

Timeline: Impacts of the Treaty of Versailles



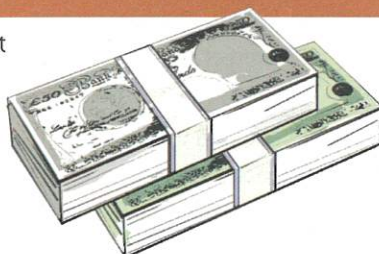
▼ 1920

- The Kapp Putsch – an attempted revolution in Germany



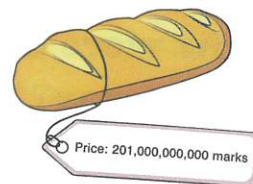
▼ 1921

- Reparations set at £6,600 million



▼ 1923

- January: The Ruhr crisis – France invades Germany to take goods from factories when Germany fails to make a reparations payment; the German government pays workers to strike (so there are no goods for the French to take) and prints off more banknotes to pay them, leading to **hyperinflation**
- November: the Munich Putsch



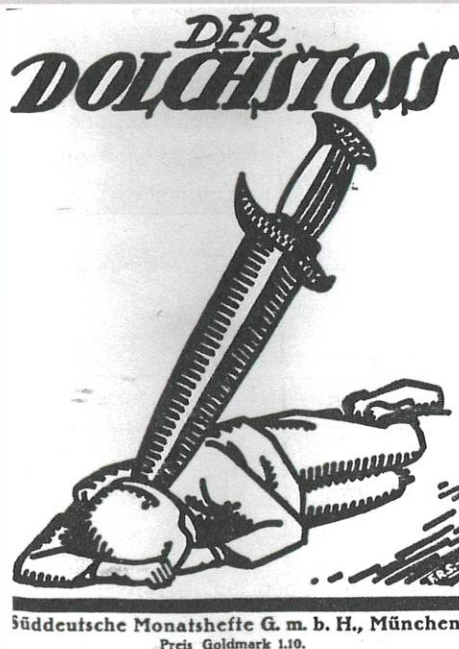
▼ 1924

- USA lends Germany 800 million gold marks in the Dawes Plan



APPLY

SOURCE ANALYSIS



◀ **SOURCE A** From a history book published in Germany in 1924

- Summarise the reasons German people felt they had been treated unfairly in the Treaty of Versailles.
- How did the reparations affect Germany? Try to give examples of the short- and long-term impacts.

c



Source A criticises the German politicians who accepted the Treaty of Versailles. How do you know? Explain your answer using **Source A** and your contextual knowledge.

EXAMINER TIP



First, work out what the source shows. Labelling a couple of the key features might help you to do this in the exam. Then, link these images to what you know about the event. Does the picture link to a specific reason many people in Germany hated the treaty?

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?



'The main reason why Germany hated the Treaty of Versailles was because of its financial terms.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.



RECAP

How were Germany's allies treated at the end of the war?

Germany had fought along with other countries during the First World War, so the peacemakers also had to decide how to treat Germany's allies. The table below outlines what was decided:

Country:	Austria	Bulgaria	Hungary	Turkey
Name of treaty:	Treaty of St Germain	Treaty of Neuilly	Treaty of Trianon	Treaty of Sèvres
Date:	10 September 1919	27 November 1919	4 June 1920	10 August 1920
Land:	Land taken to create new countries Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia	Lost land to Yugoslavia and Greece	Lost land to Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Austria	Split up the Turkish Empire so Turkey lost nearly all its land in Europe
Reparations:	Agreed in principal, but the amount was never fixed	£100 million	Agreed in principal, but the amount was never fixed	None
Military restrictions:	30,000 in army; no conscriptions; no navy	20,000 in army; no conscriptions; no air force; only four battleships	30,000 in army; no conscription; only three patrol boats	50,000 in army; seven sailboats; six torpedo boats
Other terms:	Forbidden to unite with Germany	None	None	Dardanelles and Bosphorus straits were opened to other countries

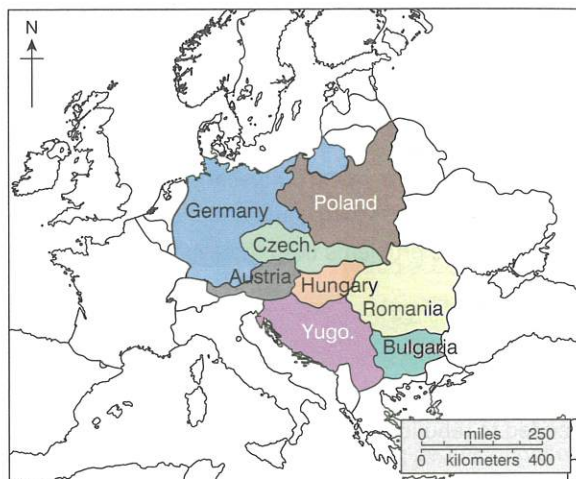
Impact of the treaties and problems faced by new states

- Losing land meant the Austrian and Hungarian economies collapsed in 1921.
- People in Turkey revolted over the Treaty of Sèvres, so the British replaced it with the **Treaty of Lausanne** in July 1923. This was hugely symbolic as it proved that the treaties could not be enforced and showed that Britain was willing to undermine the treaties.
- Rather than being controlled by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, east Europe was now divided into lots of small countries.
- Poland was created from land previously owned by Germany, but this caused lots of problems:
 - Germans living in the new country were unhappy and Russia argued about Poland's eastern borders.
 - Poland had no natural borders, such as mountains or rivers, so it could not be defended easily.
- Germany was split by the **Polish Corridor** – a strip of land that gave Poland access to the sea. This meant that Poland now owned land where German people lived, who were not happy to find that they now had a new nationality. Germany was also split in two, which weakened it and caused much resentment towards Poland.

Europe before 1919



Europe after 1919



APPLY

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?



'The loss of land to create new countries was the main reason for the dissatisfaction of Germany's allies with the peacemakers, 1919 to 1920.'
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

- a Who lost most in the treaties agreed at the end of the First World War? Think carefully about what Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Turkey lost and what the impacts were. Write the country names in the top row of boxes below in order, from the most badly affected to the least.

most badly affected

least badly affected

- b Explain why you decided on this order. Under each country, in the second row of boxes, write a brief explanation of the impact the treaties had on each country.
- c Have a go at the exam question above.

EXAMINER TIP



This activity will help you to think about evidence that could be useful when asked how far you agree with a statement in an exam. An example of such a statement could be: 'Germany was treated more unfairly at the end of the First World War than any of its allies.'

EXAMINER TIP



To get into the highest levels in the mark scheme you need to structure your answer in chronological order, explaining how one event led to another by showing links between your ideas and explaining what the impact of these events was. Make sure that you explain at least two causes that led to crisis.

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

- a Write a one- or two-sentence summary of the problems that each of the treaties signed at the end of the First World War caused.

b



Write an account of how the Treaty of Sèvres led to an international crisis.



RECAP

Assessing the Treaty of Versailles

Ever since the peace treaties were created, there have been strong views about the strengths and weaknesses of them. Some people argue that the treaties were fair and sensible and that the peacemakers did the best they could under difficult circumstances. Others argue that the treaties simply created more problems than they solved.

Strengths

- The war had caused huge amounts of damage, especially in France, so the reparations were needed to rebuild.
- France regained Alsace-Lorraine.
- Many areas had not wanted to be part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Places like Czechoslovakia and Poland were now given independence.



Weaknesses

- New states were created, but Poland was weakened because it was surrounded by enemies with borders that were difficult to defend.
- Austria and Hungary lost so much land that their economies crashed in 1921.
- Lloyd George and Wilson feared that the treaties would lead to another war in the future.
- The Treaty of Lausanne proved that the treaties could not be enforced and showed people like Hitler and Mussolini that Britain was willing to undermine them.
- Neither Clemenceau, Lloyd George nor Wilson were satisfied with the outcome of the treaties; people in Britain and France felt that the treaties should have been harsher, while the people of the USA felt they were too harsh.
- People in some of the defeated countries hated and felt humiliated by the treaties – there were revolts in Germany and Turkey.



SUMMARY

- Many were left unsatisfied with the treaties, including the Big Three: Clemenceau felt the Treaty of Versailles was not harsh enough, while Wilson and Lloyd George thought it was too harsh and would lead to war again in the future.
- People in Germany despised the Treaty of Versailles, in particular the war guilt clause and the reparations.
- Germany's wartime allies were also punished. The terms of the treaties were so harsh that they led to economic collapse in Austria and Hungary, and a revolution in Turkey.
- Historians writing throughout the twentieth century have said that treaties were too harsh, crippling the countries they affected and leaving them bankrupt, divided and vulnerable to attack.
- More recently, some historians have taken a different view, saying that the peacemakers had a very hard job and that they did a good job considering the circumstances.

REVISION SKILLS



When you revise it is a good idea to mix up the topics you are revising. Try to learn the strengths and weaknesses of the treaties off by heart, and when you're confident you know them revise something else (like the actual terms of the Treaty of Versailles), then come back to the strengths and weaknesses.



APPLY

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

- Make two flashcards that order the strengths and weaknesses of the treaties signed at the end of the First World War, according to how important you think they are.
- How did the redistribution of territory lead to problems after 1919?

EXAMINER TIP

Revising the strengths and weaknesses of the treaties could help you if you are asked questions such as: why a cartoon opposes or supports the treaties; how useful two sources are for showing why people opposed or supported the treaties; or how far you agree with a statement about how successful the treaties were.

SOURCE ANALYSIS



SOURCE A A British cartoon from 1919, entitled 'A bitter pill to swallow'



SOURCE B A protest in Kiel, Germany, 1919

SOURCE C Adapted from an article in a German newspaper printed on the day that the Treaty of Versailles was signed, 28 June 1919:

The disgraceful Treaty is being signed today. Don't forget it! We will never stop until we win back what we deserve.

- EXAM QUESTION** Source A opposes the Treaty of Versailles. How do you know? Explain your answer using Source A and your own knowledge.

- EXAM QUESTION** How useful are Sources B and C to a historian studying the German reaction to the Treaty of Versailles?

EXAMINER TIP

Start by breaking down the imagery in the cartoon. Who do the people represent, what are they doing, and what is used to show a negative opinion? Then link the cartoon to what you know about people's opinions about the treaty. Why did Germany find it 'hard to swallow'?

EXAMINER TIP

Make sure you read the question carefully. It asks you about two sources, so it's important that you refer to both of them.



RECAP

The formation of the League of Nations

The formation of the League of Nations was one of Wilson's Fourteen Points. The League's aims were to:

- get countries to collaborate to help to prevent war (**collective security**)
- encourage disarmament
- improve living and working conditions
- tackle deadly diseases.

The League was written into each of the treaties signed at the end of the war, to make people recognise and respect it. Initially 42 countries joined, but countries who lost the First World War, including Germany, were not allowed to join. Russia was not allowed to join because it was Communist. The USA refused to join.

Membership of the League did change over time, with Germany joining the League after agreeing the Locarno Treaty (1925). Russia was allowed to join in 1934, by which time there were 58 member states. Each state sent representatives to the **Assembly**, and had to agree unanimously on an issue before action was taken. Four

powerful countries were permanent members of the **Council**: Britain, France, Italy and Japan. However, although Britain supported the League, it felt that action would be limited. France thought the League could help keep it safe from German attack. The League set up the **Permanent Court of International Justice** in 1920, but it could only advise on arguments and could not forcefully back up verdicts. The League would deal with aggression through its **Covenant**, which included:

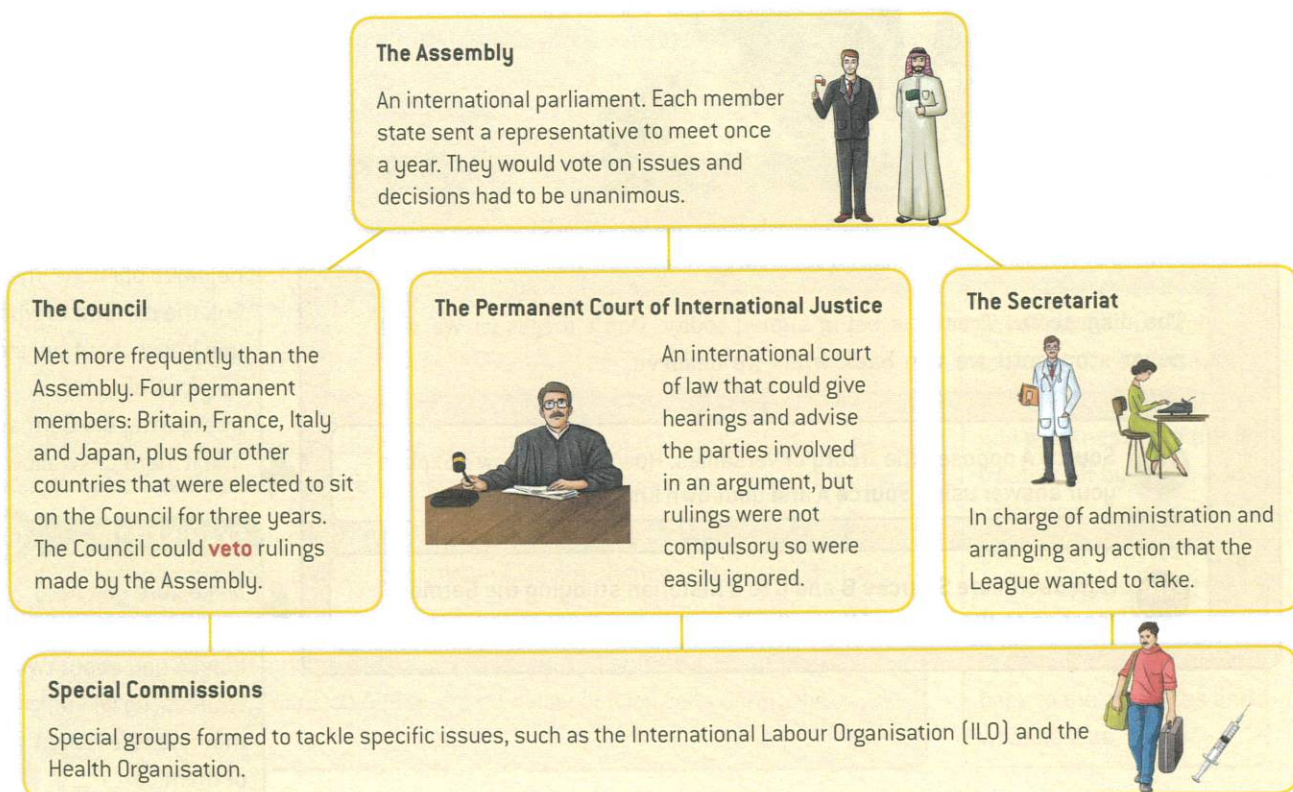
- mitigation
- moral condemnation
- economic sanctions
- military force.

REVISION SKILLS

A mnemonic could help you remember that the League would deal with issues using the '**four Ms**': **Mitigation**, **Moral condemnation**, **Money** and **Military**.

The League included many powerful countries, so these sanctions could be quite intimidating. However, the League did not have an army of its own to enforce its decisions; it relied on its members providing a force.

The structure of the League





APPLY

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?



- a Complete the table below to summarise what the strengths and weaknesses of the structure and organisation of the League were.

Strengths:	Weaknesses:

- b **EXAM QUESTION** 'The structure of the League made it fair and strong.' How far do you agree?

EXAMINER TIP



Make sure you consider and explain both sides of the argument. When answering these types of questions in the exam you should try to use specific evidence to support your ideas. This activity will help you organise the evidence. You should try to link your ideas to specific events that the League was involved in.

SOURCE ANALYSIS

- **SOURCE A** A cartoon entitled 'Muzzled?' published in the London Opinion, September 1919



- a Look at **Source A**. Describe what you can see.
- b **EXAM QUESTION** **Source A** is critical of the League of Nations. How do you know? Explain your answer using **Source A** and your contextual knowledge.

Use the sentence starters and your answer to part **a** to answer the exam question:

I can tell that the source criticises the League because...

This suggests that...

Some people felt that the League would not be able to stop war because...



RECAP

The work of the League's agencies

The League was not only set up to help prevent future conflict. It also used its special agencies and organisations to tackle social and economic issues.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)



AIM: To improve working conditions



In the 1920s, death rate of workers on Tanganyika railway reduced from over 50% to 4%



In 1919, most members refused to stop children under the age of 14 from working as it would be too expensive

Commission for Refugees



AIM: To help people who had lost their homes because of war, by improving refugee camps, helping them to return home, or finding new homes



Helped free around 427,000 of the 500,000 prisoners of war still imprisoned after the First World War



During the 1930s, failed to help Jews trying to flee Nazi Germany

Slavery Commission



AIM: To end slavery



During the 1920s, the League set free 200,000 slaves from Sierra Leone

Economic and Financial Committee



AIM: To improve living conditions



Sent financial advisers to Austria and Hungary to rebuild their economies when they went bankrupt in 1921



Unable to cope with global depression after 1929

Organisation for Communications and Transport



AIM: To improve how countries worked together



Introduced shipping lanes and an international highway code

Health Organisation



AIM: To cure diseases



Sent doctors to help in Turkish refugee camps

Permanent Central Opium Board (became Permanent Central Narcotics Board after 1925)



AIM: To tackle the trade of illegal drugs



Blacklisted four large companies involved in trading drugs illegally



Some countries in the League did not want to stop the trade of opium as they made so much money from it



APPLY

REVISION SKILLS



Keep your revision realistic – you are unlikely to remember every piece of information! Think carefully about the type of questions you might be asked for each topic and ensure you can recall enough evidence when answering these sort of questions. Creating flashcards, similar to those on these pages, is a good way of doing this.

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

Come up with your own acronym or mnemonic to help you remember the different agencies of the League.

EXAMINER TIP



For 'Write an account' exam questions you should include facts and figures to make points stand out and be memorable.

REVISION SKILLS



For longer questions always plan your answer. Aim to write three paragraphs and a conclusion. Jot down a few points to give a shape to your answer, and practise planning answers to questions.

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?



'The League of Nations was successful in achieving its aims of improving working conditions and curing diseases.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Plan your answer to the exam question above by completing the table below:

	Improving working conditions:	Healthcare and curing diseases:
Successes:		
Failures:		

REVIEW



Refer back to pages 26–28 to remind yourself of what the League's aims were.

EXAMINER TIP



In the 'How far do you agree?' exam questions you need to explain two sides of the issue and sustain an overall judgment throughout your answer. Plan your overall judgment – try to think of a 'twist' to your answer, such as considering whether these aims were successfully achieved in the short or long term, or whether the set-up of the League meant that it was always doomed to fail.



RECAP

The contribution of the League to peace in the 1920s

Many problems remained in Europe after the First World War. Europe had changed considerably, and the League had many disputes to solve during the 1920s. How successful was it in solving these?

Success: Åland Islands, 1921

Sweden and Finland both claimed the Åland Islands. The League gave the islands to Finland, but forbid the building of forts on them. Both countries accepted the decision.

Failure and success: Upper Silesia, 1921–25

A **plebiscite** was held to decide whether Upper Silesia, which was on the Germany–Poland border, should be German or Polish. Germany won 60% of the vote, but Poland claimed this had been fixed. The League split Upper Silesia into areas according to how they had voted; Germany complained that Poland got most of the industrial areas and Poland complained that they had around half the population, but only one third of the land. However, both countries did [grudgingly] accept the League's decision, which could be seen as a success.

Failure: Corfu, 1923

An Italian general and his team were murdered while surveying land in Greece. Mussolini demanded compensation and for the murderers to be executed, but Greece did not know who the murderers were so could not do this. Mussolini invaded Corfu. The League condemned Mussolini, but he undermined them by complaining to the Conference of Ambassadors. Greece was forced to apologise to Mussolini and to pay compensation. Mussolini had shown that the League could not enforce justice when one country involved was a larger, stronger country. The League could be ignored or bullied by strong countries.



Failure: Vilna, 1920–21

Vilna was the capital of Lithuania, a new country, but there were many Polish people living there. The Polish army invaded and Lithuania asked the League for help, but the League did nothing as Poland was a strong ally against Germany.

Failure and success: Bulgaria, 1925

Greece invaded Bulgaria when Greek soldiers were killed on the border. The League forced Greece to withdraw and pay compensation. However, this seemed hypocritical since the League had allowed Mussolini, a much more powerful leader, to get away with something very similar in Corfu.

SUMMARY

- The League of Nations was founded to keep world peace through collective security.
- There were problems with how the League was organised, such as the need for a unanimous vote and the fact that countries like Britain and France had too much power.
- During the 1920s, the League was successful in dealing with humanitarian issues, such as refugees, and when negotiating with small countries.
- However, if a strong country like Italy wanted to ignore the League, they could, and Britain and France could undermine the League if it suited them.



APPLY

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

- a** In what ways can the League be seen to have been successful in the 1920s?

The League could be seen as successful in Upper Silesia because ...

The League could be seen as successful in the Åland Islands because ...

The League could be seen as successful in Bulgaria because ...

- b** In what ways can the League be seen to have failed in the 1920s?

The League could be seen to have failed in Vilna because ...

The League could be seen to have failed in Upper Silesia because ...

The League could be seen to have failed in Corfu because ...

The League could be seen to have failed in Bulgaria because ...

c



Write an account of how the League of Nations failed to keep peace in Europe throughout the 1920s.

EXAMINER TIP



Make sure you explain how and why the League failed in each event. The examiner wants to know not only what happened, but also why the League was unable to resolve things. You have practised this skill in parts **a** and **b**. Try to structure your answer in chronological order.

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?



You might be asked whether you agree that the League was successful (or not) during the 1920s. Create a flashcard to help you plan how you would answer this type of question.

REVIEW



The effects of the Great Depression are another reason for the failure of the League in the 1930s. Look ahead to Chapter 6 to remind yourself of how this global event had an impact on the work of the League of Nations.



RECAP

International agreements

Certain countries made a number of agreements between themselves during the 1920s, including countries that were not members of the League, such as the USA. It is possible that these nations were simply trying to find as many different ways as possible to secure peace – or, perhaps, that they had little faith in the League's ability to uphold it.

Locarno Treaties

Who? France and Germany, represented by their **foreign ministers** Briand and Stresemann

When? 1925

Where? Locarno, Switzerland

What?

- The two enemies agreed to work together peacefully.
- Germany accepted the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Other countries like Britain and Italy also signed and each country agreed not to go to war with each other; if one country broke the treaties the others would support the country that was invaded.



Why wasn't the League involved?

- Germany suggested the treaties and it was not part of the League.

Why were the treaties significant?

- It seemed as if Germany was accepting the Treaty of Versailles, especially the terms about territory, and trying to become a peaceful nation.
- Relationships between countries, especially France and Germany, improved – this paved the way to Germany being allowed to join the League of Nations.
- The League should have been leading the way on such an important agreement, especially since it involved two of the League's powerful members; Britain and France.

Kellogg-Briand Pact

Who? 65 countries, including Germany, France and the USA

When? 1928

Where? Paris, France

What?

- The countries agreed war would not be used to solve disputes between them.



Why wasn't the League involved?

- Germany and the USA were not members.

Why was the treaty significant?

- The fact that the League was not involved made it look like it was a place to talk, not for actual solutions, and this damaged its reputation.

Other agreements

Washington Arms Conference (or the Washington Naval Conference), 1921–22



- Major countries like Britain, the USA, Japan and France agreed the maximum size of their navies.
- The League was not the one pushing for disarmament, and countries like Britain and France attended independently of the League.

Rapallo Treaty, 1922

- Germany and Russia agreed to work together.
- The League was not involved as Germany and Russia were not members.



SUMMARY

- The League of Nations should have been at the forefront of any international agreements that encouraged peace or disarmament. However, during the 1920s many international agreements were signed without the League, which damaged its reputation.
- While the USA, Russia and Germany were not in the League it meant that it could not be at the forefront of international politics, so its success would be limited. Russia and Germany did eventually join, but left in the 1930s.



APPLY

SOURCE ANALYSIS

- ▼ **SOURCE A** *Adapted from a speech given by Fridtjof Nansen at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in 1926; Nansen had won the prize in 1922 for his work helping refugees and was presenting the prize to Briand and Stresemann for creating the Locarno Treaties:*

The Locarno agreements mark a radical and complete change in European politics, transforming the relations between the former antagonists in the war and infusing them with an entirely new spirit. This spirit derives from the almost previously unknown attempt to base politics on the principle of mutual friendship and trust.

- ▼ **SOURCE B** *A picture of the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact from a French magazine published in August 1928*



- Look at **Sources A** and **B** and highlight or write down anything that tells you what the Locarno Treaties and the Kellogg-Briand Pact achieved.
- Why was it important that the League was not involved in these treaties?
- Use your answers to parts **a** and **b** to answer the exam question below.



Study **Source A** and **B**. How useful are **Sources A** and **B** to a historian studying the League of Nations? Explain your answer using **Sources A** and **B** and your contextual knowledge.

EXAMINER TIP



First, use the content of each source, linked to your own knowledge, to explain what it tells us about the League of Nations. Then use the provenance – think about **TAPAS**: Time, Author, Purpose, Audience, Site (where was the source created?) to work out how useful the sources are. You should presume that the sources are useful – don't write about things that the sources don't tell you about the League: no source can tell you everything!

The collapse of the League



RECAP

The League of Nations had some successes in the 1920s. However, in the 1930s it failed to perform its main role as a peacekeeping force. In particular, the League failed to act against the aggressiveness of Japan, Italy and Germany.

The Manchurian crisis

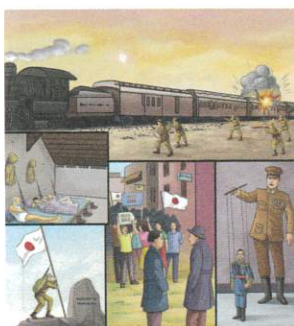
Causes

- In 1929, the **Wall Street Crash** started the **Great Depression**. Japan suffered greatly; its main export was silk, a luxury item that most people could not afford during the Depression.
- Japan became more militaristic – the government looked for land to invade, thinking it would give them more natural resources. Manchuria, in north China, was rich in natural resources.
- Japan already had industry and a railway there so it looked like an ideal place to invade.



Events

18 September 1931: The **Mukden Incident**. An explosion occurred on the Japanese-owned South Manchurian Railway. Japan blamed China but the Chinese denied that they were involved.



February 1932: The

Japanese government had wanted friendship with Manchuria but the army ignored this and invaded it. When the people reacted positively the government decided not to stop the army's invasion. Soon a 'puppet leader' (one Japan could control) was put in charge of Manchuria.



Japan ignored the League. There was very little the League could do without its own army, and its members didn't want to send their own armies so far away. Economic sanctions would be useless as Japan's main trade partner, the USA, was not part of the League.



March 1932: China appealed to the League, which was reluctant to act: Japan was one of its leading members and Manchuria was far from Europe, where the League was based. The League did, however, issue a moral condemnation.

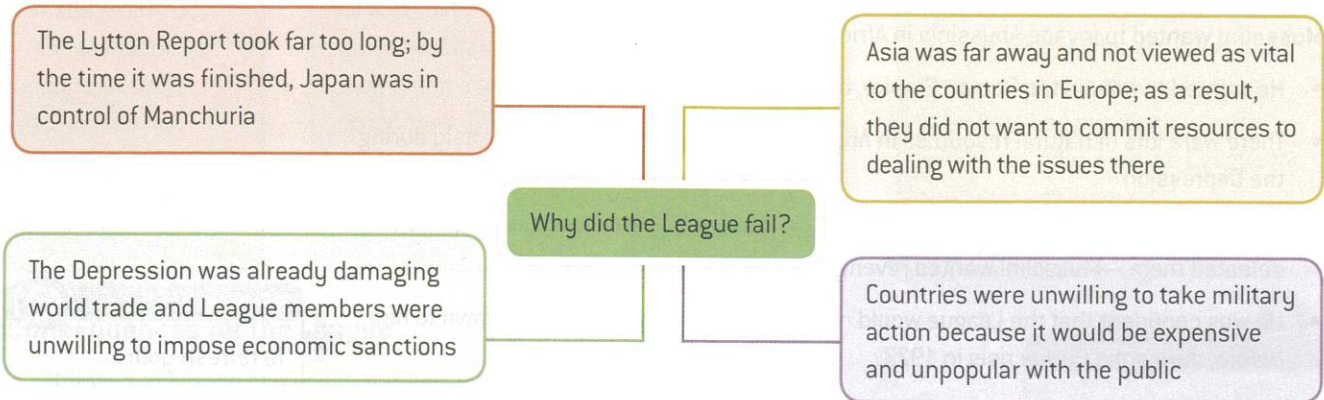


April 1932: The League sent British politician Lord Lytton to investigate; he took nearly a year to write his report (published in October 1932), by which time Japan had invaded Manchuria. Lytton concluded that Japan was in the wrong, but Japan ignored the report, left the League, and went on to occupy more Chinese territory from 1933 to 1937.



Consequences:

- One of the League's own members had ignored its moral condemnation and instructions to withdraw.
- Without an army of its own the League was powerless.
- However, most people continued to have faith in the League – they thought that if a similar event happened in Europe then the League would be able to deal with it.
- Other militaristic countries like Italy and Germany saw how powerless the League of Nations really was.



APPLY

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

- a** Explain how each of the following factors led to the League's failure to resolve the Manchurian crisis:

Great Depression	
League did not have its own army	
Membership of the League	
Japan undermining the League	

- b** Write an account of how events in Manchuria led to an international crisis between 1931 and 1933.

Look at the exam question above. Plan your answer by writing four or five headings that summarise what happened. These should be in chronological order and will form the paragraphs of your answer. Then, use your answers to part **a** to make notes on the detail that each paragraph will cover.

EXAMINER TIP



You need to explain the causes and consequences of these events, showing how each step led to an increase in tension. Start with the effect the Depression had on Japan and how this led to the decision to invade Manchuria. Then, move on to explaining the Mukden Incident and the League's reaction. Finally, think about Japan's reaction to the League, and how the League was powerless to stop Japan's invasion of China. If you can demonstrate how each of these factors led to the next, you will be more likely to achieve Level 4.

REVIEW

In order to give a more detailed explanation of how the Depression led to the downfall of the League in areas other than the Manchurian crisis, look ahead to pages 38–39.

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?



'The main consequence of the Manchurian crisis was that the League's reputation remained intact.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.



RECAP

The Abyssinian crisis

While the crisis in Manchuria continued, the League had to deal with invasion of the African nation of Abyssinia in 1935.

Causes

Mussolini wanted to invade Abyssinia in Africa for a number of reasons:

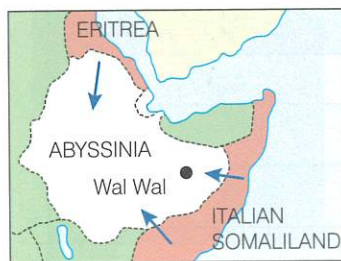
- He wanted to rebuild the Roman Empire, by invading other countries.
- There were lots of natural resources in Abyssinia, which would be useful for Italy during the Depression.
- In 1896, Italy had tried to invade Abyssinia and was humiliated when this poor country defeated them – Mussolini wanted revenge.
- He was confident that the League would not stop him as they had backed down to him before, during the Corfu crisis in 1923.
- In 1935, Britain and France signed an agreement with Italy to form the **Stresa Front**. Mussolini did not think Britain or France would endanger the new agreement by trying to stop him in Abyssinia.

REVIEW

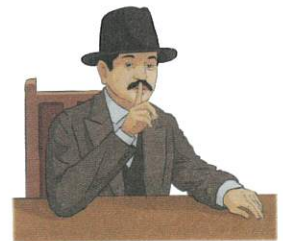
To refresh your knowledge of the Corfu crisis see page 30.

Events

December 1934: Italian troops clashed with Abyssinians at Wal Wal. The League failed to stop Mussolini, who was intent on war.



January 1935: The French foreign minister, Pierre Laval, made a secret agreement with Italy: Mussolini could deal with Abyssinia however he wanted and France would not interfere.



October 1935: Italian troops entered Abyssinia. The League condemned the invasion, but Mussolini ignored them and even used chemical weapons.



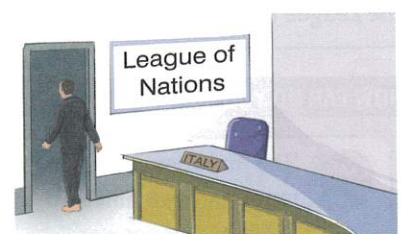
30 June 1935: The Abyssinian emperor, **Haile Selassie**, addressed the League, but still the League did nothing.



5 May 1936: Italian troops entered the capital, Addis Ababa.



May 1936: Italy left the League of Nations.



Why did the League fail?

Britain and France didn't close the Suez Canal (which would have made it difficult for Mussolini to get troops to Abyssinia) because they didn't want to upset Mussolini.

When the League imposed trade sanctions on Italy it failed to ban steel, oil and coal as it felt this would damage their member's economies. These were resources that Mussolini needed for the invasion.

The League banned sales of arms to Abyssinia, which left them defenceless.

The **Hoare-Laval Pact** was a secret agreement suggested by the British and French foreign ministers. They wanted to give Mussolini land in Abyssinia. The pact was leaked by the press and there was public outcry; leading members had proven they were willing to undermine the League for their own self-interest.

Consequences for the League

- Britain and France showed that they cared more about their own interests.
- Small countries knew the League could and would do nothing to protect them. From this time onwards, almost no one regarded the League as a serious or powerful organisation.



APPLY

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?

- Make a series of flashcards that help you to memorise the causes, events and consequences of the Abyssinian crisis.
- 'The Abyssinian crisis was the main reason the League of Nations failed.' How far do you agree with this statement? Plan an answer for this question. Decide what evidence you would use for each side of the argument, and consider your overall judgment.
- Use your plan for part **b** to write a full answer to the question.

REVISION SKILLS

Remember to be realistic when making flashcards. Don't include too much information. Bullet points, images and mnemonics/acronyms can all help you to remember things when you use your flashcards to self-test.

EXAMINER TIP

Be careful when explaining the factors that led to the collapse of the League – you need to think about how these weakened it. Use details of what happened to support your ideas, but don't simply describe what happened.

SOURCE ANALYSIS

SOURCE A A British cartoon from 1935; the men on the left are Hoare and Laval

- What event is this source about? Write down three facts about this event.
- Why did this event make the League look bad?



- EXAM QUESTION** Source A is critical of the League of Nations. How do you know? Explain your answer using Source A and your contextual knowledge.

EXAMINER TIP





Remember to link your answer to your own knowledge. What do you know about these events that would support the cartoonist's view?



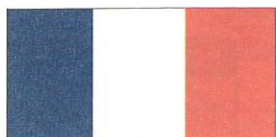
RECAP

Did the Manchurian and Abyssinian crises lead to the collapse of the League?

Most historians agree that the League's inability to deal with the Manchurian and Abyssinian crises meant it was a failure, and that it had collapsed as a peace-keeping organisation. How can these two events be used as evidence of the League's failings?

Why did the League collapse?	Evidence from the Manchurian crisis	Evidence from the Abyssinian crisis
The Depression 	<p>Japan's main export was silk – a luxury item that people did not buy during the Depression, so the Japanese economy crashed</p> <p>Japan wanted to invade Manchuria because it was rich in natural resources</p> <p>The government in Japan was not popular – seizing land in Manchuria made the government appear strong and the victories against the Chinese took people's minds off the Depression</p>	<p>Mussolini came to power promising to rebuild the Roman Empire – invading Abyssinia was a distraction from what was going wrong in Italy</p> <p>Britain failed to inflict effective trade sanctions on Italy – they worried that banning the trade of coal would lead to further unemployment in Britain</p> <p>There were lots of natural resources in Abyssinia</p>
The League was powerless without an army 	<p>When Japan ignored the League's warnings there was nothing the League could do</p>	<p>Mussolini used chemical weapons on the Abyssinians, who were left defenceless by the League</p>
Economic sanctions did not work 	<p>Many members of the League felt that as the USA was Japan's main trade partner, economic sanctions would not have a major impact; therefore no sanctions were imposed on Japan</p>	<p>The League banned the sale of weapons to Abyssinia as well as Italy; this left their army with only basic weapons</p> <p>France and Britain failed to ban goods that Italy would need to invade, such as coal and oil</p>
The League lacked important world powers such as the USA, the USSR and Germany 	<p>Many European powers felt that Manchuria was too far away to deal with</p> <p>As the USA was not a member of the League, Japan would not lose its main trade partner if the League imposed economic sanctions</p>	<p>Britain and France wanted to keep Mussolini on side as they saw him as an ally against Hitler</p>

Britain and France dominated the League



The dominating countries of the League were based in Europe and were reluctant to get involved in a matter so far away

Britain sent Lord Lytton to investigate for the League, but he took too long – his report took many months to write by which time Japan had completed its invasion. As one of the dominating forces of the League, Britain had failed to act with enough speed, which made Japan's invasion easier

Britain and France both had huge empires in Africa, so Mussolini felt they could not object to him taking colonies there too

Britain and France failed to close the Suez Canal, which could have halted his invasion

Mussolini was seen as an ally against Hitler, so Britain and France proposed the Hoare-Laval Pact which undermined the League



APPLY

WRITE AN ACCOUNT

Create a series of illustrated flashcards that shows the sequence of events of either the Manchurian or Abyssinian crisis.

EXAMINER TIP



You need to ensure you are familiar with the chronology and key events of each of these two crises, as you may be asked to write an account of them in an exam.

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?

In the exam, you could be asked about the main reason why the League failed. You will need to explain your answer. Practise doing this with the activity below.

- a** Write a PEE [Point, Evidence, Explanation] paragraph explaining how Britain and France's dominance in the League led to it failing. Use these sentence starters to help:

The League failed because Britain and France dominated it, and they put their self interests first. For example ...

This meant that the League failed because...

- b** Now do the same, explaining why the Depression led to the collapse of the League, but this time without the sentence starters.
- c** Explain how the way the League was structured led to its collapse.

EXAMINER TIP



In the exam, students are often good at remembering the events of the Manchurian and Abyssinian crises and how the League reacted, but do not always develop their answers by explaining how and why these events demonstrate the failure of the League. Make sure you explain how these events made the League look weak, or undermined its authority.



RECAP

The Depression and the rise of extremist parties

- In October 1929, the US economy crashed. The USA had lent money to many countries during the First World War and to help them rebuild after the war: therefore, when the USA went bust – so did everyone else.
- The Depression brought with it vast unemployment, homelessness and starvation on a global scale. In these desperate times people started to lose confidence in their governments and to demand change.
- Many were won over by the promises of dictators such as Hitler, who came to power in 1933. He had vowed to make Germany great again by invading other countries, which he promised would end the Depression by providing employment in weapons factories and the army.
- In Japan, the army took over the country; Stalin controlled the USSR; and in Italy Mussolini was dictator.

REVIEW



There is more specific detail about Hitler's promises and how they led to war on page 42.

The failure of the League to avert war in 1939

- People turned to extremism and militarism in the hope of rebuilding their countries' economies, and this meant that these countries were less likely to support the League's aims of cooperation and peace. For example, Hitler stormed out of the League's disarmament conference in 1933.
- Hitler and Mussolini promised glory for their countries by waging war. They were not afraid of the League's moral condemnation, and governments could not impose trade sanctions as their economies were also weak due to the Depression, and they could not afford to lose deals.
- The only action Hitler and Mussolini could not have ignored was sending in an army, but of course the League did not have armed forces of its own and other countries could not afford to lend theirs in this time of Depression.
- In this climate, war became more and more likely and the League was powerless to stop it.

SUMMARY

- The Manchurian crisis made the League look inefficient and ineffective.
- Britain and France undermined the League during the Abyssinian crisis. By the end of the crisis no one really respected the League.
- The Depression meant that the League faced dictators who were determined to start wars. The League had always been fragile, but against determined aggressors like Hitler and Mussolini it stood no chance.



APPLY

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE?



'The main reason the League of Nations failed was the Depression.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

- a The table below gives reasons for the League's failure. Add **evidence** from your own knowledge by writing in an event that proves that each reason led to failure.

Point:	Evidence:	Explanation:
Depression		

