

## The Treaty of Versailles

**Armistice** - 11th Nov 1918 - ceasefire WWI, terms of treaty to be agreed later

### Paris Peace Conference (Jan - Dec 1919):

Big 3:

- **David Lloyd George - UK** 
  - Elected as promised to 'Make Germany pay', many wanted revenge
  - Cautious as too harsh = Germany wanting revenge
  - Wanted to protect British Empire
  - Germany could be good for trade if allowed to rebuild
- **George Clemenceau - France** 
  - Fighting in France
  - Wanted to cripple Germany
  - French wanted revenge
  - Needed money to rebuild
- **Woodrow Wilson - USA** 
  - No fighting in USA
  - Made lots of money from selling weapons
  - Didn't see need for revenge
  - Wilson = idealist, everyone treated fairly and wanted League of Nations to be setup
  - Self-determination - countries freedom to rule themselves
  - 14 points

#### Compromise

- Time
- Need money fast to rebuild
- Europe unstable and changing
- Empires breaking up
- Threat of Communism - Russian Tsar and family murdered

### The Treaty of Versailles (June 1919) - Terms:

**G - Guilt** - had to accept responsibility for the war (Clause 231)

**A - armed forces reduced** - 100,000 soldiers, 6 battleships, no tanks, no air force, no submarines, Rhineland demilitarised

**R - Reparations** - agreed 1921 at £6.6 billion (60 years to repay)

**G - German territories** - Alsace Lorraine, Upper Silesia, German colonies, 13% land, 10% population

**LE - League of Nations** - Germany was not allowed to join

#### **Reactions to Treaty of Versailles:**

- During 1920s and 1930s attitudes were largely that the Treaty of Versailles was too harsh
- After WW2 attitudes changed - Germany had been able to rebuild etc. but view influenced by events of WW2 and the rise of Hitler.



**Britain** - Lloyd George = hero, public felt it was fair but could have been harsher. Pleased with gaining colonies and that could rule the waves without competition.

**France** - Clemenceau - public wanted it harsher, angry that Germany were able to keep an army.

**USA** - Wilson - unfair on Germany making Britain and France more powerful, couldn't join League of Nations as US government wouldn't accept the treaty. Not based on 14 points. Wilson = devastated.

**Germany** - shocked by harshness, hated the guilt clause (231), economy in ruins, lost natural resources (income), vulnerable to attack. Diktat - dictated, no choice but to sign

### Was the Treaty of Versailles fair?

<u>For (Fair)</u> 	<u>Against (unfair)</u> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most devastating war ever</li> <li>• Normal for losers to sign treaty</li> <li>• Time pressure - peacemakers did best they could</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too harsh - caused another war (revenge)</li> <li>• Punished the unborn (60 years to pay reparations)</li> <li>• Causes of war = complex, guilt clause unfair?</li> <li>• German families pushed off their land as now ruled by different country</li> <li>• Left vulnerable to attack</li> <li>• Crippled economy - caused hyperinflation</li> <li>• Diktat - no choice but to sign</li> <li>• Not based on 14 points</li> <li>• Allies not treated as harshly and Turkey threatened war leading to their treaty being largely reversed.</li> </ul>

### Treatment of Germany's Allies

#### • **Austria: The Treaty of St Germain - 10th Sept 1919**

- **Land:** lost land to Italy, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Poland, most of industry lost in the land given to Czechoslovakia. Economy collapsed in 1921.
- **Reparations:** Amount never fixed, but told to pay reparations.
- **Military restrictions:** 30,000 soldiers, no conscription, no navy.
- **Other terms:** Austria was forbidden from uniting with Germany

#### • **Bulgaria: The Treaty of Neuilly - 27th Nov 1919**

- **Land:** lost land to Yugoslavia, Greece and Romania. It however gained land from Turkey.
- **Reparations:** £100 million.
- **Military restrictions:** 20,000 soldiers, no conscription, no air force, only 4 battleships.

#### • **Hungary: The Treaty of Trianon - 4th June 1920**

- **Land:** lost to Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Austria.
- **Reparations:** Amount not fixed. Economy collapsed so not paid.
- **Military restrictions:** 30,000 soldiers, no conscription, only allowed 3 patrol boats.

#### • **Turkey: The Treaty of Sévres - 10th Aug 1920**

- **Land:** lost to Greece, Empire split up
- **Military restrictions:** 50,000 soldiers, only 7 sail boats and 6 torpedo boats
- **Other:** Open waterways from the Mediterranean to Black Sea (Dardanelles and the Bosphorus Straits).

#### • **Turkey: The Treaty of Lausanne - July 1923**

- **Land:** regained from Greece
- **Military restrictions:** Decide own armed forces
- **Other:** Given back rights over waterways from the Mediterranean to Black Sea

# League of Nations

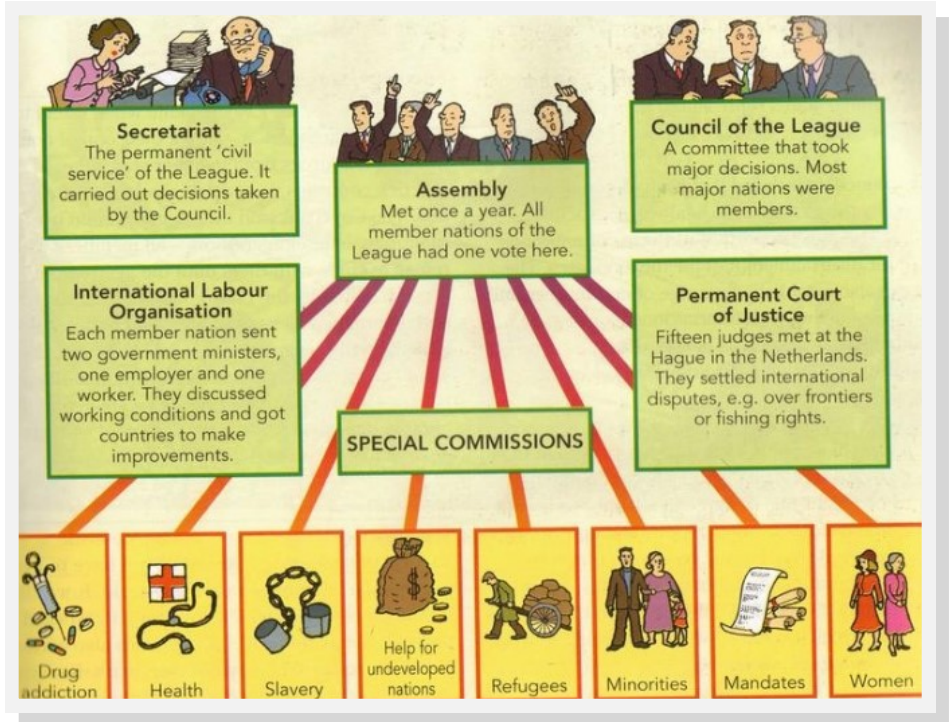
The League of Nations was created in 1919 at the Paris Peace Conference (where the Treaty of Versailles was created) as an attempt to get nations together to discuss problems and work out their differences peacefully.

What were the aims of the League?

- Prevent wars
- Encourage disarmament
- Improve working conditions
- Tackle deadly diseases

Facts about the League:

- ⇒ 42 members in 1919
- ⇒ 58 members by 1934
- ⇒ 4 permanent members of the Council who made all the big decisions - Britain, France, Italy and Japan
- ⇒ USA didn't join
- ⇒ Based in Geneva, Switzerland
- ⇒ Locarno Treaty in 1926 allowed Germany to join
- ⇒ It did not have its own army



How would it work?

**Collective security:** countries would work together to make sure peace was kept and the interests of every nation were looked at

**Permanent Court of International Justice:** setup to establish international laws. If countries were following the same laws there was less chance of them disagreeing.

**Covenant:** set out how the League would deal with aggression.

- **Mitigation** - get countries together to talk it through
- **Moral condemnation** - a good telling off
- **Economic sanctions** - members of the League would not trade with them

<p><b>1920: Vilna</b> Poland and Lithuania were both created following WWI. Vilna = capital of Lithuania, but majority of people spoke Polish. Polish army took Vilna. The League told Poland to leave, but they refused. League did nothing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">👎</p>	<p><b>1921-25: Upper Silesia</b> Region of valuable industry. Referendum held to decide whether to be ruled by Poland or Germany. Germany win (60%) but League suggests dividing between two. Both accept, but neither happy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">👎</p>	<p><b>1921: Åland Islands</b> Island between Finland and Sweden. Belonged to Finland but many on it wanted to be ruled by Sweden. The League decided it should remain Finnish. Both sides accepted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">👍</p>	<p><b>1923: Corfu</b> Greek island occupied by Italy in 1923 in response to an Italian diplomat being shot dead in Greece. 1st. The League asked Italy to leave and fined the Greeks, which Italy ignored. League changed its mind and asked Greece for compensation and to apologise. Greece obeyed and Italy withdrew.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">👍</p>	<p><b>1925: Bulgaria</b> Invaded by Greece after border disputes. League ordered Greece to withdraw, which they did.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">👍</p>
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## Wall Street Crash - 1929 → Great Depression

Countries less willing to help others as have own problems with e.g. poverty

<p><b>Manchurian Crisis</b> Japan took over Manchuria (part of China) following an attack on their railway in the area. The League sent Lord Lytton to investigate and he produced the Lytton Report, which said Japan was wrong. The League didn't do anything else. Japan refused to accept the report and withdrew from the League in 1933. In 1937 Japan invaded the rest of China and the League did nothing to stop it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">👎</p>	<p><b>Abyssinia Crisis</b> Oct 1935 - Abyssinia was invaded by Italy under Mussolini. Abyssinia appealed to the League, who imposed economic sanctions. Britain and France didn't close the Suez canal to Italian ships so supplies got through despite the sanctions. Member the League didn't want a war with Italy. They wanted them as an ally against Hitler. (Secret agreement with Britain and France, Hoare-Lavel Pact, to give Italy Abyssinia). League was ignored. May 1936 Italy had conquered Abyssinia.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">👎</p>
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# WW2

## Conflict and Tension Summary: Steps to War

### Why did Britain follow a policy of Appeasement?

- Treaty of Versailles seen as too harsh
- War costs lots of money and lives, so should be avoided
- Hitler's actions gave people what they wanted e.g. Anschluss was popular in Austria
- People of Britain didn't want war
- USA would not support Britain and France in a war
- British rearmament did not start until 1936, they were not ready for war

### Why did WW2 break out?

- Weaknesses of the League
- Fear of Communism
- American Isolationism
- Great Depression
- Nazi Soviet Pact
- Appeasement



### Hitler's aims (LOADER):

- Lebensraum
- Overturn Versailles
- Unite German speaking people
- Destroy communism
- Expand Germany territory
- Rearmament



**Germany invades Poland - September 1939:** German troops invaded and Poland was overrun in 4 weeks. Britain declared war on Germany when they refused to leave.

**Nazi Soviet Pact - August 1939:** A 'non aggression pact' between Germany and USSR. Secret parts were to invade and divide countries in the east.

**Hitler takes the rest of Czechoslovakia - March 1939:** Hitler's troops invade the rest of Czechoslovakia going against what he had promised at the Munich Agreement.

**German troops invade and occupy the Sudetenland - October 1938:** Unlike in the Rhineland and Austria the Czechs saw this as a real invasion and tried to defend themselves.

**Sudetenland Crisis - September 1938:** Often known as the Munich Crisis / Agreement where British PM, Chamberlain agreed to allow Hitler to take the Sudetenland, part of Czechoslovakia with lots of

**Anschluss with Austria - March 1938:** Austrian Chancellor, Schuschnigg was bullied into agreeing to allow a greater German presence in Austria. Hitler's troops marched in and took over.

**Italy and Germany form the Anti Comintern Pact - November 1937:** Originally an alliance between Germany and Japan, but Italy join in 1937 in an agreement to fight Communism internationally.

**Germany helped General Franco in the Spanish Civil War - starts July 1936:** Hitler sent in air strikes and armored units against the government

**Rhineland Remilitarized - March 1936:** ToFV made the Rhineland demilitarized. Hitler's troops entered, many riding on bicycles and were greeted with flowers from the civilians living there.

**Anglo-German Naval Agreement - June 1935:** Britain signed an agreement allowing Germany to have a navy that was 35% of the size of Britain's.

**Rearmament - March 1935:** Hitler held a military rally, which announced that he had been rearming. He also started to develop a Luftwaffe (air force).

**The Saar Plebiscite - 13th January 1935:** Saar had been controlled by the LofNs. The plebiscite was a vote to decide who should control the area. 90% voted for Germany.

**The Dollfuss Affair - 1934:** The Austrian Chancellor, Dollfuss, banned the Nazi Party in Austria. Hitler ordered Nazis to cause havoc in Austria, which led to the murder of Dollfuss.

**Hitler leaves the Disarmament conference - 1933:** LofNs held a conference aiming for all nations to disarm. When France refused Hitler walked out and Germany left the LofNs.

