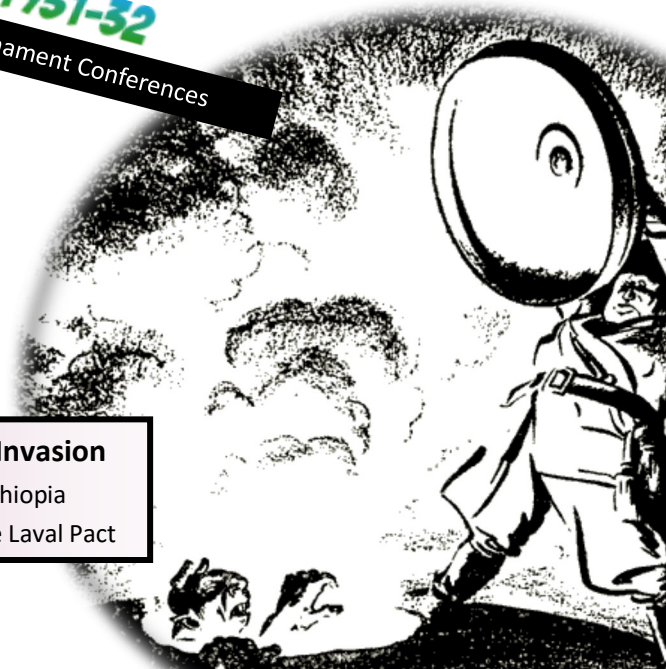
62 Countries re-affirm commitment to achieving peace though collective security

1935

Abyssinia Invasion

Italy V Ethiopia

Know - Hoare Laval Pact



The League of Nations Review

Note - also know the League Structure



Aims	20's	30's
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	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 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.	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 The Wall Street Crash is a key turning point ... NO notable successes after 1929!
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 promise to follow the concept of peace via Collective Security .	1928

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..."

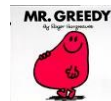


- P - **League for winners**
- E - Seen as unfair
- E - Argentina boycott

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

How did the Global Depression weaken the League?

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



1931 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
- 3 _____
- 4 Only condemned Japan

WHY THE LEAGUE FAILED?

- 1 Global Depression impact
- 2 Japan major Brit trade partner
- 3 Slow - weak leaders - no army

CONSEQUENCES

- 1 Japan left (Council member)
- 2 League humiliated
- 3 Hitler + Mussolini watched "with interest"

1932

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.

1935

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

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

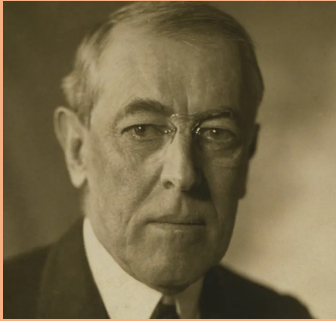
WHY THE LEAGUE FAILED?

- 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.

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

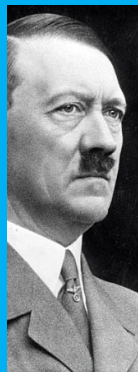
Brit, France, Italy + Japan

They had VETO power

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



Democratic?



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 solutions and **rise of dictators** - Italy, Germany + Japan. These leaders would push the League + help break it.

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.

Manchuria = resources, land, iron, coal.

Japanese regarded the Chinese as sub human. 'Pigs'.



Mukden

1932

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 Fail?



WHY League failed?

- Lack of will to act due to Global Depression.
 - Structural problems - slow to act, no army.
 - 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

Disarmament



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

BUT, other countries refused - e.g. France. Britain signed its own naval agreement with Germany - allowing them to increase ships!

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

1932 - 33

Failed Conferences

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 Fail?

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

FREE SAMPLE RESOURCE

Access the entire 60 + page League of Nations unit
PLUS THOUSANDS more
history teaching resources using the ...

icHistory Full Site Pass Discount.

www.icHistory.com

