

**Paper 1**  
**Section A and B**  
**International Relations Part 1 1919-39**

Key Question 1: Were the Peace Treaties of 1919-23 fair?

What were the motives and aims of the Big Three at Versailles?

Why did all the victors not get everything they wanted?

What was the immediate impact of the peace treaty on Germany up to 1923?

Could the treaties be justified at the time?

Key Question 2: To what extent was the League of Nations a success?

How successful was the League in the 1920s?

How far did the Depression make the work of the League more difficult?

Why did the League fail over Manchuria and Abyssinia?

Key Question 3: Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?

What were the long-term consequences of the peace treaties of 1919-23?

What were the consequences of the failures of the League in the 1930s?

How far was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of war in 1939?

Was the policy of appeasement justified?

How important was the Nazi Soviet Pact?

Why did Britain and France declare war on Germany in September 1939?

N.B Paper 1 is worth 40% of your final mark.

It is 2 hours long.

There are three sections.

Section A will be a source based question based on International Relations.

There will be a choice of two one from IR 1919-39 the other from IR 1945-89, you only have to do one.

Section B will be questions on a topic from the same periods. You have to do one question from a choice of four. Two will be from IR 1919-39 and two from 1945-89.

Section C will be on Weimar and Nazi Germany and will contain both source based questions and written questions.

For this section you are likely to be asked to

- a) Explain a message of a cartoon
- b) Explain why something happened
- c) Give facts
- d) Weigh up an interpretation, or say how successful something was.

# Practice Questions for GCSE Paper 1, Section B

## (Core Content: International Relations, 1919 - 1939)

You should spend about 35 minutes on each question

- 1 (a) What territorial changes and restrictions did the Treaty of Versailles impose on Germany?  
[territorial - concerning **land**] [4]
- (b) Why were many Germans so upset with the terms of the Treaty of Versailles when they were published in May 1919? [6]
- (c) "The Peace Treaties of 1919-23 completely ignored the principle of national self-determination." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 2 (a) What limits did the Treaty of Versailles place on Germany's military strength? [4]
- (b) Why did the victorious powers want to limit Germany's strength? [6]
- (c) "The **most** important reason why Germany hated the Treaty of Versailles was the military restrictions." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3 (a) What did France want to gain from the Treaty of Versailles? [4]
- (b) Why was the former Austrian Empire so harshly dealt with in the peace settlement which followed World War I? [6]
- (c) "The **most** important clause of the Treaty of Versailles for keeping the peace was the limit to Germany's armed forces." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4 (a) What were the main aims of the League of Nations? [4]
- (b) Explain why the League of Nations had some successes in the 1920s. [6]
- (c) 'The following were all **equally important** reasons for the failure of the League of Nations as a peace-keeping organisation:
- (i) the USA's refusal to join;
- (ii) the consequences of the Wall Street Crash;
- (iii) the aggressive nationalism of Germany, Italy and Japan.'
- Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer, referring to (i), (ii) and (iii) [10]
- 5 (a) What successes did the League of Nations enjoy in the 1920s? [4]
- (b) Why did some countries remain outside the League in the 1930s? [6]
- (c) "The **most** important reason for the League's failure in the 1930s was the impact of the Great Depression." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 6 (a) What peace-keeping successes did the League of Nations have in the 1920s? [4]
- (b) Why did the League fail to stop Japan's conquest of Manchuria? [6]
- (c) "The League of Nations failed because in the 1930s most countries were only concerned with their own interests." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

- 7 (a) What were Hitler's aims in his foreign policy? [4]  
 (b) Why did the League of Nations fail to stop Hitler's aggression? [6]  
 (c) "The **most** important reason why Hitler had success in foreign policy was the policy of appeasement." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 8 (a) What was Hitler's attitude to the Treaty of Versailles? [4]  
 (b) How did Hitler's attitude to the Treaty of Versailles affect his foreign policy in the 1930s? [6]  
 (c) "The following were all **equally important** reasons for the success of German foreign policy in the 1930s:  
 (i) Hitler's leadership;  
 (ii) the weakness of the League of Nations;  
 (iii) the policy of appeasement."  
 Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer, referring to **(i)**, **(ii)** and **(iii)**. [10]
- 9 (a) What were the main aims of Hitler's foreign policy in the 1930s? [4]  
 (b) Why did Neville Chamberlain agree to give the Sudetenland to Germany in September 1938? [6]  
 (c) "The war that broke out in September 1939 was Hitler's war: he wanted it, he planned it." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 10 (a) What was the reparations settlement demanded by the Allies in the Treaty of Versailles? [4]  
 (b) Explain why the Allies punished Germany in the Treaty of Versailles. [6]  
 (c) "The **most** important reason why Germany hated the Treaty of Versailles was the loss of territory." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]  
 [1999]
- 11 (a) What were the functions of the Assembly and of the Council of the League of Nations? [4]  
 (b) Explain why some major nations were not members of the League when it was first set up. [6]  
 (c) "The **most** important reason why the League was weak was that it made decisions very slowly." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]  
 [1999]
- 12 (a) The League of Nations had successes and failures in the 1920s. Give examples of two cases which show the League to have been successful and two cases in which the League failed. [4]  
 (b) Why did Japan invade Manchuria in 1931? [6]  
 (c) "The following were all **equally important** reasons for the failure of the League of Nations as a peace keeping organization:  
 (i) The USA's refusal to join;  
 (ii) The consequences of the Wall Street Crash;  
 (iii) The aggressive nationalism of Germany, Japan and Italy."  
 Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer, referring to **(i)**, **(ii)** and **(iii)**. [10]

- 13 (a) What were Hitler's foreign policy aims? [4]  
(b) Why did the Allies follow a policy of appeasement? [6]  
(c) "Hitler was solely to blame for the outbreak of war in 1939." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 14 (a) What limits did the Treaty of Versailles place on Germany's armed forces? [4]  
(b) Explain what Wilson hoped to achieve at the Paris Peace Conference. [6]  
(c) How far was Clemenceau satisfied with the Treaty of Versailles? Explain your answer. [10]  
[2000]
- 15 (a) In what ways did Hitler increase the strength of Germany's armed forces in the 1930s? [4]  
(b) Explain why the British government appeased Germany in the 1930s. [6]  
(c) Did the policy of appeasement during the 1930s make war more or less likely? Explain your answer. [10]  
[2000]
- 16 (a) In what ways did Britain and France undermine the League of Nations in the 1930s? [4]  
(b) Why did Hitler remilitarise the Rhineland in March 1936? [6]  
(c) All of the following factors were **equally important** in causing the Second World War:  
(i) the failure of the league of Nations;  
(ii) the legacy of the Treaty of Versailles;  
(iii) Hitler's foreign policy."  
Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer, referring to **(i)**, **(ii)** and **(iii)**. [10]
- 17 (a) What were the successes of the League of Nations in the 1920s? [4]  
(b) Explain why the agencies of the League of Nations were successful. [6]  
(c) "The following were all **equally important** reasons for the lack of success of the League of Nations as a peace-keeping organisation:  
(i) the weakness of its organisation;  
(ii) the lack of an army;  
(iii) the economic depression of the 1930s."  
Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer, referring **only** to **(i)**, **(ii)** and **(iii)**. [10]  
[2001]
- 18 (a) What were the main aims of Hitler's foreign policy? [4]  
(b) Explain why Hitler wanted to take over Czechoslovakia. [6]  
(c) "The following were all **equally important** reasons for the lack of success of the League of Nations as a peace-keeping organisation:

- (i) the aggressive nationalism of Germany, Italy and Japan;
- (ii) the weakness of the League of Nation;
- (iii) the policy of appeasement.”

Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer, referring **only** to (i), (ii) and (iii).

[10]  
[2001]

- 19 (a) What did Clemenceau hope to achieve from the Treaty of Versailles? [4]
- (b) Explain why president Wilson did not get everything he wanted from the Treaty of Versailles. [6]
- (c) How successful was the Treaty of Versailles up to the end of 1923? Explain your answer. [10]  
[2002]
- 20 (a) What were the main aims of the League of Nations? [4]
- (b) Some countries were not members of the League of Nations when it was set up. Explain how this weakened the League. [6]
- (c) How successful was the League of Nations at keeping peace in the 1920s and 1930s? Explain your answer. [10]  
[2002]
- 21 (a) What did President Wilson hope to achieve at the Paris Peace Conference? [4]
- (b) Explain why Clemenceau wanted the Treaty of Versailles to be harsh on Germany. [6]
- (d) Explain how the following together contributed to German hatred of the Treaty of Versailles:
- (i) the reparations settlement;
  - (ii) the military restrictions;
  - (iii) the loss of territory. [10]  
[2003]
- 22 (a) What were the main aims of Hitler’s foreign policy? [4]
- (b) Explain why Hitler wanted to take over Czechoslovakia. [6]
- (e) Explain how the following together contributed to the success of Germany’s foreign policy in the 1930s:
- (i) Hitler’s leadership;
  - (ii) the weakness of the League of Nations;
  - (iii) the policy of appeasement. [10]  
[2003]
- 23 (a) In what ways did the Treaty of Versailles weaken Germany’s armed forces? [4]
- (b) Explain why the terms of the Treaty of Versailles caused so much bitterness in Germany. [6]
- (c) How far did Clemenceau, Lloyd George and Wilson share the same aims in the peace negotiations of 1919? Explain your answer. [10]  
[2004]

- 24 (a) What were the main aims of the League of Nations when it was set up in 1920? [4]
- (b) Explain why the League of Nations failed to deal successfully with the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931. [6]
- (c) How far was the League of Nations a complete failure? Explain your answer. [10]
- [2004]
- 25 (a) What did Lloyd George hope to achieve from the Treaty of Versailles? [4]
- (b) Explain why Germany was made to pay reparations. [6]
- (c) The following were all **equally important** reasons why Germany hated the Treaty of Versailles:
- (i) limitations on its armed forces;
- (ii) the loss of raw materials and industries;
- (iii) the loss of land. [10]
- [2005]
- 26 (a) What was agreed at the Munich Conference in 1938? [4]
- (b) Explain why Germany and the soviet Union signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact in 1939. [6]
- (c) The following were all **equally important** reasons why there was a world war in 1939:
- (i) the reparations settlement;
- (ii) the military restrictions;
- (iii) the loss of territory. [10]
- [2005]
- 27 (a) What land did Germany lose in the Treaty of Versailles? [4]
- (b) Explain why the Allies punished Germany in the Treaty of Versailles. [6]
- (c) How satisfied were the Allied leaders with the Treaty of Versailles? Explain your answer. [10]
- [2006]
- 28 (a) What was the structure of the League of Nations? [4]
- (b) Explain how the League of Nations tried to solve social problems during the 1920s and 1930s. [6]
- (c) How successful was the League of Nations at keeping peace in the 1920s and 1930s? Explain your answer. [10]
- [2006]
- 29 (a) What were the main aims of the League of Nations? [4]
- (b) Explain how the League of Nations achieved some successes in the 1920s. [6]
- (c) How far can the failure of the League of Nations in 1930's be blamed on the Great Depression? Explain your answer. [10]

- 30 (a) Describe the events in the Rhineland in 1936 [4]
- (b) Explain why Britain followed a policy of appeasement [6]
- (c) How far was the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939 responsible for causing war in Europe?  
Explain your answer. [10]
- [2007]

International Relations 1919-1939

Were the Peace Treaties of 1919 Fair?

**The Background to the Treaty of Versailles**

- Damage caused by WW1
- Germany to blame
- The Paris Peace Conference
- The aims and motives of the different leaders at the Paris Peace Conference
- George Clemenceau (France)
- David Lloyd George (Britain)
- Woodrow Wilson (USA) and his Fourteen Points

**The Treaty of Versailles**

- Guilt
- Military
- Reparations
- Territory
- League of Nations

**The Other Peace Treaties**

- St Germain
- Trianon
- Neuilly
- Sevres and Lausanne

Why did all the victors not get everything they wanted?

The impact of the Treaties on Germany up until 1923

German reaction to the Treaty

Effects of the Treaty on Germany - The Weimar Republic, Kapp Putsch, Reparations, French invasion of the Ruhr, Hyperinflation, 1930's.

Could the Treaties be justified?

Views expressed of the Treaties at the time

Views of Historians

## To what extent was the League of Nations a success?

How the League of Nations worked - its strengths and weaknesses

The **aims** of the League of Nations

The **structure** of the League

The **membership and non-membership** of the League

The League's Powers in theory and in practice

### **The League's successes in the 1920's**

- The Aaland Islands
- Greece/Bulgaria
- Other successes - International Labour Organisation, Committees etc

### **The League's failures in the 1920's**

- Vilna
- Corfu

### **Disarmament**

How far did the weaknesses in the **League's organisation** make failure inevitable?

How far did the **Depression** make the work of the League more difficult?

Why did the League fail over Manchuria and Abyssinia?

### **The Manchurian Crisis**

- Causes
- Events
- Consequences

### **The Abyssinia Crisis**

- Causes
- Events
- Consequences

## Reasons for the League Failure

- Members and their self-interest and non-members
- Organisation
- Powers
- Treaties of 1919
- Depression

## Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?

What were the long term consequences of the Peace Treaties of 1919?

What were the consequences of the failures of the League in the 1930's?

The foreign policies of the major powers in the 1930s - Germany, Italy and Japan

How far was **Hitler's foreign policy** to blame for the outbreak of war?

- Rearmament
- Saar
- Rhineland
- Spanish Civil War
- Anschluss - Why and What
- The Sudetenland crisis and the Munich Agreement - Why and What
- Czechoslovakia

## Appeasement

- Was the Policy of Appeasement Justified?
- Frances foreign policy
- Britain's foreign policy
- For and against appeasement - was it justified? Then and now?

How important was the **Nazi Soviet Pact**?

- Who?
- What?
- Why?

**Why** did Britain and France declare war on Germany in September 1939?

# Year 11 GCSE History Revision 1.

## Paper 1, Sections A and B

### International Relations Part, 1919-39

#### Key Question 1: Were the Peace Treaties of 1919-23 fair?

#### Background to the Treaty of Versailles

##### **DAMAGE** caused by WW1 - shattering blow to Europe

- Millions soldiers killed / injured
- Large areas of Belgium & France devastated
- Germany & Austria-Hungary defeated & exhausted
- Even victorious powers almost bankrupt

##### Germany **BLAMED**

- Strong feeling in Britain & France that Germany should be made to pay
- Germany wanted other states to share blame for war
- Germany not invited to Paris Peace Conference

##### **PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE, 1919 - 1920**

- Treaty of Versailles
- Other Treaties

## What were the motives and aims of the Big Three at the Paris Peace Conference at Versailles?

France, Britain & the USA most important & influential at the negotiations

- Victorious Allies

Conflicting views

### GEORGES CLEMENCEAU - PRIME MINISTER OF FRANCE

- France had suffered enormous damage
- Large areas of land devastated
- Many factories destroyed
- Millions of French casualties
- Pressure from French public to make Germany suffer
- Anxious about future
- Did not want Germany to recover strength so that it could attack France again
- Harsh treaty
- Punish Germany
- Cripple Germany so that it could not threaten France again
- Clemenceau suspicious of Wilson

### WOODROW WILSON - President of USA

- USA only in war for last few months
- War damage slight
- American casualties low in comparison
- Believed treaty should not be too harsh
- If Germany was treated harshly, some day it would recover & want revenge
- SELF-DETERMINATION - people ruling themselves, not by foreign power
- INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION - settling disputes by all countries working together
- FOURTEEN POINTS

## WILSON'S FOURTEEN POINTS, January 1918

1. No secret treaties
2. Freedom of navigation upon seas
3. Free Trade
4. All countries to reduce armed forces
5. Overseas colonies owned by European powers to have say in own future
6. All foreign troops to leave Russia & leave Russia to decide own future
7. Independence for Belgium
8. France to regain Alsace-Lorraine
9. Italy's frontiers to be adjusted to take account of nationalities near borders
10. Self-determination for peoples of Austria-Hungary
11. Independence of Balkan states
12. Self-determination for the non-Turkish people in the Turkish empire
13. Independence for Poland
14. A League of Nations to be set up to settle disputes between countries by peaceful means

## DAVID LLOYD GEORGE - BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

- British people bitter towards Germany - wanted harsh treaty
- Lloyd George wanted Germany JUSTLY punished
- Like Wilson, he thought Germany might want revenge in future
- Wanted Germany & Britain to begin trading with each other again
- Often in middle ground between Clemenceau & Wilson at peace talks
- Did not agree with Wilson about 14 points

## Year 11 GCSE History Revision 2.

### Paper 1, Sections A and B International Relations, 1919-39

#### Key Question 1: Were the Peace Treaties of 1919-23 fair? (Continued)

#### The terms of the Treaty of Versailles

- dealt with Germany severely:

Guilt for the war

Armed forces

Reparations

German territories

League of Nations

#### GUILT FOR THE WAR

- Clause 231
- Simple but harsh - Germany had to agree it was guilty of starting the war

#### ARMED FORCES OF GERMANY

- Army limited to 100,000 men
- Banned conscription
- Not allowed armoured vehicles, submarines or aircraft
- Navy reduced to 6 battleships & 30 smaller ships
- Rhineland (area on border between Germany & France) became a demilitarised zone (no German troops allowed into that area)

## REPARATIONS

- Agreed by Allies without consulting *Germany*
- Compensation to France, Belgium & Britain for war damage
- Exact figure set in 1921
- 132,000 million gold marks

## LOSS OF GERMAN TERRITORIES

- Allies agreed lands & territories in Europe would be rearranged
- *Germany's* borders were extensive
- Lost colonies - called 'mandates' & run by Britain & France on behalf of League
- 13% of *German* territory
- 10% of *German* population

German Territory	From <i>German</i> control to:	Other points
ALSACE-LORRAINE	FRANCE	
EUPEN, MORESNET, MALMEDY	BELGUIM	
NORTH SCHLESWIG	DENMARK	After a plebiscite
WEST PRUSSIA & PROSEN	POLAND	Corridor to Baltic sea
DANZIG	LEAGUE OF NATIONS	
MEMEL	LITHUANIA	
SAAR COALFIELDS	LEAGUE OF NATIONS	Coal to France
GERMAN COLONIES	LEAGUE OF NATIONS	British & French control
ESTONIA,LATVIA,LITHUANIA	INDEPENDENT STATES	Taken by <i>Germany</i> from Russia in 1918 Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS

- International 'police force' to keep peace
- Based on a covenant (agreement)
- Germany not invited to join until it had shown it could be a peace-loving nation

### Why did all of the victors not get everything they wanted?

Different & conflicting aims

Differing personalities

Compromise

- Clemenceau
  - limits on armed forces designed to prevent Germany attacking France again
  - demilitarisation of Rhineland an extra safety measure for French against German aggression
  - but had wanted an independent Rhineland
  - & had wanted Saar handed over directly to France
  - French thought reparations figure was too small
  - wanted Germany to be broken up into smaller states
  - he was criticised in France because treaty wasn't harsh enough & lost votes
- Wilson
  - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania became independent states - self-determination
  - but 14 Points did not influence negotiations as much as he had hoped
  - US Congress dissatisfied with treaty & refused to sign it
  - disappointed other countries did not disarm

## **Impact of Treaty of Versailles on Germany up to 1923**

### **BITTER GERMAN REACTION**

Shock & horror

Weakened

Forced to accept humiliating settlement

'DIKTAT' - German for 'an order'

Not consulted - saw as unjust

Did not believe war was only their fault

Resented disarmament terms - no other nations gave up weapons

Germany unable to defend itself

Reparations payment too high - would cause economic ruin (but only 2% of annual production)

German hatred of Treaty

Resented loss of German territory to France (Saar & Alsace-Lorraine) &

Poland (Silesia)

Considered Anschluss & creation of Czechoslovakia to be injustices

Many Germans now lived under foreign rule

Insulted - not invited to be part of League of Nations

Wilson's 14 Points ignored - felt tricked

### **Immediate effects of treaty on Germany**

#### **WEIMAR REPUBLIC**

- Ebert forced to sign treaty
- Made Weimar Republic government very unpopular

#### **KAPP PUTSCH (rebellion)**

- Freikorps (ex-soldiers) rebelled against Ebert's government
- Kapp = leader
- Workers in Berlin went on strike & refused to cooperate with Kapp
- Ebert was saved

## REPARATIONS

- 1922 - paid 1<sup>st</sup> instalment
- 1923 - failed to make payment date

## FRENCH INVASION

- French troops moved into the Ruhr
- Took goods, equipment, anything valuable - as payment

## HYPERINFLATION

- Strikes & other passive resistance
- Factories closed
- Germany's economy collapsed
- Currency became worthless
- Hyperinflation meant prices went out of control
- Many Germans suffered

## Summary:

- 1919-1923 = years of misery for many Germans
- Treaty caused some of misery
- But many more of Germany's problems came from debts it had run up during war & could not now pay off
- Most Germans blamed treaty for their troubles
- Hatred of treaty proved useful to Hitler in 1929
  - promised Germans he would remove the injustices of the treaty

## Criticisms of the Treaty of Versailles

- Criticised by many at the time
- Spirit of revenge & harshness seemed triumphed over the desire for future peace?
- Too harsh on Germany
- Predicted Germany would want revenge & there would be another war
- Wrong to put sole blame for war on Germany
  - Allies had taken part in the arms race, the Alliance system & empire building
- Reparations hurt ordinary Germans who weren't guilty
- Germans tricked by Wilson's 14 Points - war guilt & reparations not mentioned
- Not harsh enough - did not punish Germany enough
- Leaders of German army were not removed

- Germany soon recovered position as most successful economy in Europe
- USSR should have been consulted
- US Congress refused to sign treaty

### **The other treaties:**

Dealt with Germany's allies

Worked out by assistants of 'Big 3'

### **ST. GERMAIN - AUSTRIA**

- Sorted out chaotic jumble of Austrian territories into new states
- **ANSCHLUSS** between Germany & Austria forbidden
  - Austria had always been a close ally of Germany - German speaking people
- Separated Austria from Hungary
- Forced Austria to disarm
- New country was created - state of **CZECHOSLOVAKIA**
  - included parts of Austria that were German speaking (Bohemia & Moravia)
- New state of Yugoslavia also created from Austrian territory (Bosnia & Herzegovina)
- Millions in eastern Europe given self-determination
- Austria no longer leading power in Europe

### **TRIANON - HUNGARY**

- Similar to St. Germain - transfer of territories
- Land taken from Hungary in creation of Czechoslovakia & Yugoslavia
- Hungary reduced - lost a lot of territory & population
- Industry suffered - lost territories where raw materials were found
- Forced Hungary to disarm

## NEUILLY - BULGARIA

- Bulgaria lost territory to *Greece, Romania & Yugoslavia*
- Lost access to sea
- Had to disarm
- Many Bulgarians governed by foreign powers by 1920

## SEVRES - TURKEY

- Territorial losses to *Greece & League of Nations control*
- Turks outraged
- Not successful treaty

## LAUSANNE - TURKEY

- Returned Smyrna to Turkey

## Criticisms of the other treaties

- New countries were created that were weak & unstable
- Ethnic groups in eastern Europe were mixed up
- Impossible for each nation to rule itself
- Suspect motives of Britain & France in taking control of former Turkish colonies

## Could the treaties be justified at the time? Good reasons for terms imposed?

- Germany not originally interested in 14 Points
- When Germany made Russia sign Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918, the terms Germany imposed were much tougher
  - German expectations of moderation seemed hypocritical
- Germans had supported the Kaiser
- Reparations figure only 2% of Germany's annual production
- Losses of territory could have been much worse
- People in victorious countries would not have accepted fairer treaty

## Contemporary opinions about the treaties

- Historians agree Treaty of Versailles failed because in 1939 war broke out again in Europe
- Great weakness - Germany was punished & humiliated
- Many historians have sympathised with German complaints
- Short-sighted - when Germany recovered, many Germans wanted revenge
- Major cause of rise of Nazism & Hitler
- However, 'victorious allies' faced difficult job
- People in victorious countries would not have accepted a fairer treaty
- Many modern historians emphasise the problems faced by the peacemakers & are less critical of treaty

## Year 11 GCSE History Revision 3

### Paper 1, Sections A and B International Relations, 1919-39

#### Key Question 2: To what extent was the League of Nations a success?

#### Background

- WW1 showed that old ways of keeping peace had failed.
- League of Nations was brainchild of Woodrow Wilson (14 Points).
- Some angered by Wilson's arrogance - acted as if only he knew solutions to Europe's problems.
- Others worried about his idealism.
- Britain wanted simple organisation to meet in emergencies only.
- France wanted a strong League with its own army.
- But Wilson took personal charge of drawing up plans for League.
- League began in 1920.
- Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland (neutral country).
- 1920s & 1930s = League of Nations tried to keep peace & order.
- Most of Europe were prepared to give Wilson's plans a try.
- Set up to be a large & prestigious organisation.
- Various organisations / bodies had clear aims - each body dealt with different issues & had different powers & responsibilities.
- Many powerful nations were members. But many missing.
- In theory, could become international 'police force'.
- But doubts from start about whether it would work in practice, particularly without USA.
- Also, structure of assembly & council meant that decision making was a slow & complicated process.
- By 1937, the League had become irrelevant, ignored even by its main members, Britain & France.

## AIMS

- Prevent war & keep world peace
- Prevent aggression by any nation
- Encourage co-operation between nations by solving disputes peacefully
- Encourage international trade
- Safeguard independence of countries & their new frontiers
- Work towards national disarmament
- Improve the working & living conditions of all people
  - in order to remove factors that made war more likely
- **COLLECTIVE SECURITY** = members of the League could prevent war by acting together to protect & defend the interests of all nations
- Enforce Treaty of Versailles

## STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES - How the League worked

How far did the weaknesses in the League's organisation make failure inevitable?

### STRUCTURE

#### ASSEMBLY

- All members sent representatives & had 1 vote
- Met **ONCE** a year
- Decisions had to be **UNANIMOUS**

#### COUNCIL

- Met up to 3 times a year & in times of emergency
- 5 permanent members - **Britain, France, Italy, Japan** & from 1926, **Germany**
- Permanent members could **VETO** any action proposed by council

#### SECRETARIAT

- Carried out work & administration

#### PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

- Based at the Hague in the Netherlands
- Decided on a dispute between two countries but only when asked
- Gave legal advice to assembly or council
- Could not enforce decisions

#### INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

- Aimed to improve conditions for working people
- Collected information about working conditions
- Tried to persuade member countries to adopt its ideas for improvement

#### COMMISSIONS

Dealt with particular issues:

- World Health Organisation - dealt with dangerous diseases
- Refugee Organisation - helped return people to homes at end of WW1
- Slavery Commission - worked for abolition of slavery

## MEMBERSHIP

- Success of League depended on the right membership. Key problem.
- 1920 = 42 original member countries - victorious or neutral in WW1
- 1930 = nearly 60
- BUT! several of most powerful countries in world not members of league at any 1 time
- 'European Club'

## NON-MEMBERSHIP - ABSENT POWERS

Absence of major powers meant British & French governments had to supply the necessary leadership to enable the League to operate effectively but they were not prepared to use force to help support the League.

## **USA**

- dealt League body blow right from start
- never joined = badly weakened authority of League
- should have been one of permanent members
- US President, Wilson, strongly supported setting up of League
- US Senate voted against Wilson & refused to let America join
- USA stayed out of European affairs = policy of ISOLATIONISM

## **USSR (RUSSIA)**

- **COMMUNIST** government took power in 1917
- made its own peace treaty with Germans
- **SUSPICIOUS** of countries in west & vice versa
- saw League as a club dominated by rich countries opposed to Communism
- Communists (REDS) fighting civil war against 'White' Russian forces who were supported by western countries
- Encouraging revolution in other countries in early 1920s
- Not welcome in League until 1934

## **GERMANY**

- Defeated enemy
- Forced to accept Treaty of Versailles
- Bitterness against Germany after WW1
- Germany was not allowed to join League until 1926

## POWERS OF THE LEAGUE IN THEORY

- The **COVENANT** of the League spelt out its powers
- Covenant = solemn promise signed by all members
- If any member of the League committed acts of aggression against another member country, the League could:
  - Say it **DISAPPROVED** of action by aggressor - **MORAL CONDEMNATION**
  - Impose **ECONOMIC SANCTIONS**
  - Use **MILITARY FORCE** against an aggressor

## POWERS OF THE LEAGUE IN PRACTICE

- Good in theory... but bad in practice!

- **NO ARMED FORCES** of its own
  - relied entirely on cooperation of its members to carry out its decisions
  - without USA, relied on 2 principal members, Britain & France
  - League powerless if not in interests of Britain & France
- **LAST RESORT MILITARY FORCE**
  - Britain & France recovering from WW1
  - Hard to convince them to send troops to settle dispute
  - French & British self-interest
- **ECONOMIC SANCTIONS DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE**
  - member countries unwilling to stop trading with aggressor
  - did not want to harm own trade

= **CONFLICT BETWEEN SELF-INTEREST OF MEMBER COUNTRIES & INTERESTS OF LEAGUE**



## Year 11 GCSE History Revision 4

### Paper 1, Sections A and B

### International Relations, 1919-39

#### Key Question 2: To what extent was the League of Nations a success? (continued)

#### How successful was the League in the 1920s?

Reputation of League suffered!

- **SMALL-SCALE** successes or **PARTIAL** successes ONLY!

#### **SUCCESSES 1920s**

##### **SOLVING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS:**

Successful when a dispute occurred between small, weak countries...

- **AALAND ISLANDS, 1920-21**

- prevented conflict between Finland & Sweden over which state owned islands
- League decided islands should remain part of Finland but govern themselves

- **UPPER SILESIA, 1920**

- on border between Germany & Poland, contained both Germans & Poles
- League organised plebiscite (people's vote)
- divided area up - third to Poland, two-thirds to Germany

- **AUSTRIA, 1922**

- facing economic disaster
- League sent financial experts
- reorganised Austria's finances & currency
- prevented collapse of Austrian economy

- **GREECE / BULGARIA, 1925**

- Greek soldiers were killed during a border dispute
- Greek troops invaded Bulgaria
- League appealed to Greece & Bulgaria to stop fighting
- League's commission found in favour of Bulgarians
- Greeks had to pay compensation
- Greece was a small, weak country with no powerful friends on the Council
- When Italy had used force in 1923, other great powers were anxious not to upset Italy!
- Greece complained - 1 rule for large states (Italy) & another rule for the smaller ones (Greece)

= small nations rather than great powers but League showed it was capable of successfully preventing disputes & even able to stop fighting.

### **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**

- work to improve lives of ordinary people throughout world
- great successes
- improved working conditions
- member countries agreed to :
  1. 8 hour days & 48 hour week
  2. right to join trade union & annual paid hols
  3. Under 15 = no full time work

- **Other successes**

- fighting slavery, gun-running & drug trafficking
- Minorities Commission put pressure on governments that did not respect the right of minority groups
- World Health Organisation helped countries control outbreaks of disease
- helped repatriate (return to own countries) 4000,000 WW1 prisoners

## **FAILURES 1920s...** high-profile!

When a dispute involved a great power, the League often favoured the more important country...

- **VILNA, 1919-20**

- former capital of Lithuania, contained many Poles
- seized by Polish army in 1919
- new government of Lithuania appealed to League
- League protested against Polish action
- Vilna remained under Polish occupation
- France supported Poland's claim to Vilna in return for Polish support
- French self-interest - saw Poland as possible future ally against Germany
- League unable to stop Poland taking control of city of Vilna
- Britain & France could not send troops there
- League did nothing! Poles kept Vilna.

- **CORFU, 1923**

- 1<sup>st</sup> real sign of the limited power of the League
- Italian General murdered in Greece
- Mussolini demanded 50 million lire compensation, ordered guns to bombard Corfu & demanded killers be handed over
- Greek government appealed to League
- League came up with a compromise measure to keep peace
- Mussolini said the Conference of Ambassadors (France, Japan & Italy - a group outside the League) should judge the case
- League dropped idea of compromise & let Italy do what it wanted!
- Britain & France did not want to clash with Italy - self-interest!
- Mussolini got his way! Judged Greece should pay Italy what it was demanding!
- Italy pushed the League aside & used force to get compensation from Greece
- Seen as a serious failure
- Showed powerful nations could still bully a less powerful neighbour

**AUTHORITY OF LEAGUE UNDERMINED BY ITS OWN PERMANENT MEMBERS!**

To what extent was the League of Nations a success?

### THE GENEVA PROTOCOL, 1924

- Corfu incident highlighted how League could be undermined by own members
- Britain & France drew up the Geneva Protocol to strengthen League
- Disputing members would have to ask the League to sort out disagreement
- & would have to accept Council's decision
- But! General Election in Britain...
- New Conservative Government refused to sign Protocol
- - worried Britain would be forced to sign something not in its own interests
- Geneva Protocol weakened League!

- DISARMAMENT

... sensitive issue!

- Tried to persuade countries to disarm but failed!
- Failure of members to agree on organisation of world disarmament conference
- Worried disarmament might leave them vulnerable
- By end of 1920s, countries were rearming!
- Germany angry they had been forced to disarm while other nations had not done the same
- Also failed to stop trade in armaments
- 1928, 60 tons of machine gun parts from Italy discovered on border of Austria & Hungary, disguised as machine parts in railway trucks
- Failed to even ask Mussolini for explanation!
- Self-interest of a country clashed with the aims of the League



## Year 11 GCSE History Revision 5

### Paper 1, Sections A and B International Relations, 1919-39

#### Key Question 2: To what extent was the League of Nations a success? (continued)

How far did the DEPRESSION make the work of the League more difficult?

#### Background:

- Depression = turning point
- When trade suffers, international relations suffer
- Some countries tried to solve their economic problems by invading neighbours
- Other countries concentrated on solving problems at home rather than international problems
- Will of League members to keep peace by working together was weakened
- Depression helped cause international problems & made relations between countries more difficult
- Goodwill & optimism of late 1920s evaporated
- Major problems for League to solve!

## **International trade in the 1920s & 1930s**

- USA was world's biggest economy - world economy depended on USA
- Problems in the USA could seriously affect the whole of the world's trade
- 1929 American stock market crashed
- Dramatic slump in the USA... US economy collapsed
- Catastrophic results for the world economy!
- Americans stopped buying goods from other countries
- American banks asked foreign businesses to pay back loans... Europe badly hit
- Banks & factories closed
- 1930 USA raised taxes on imported goods making it difficult to sell goods to America
- Agricultural prices slump
- World trade fell by 70%... Worldwide economic depression followed
- Millions unemployed - no government help in many countries = hunger
- International relations suffer

## **Effects of the Depression**

- Severe economic effects caused political problems & tensions between countries...
- USA was a market for many companies in Europe
- As USA stopped buying, companies which exported to USA suffered
- Industrial production in Europe fell by a third... unemployment & depression
- As trade declined, many countries tried protectionism
- - charged tariffs & duties on goods imported by foreign countries
- Aimed to make foreign goods more expensive
- - protecting own industries & jobs from foreign competition
- Protectionist policies reduced the amount of world trade
- Long run - protectionist policies made effects of Depression worse

## **Effects of the Depression on particular countries**

- Economic problems led to political problems in some countries
- Economic problems led governments to become more selfish which caused international tension

## GERMANY

- Disastrous!
- American banks wanted loans paid back straight away
- Germany simply could not pay
- Banks & industries failed
- Mass unemployment
- 1929-1933 = government in crisis
- Disillusionment with Weimar Republic
- People turned to the extremist Nazis & Hitler
- Depression led to rise of the Nazis whose ideas pushed Europe into war
- A chance to tear up Treaty of Versailles & retake lost territory?
- - other countries worried about their own problems at home
- German rearmament speeded up

## JAPAN

- Felt abandoned as a result of protectionist policies
- - great strain on international relations
- USA was main importer of Japanese goods such as silk
- Depression in USA meant Japan faced economic ruin
- Vital silk export trade was destroyed
- Military leaders believed empire was needed to be economically secure
- Wanted to find new markets & raw materials by invading neighbours
- League showed no sympathy for Japan's economic troubles
- Britain & France only interested in own problems
- Japan began building empire by invading Manchuria in 1931
- Depression caused the Japanese invasion of China

## ITALY

- Under control of Fascist leader, Mussolini, since 1922
- Wanted to distract attention from economic problems by enlarging the Italian empire in Africa
- Unemployment & other problems caused by Depression influenced decision to invade Abyssinia in 1935
- Openly broke international law - Mussolini ignored League
- Depression brought about the Italian invasion of Abyssinia which forced Italy to resign from the League & ally with Germany

## USA

- Retreated further into isolationism & concentrated on rebuilding own economy
- Most powerful country in world turned back on international problems

## BRITAIN

- Concentrated on economic problems at home
- Delayed rearming as feared it would further harm economy
- - dramatic reduction in spending on defence in early 1930s
- Wanted to avoid conflict which might threaten its empire
- Empire = 1<sup>st</sup> priority

## FRANCE

- Internal political problems
- Slump had impact on defence - delayed rearmament
- Worried about changing situation in Germany, built series of frontier defences on border with Germany

## USSR

- Depression had little effect on Russia - few trade links with rest of world
- Collapse of world trade suggested capitalism wrong & communism right?
- - Russia became even more suspicious of capitalist countries

## Year 11 GCSE History Revision 6

### Paper 1, Sections A and B International Relations, 1919-39

Key Question 2: To what extent was the League of Nations a success? (continued)

## **FAILURE** of the League in the 1930s

### - Why did the League fail over **MANCHURIA**?

Historians mostly agree the League was a FAILURE in 1930s

Declining confidence in the League... its **declining influence**... FAILURE!

By 1935, the League was **irrelevant**

- could no longer keep peace
- was largely **ignored** by the major powers

### **THE MANCHURIAN CRISIS, 1931**

1<sup>st</sup> major challenge for League - world saw it fail to confront Japanese aggression

#### **CAUSES**

- Japan had a powerful army & navy, strong industry & a growing empire
- Japan had suffered badly during Depression - industries wrecked
- China & USA put up tariffs against Japanese goods
- Collapse of American market put Japanese economy in crisis
- A response to the economic problems caused by Depression?
- Ambitions of Japan's powerful military leaders - imperialistic
- - supported by Emperor Hirohito
- Called for military expansion to strengthen the country
- Empire could supply raw materials
- Japanese aggression led to the Manchuria Crisis
- Civilian government in Japan ignored by powerful military leaders
- China in middle of civil war - not able to defend Manchuria
- Japan later claimed it needed to invade Manchuria to keep peace

## EVENTS

- Japan controlled the territory of the South Manchurian Railway
- 1931, Japanese troops invaded Chinese province of Manchuria
- Used excuse of a disturbance to take Mukden
- Claimed Chinese soldiers had sabotaged railway
- But really an organised armed clash with Chinese forces - Faked explosion
- Sent troops to overrun rest of Manchuria
- Japan quickly took control of the province
- Renamed 'Manchukuo' & set up puppet government
- China appealed to the League for help
- Lord Lytton sent to assess situation
- Japanese made it difficult for Lytton to interview Chinese witnesses
- 8 men tortured & murdered - had tried to speak to Lytton
- After a YEAR, League decided Japan had invaded Manchuria illegally
- Lytton Report said Japanese had been wrong
- League ordered Japan to pull out
- Japan refused to accept the report
- But did not do anything else to end crisis!

## CONSEQUENCES

- Japan committed blatant aggression & got away with it!
- Japan left League in 1933
- Japan then took Jehol
- Pretended to give Manchuria independence
- Controlled weak leader, Po Yi
- 1937, invaded rest of China
- Built up its own empire there throughout 1930s
- - Japanese expansion 1931-1940
- This event marked the beginning of the end for the League
- Signalled that aggression would not be punished by the League!!!
- League was weakened
- Dictators like Mussolini & Hitler saw weaknesses of League
- - observed with interest... within 3 years both followed Japan's example
- Japan signed treaty with Germany in 1936

## **FAILURE OF LEAGUE over the Manchurian Crisis**

- Did nothing to stop the Japanese invasion! Failed to stop Japan!
- Did not have power or will to stop Japan
- Collective security failed
- Considered economic sanctions but Japan's main trading partner, USA, not in League
- - Economic sanctions ineffective
- Considered banning arms sales to Japan but League members could not agree
- Armed force was not considered!
- Britain & France not strong enough to send forces to China
- USA & USSR did not belong to League - Non-Membership
- Britain & France were not willing to support the League in taking action against Japan
- League was powerless if a strong nation decided to pursue an aggressive foreign policy & attack its neighbours

## Year 11 GCSE History Revision 7

### Paper 1, Sections A and B International Relations, 1919-39

Key Question 2: To what extent was the League of Nations a success? (continued)

## **FAILURE** of the League in the **1930s**

- Why did the League fail over **ABYSSINIA?**

### **THE FATAL BLOW!!!**

Historians mostly agree the League was a FAILURE in 1930s

Declining confidence in the League... its **declining influence**... FAILURE!

By 1935, the League was **irrelevant**

- could no longer keep peace
- was largely **ignored** by the major powers

**MANCHURIAN CRISIS, 1931 = 1<sup>ST</sup> BODY BLOW TO LEAGUE**

Historians agree that Abyssinian crisis was disaster for League & had serious **consequences for world peace**

Some historians see a direct link between crisis in Abyssinia & outbreak of WW2 in 1939

**Turning-point on road to war**

## THE ABYSSINIAN CRISIS, 1935

- Abyssinia = now Ethiopia
- One of small countries which collective security was meant to protect!
- Large, powerful state attacking a smaller one
- League was designed for such disputes
- Unlike Manchurian Crisis - League was ideally placed to act
- Covenant = sanctions must be introduced against aggressor

## CAUSES

- Failure of League to stop Japan in 1931 encouraged Mussolini to attack Abyssinia
- Italy suffering from effects of **Depression**
- Italy wanted to expand its **empire** by invading another country (like Japan)
- Origins lay back in previous century
- 1896 Italian invasion defeated
- Mussolini wanted revenge for humiliating defeat
- Also wanted fertile lands, mineral wealth, glory & conquest!
- Talked of restoring glory of Roman Empire
- 1 of few countries in Africa not under control of European power

## EVENTS

- Dispute between Italian & Abyssinian soldiers at **Wal-Wal** oasis, December 1934
- Mussolini took his cue & claimed this was Italian territory
- Demanded apology & began preparing Italian army for invasion
- Well-equipped Italian force invaded Abyssinia in October 1935
- Abyssinians were no match for modern Italian army equipped with tanks, aeroplanes & poison gas!
- Leader, **Emperor Haile Selassie**, appealed to League
- League could not claim that this problem was in an inaccessible part of the world!
- To start with, British & French failed to take situation seriously
- Britain & France caught in **dilemma**
- League played for time
- But as year went on, public outcry against Italy's behaviour
- Majority of Britain supported use of military force to defend Abyssinia!
- But Britain & France desperate to keep good relations with Mussolini
- - **Italy was strongest ally against Hitler** (Stresa Pact, early 1935)
- League condemned Italian aggression
- League imposed economic sanctions against Italy
- **Ineffective economic sanctions!**
- Britain & France feared USA would supply Italy
- **British self-interest**
- - Britain blocked sanctions on sale of coal to Italy to protect jobs in British coal industry
- Italy was allowed to buy oil & other essential supplies!
- **Suez Canal** remained open to Italy
- = Britain & France refused to challenge Italy (Absent Members & Self-interest)
- Some historians suggest Mussolini believed Britain & France would turn blind eye in return for him joining with them in **Stresa Pact**
- Mussolini completed invasion of Abyssinia

## CONSEQUENCES / EFFECTS

- Very serious for League!
- Marked end of League as a peacekeeping organisation
- **Collective security had been shown up as an empty promise**
- League could no longer be taken seriously!
- Showed that League members were not willing to use force to stop aggression
- Seemed no one was prepared to go to war in order to keep peace
- League's credibility as peacekeeper was damaged beyond repair
- **Force & aggression had triumphed again!**
- **Secret Hoare-Laval Pact** had shown Britain & France **undermining League**
- Italy left League of Nations
- World seemed less secure
- Encouraged certain states to pursue aggressive policies to achieve aims
- 7 March 1935, Hitler marched troops into Rhineland
- - French desperate to gain support of Italy
- French were prepared to pay price of giving Abyssinia to Mussolini
- 9 May 1936, Mussolini formally annexed entire country
- League watched helplessly
- No confidence that League could succeed again in future
- Damage done to prestige of Britain, France & League was irreversible
- November 1936, Mussolini & Hitler signed agreement, **Rome-Berlin Axis**
- **Stresa Front against Germany had collapsed!**
- Only winner = Hitler!
- Hitler confused & not impressed by feeble response of the democracies

## Why did the League not act more decisively?

### LACK OF FORCE

- Depended on leadership by Britain & France
- Stresa Front agreement of 1935 - signed by France, Britain & Italy
- All 3 agreed to defend terms of Treaty of Versailles & stand up to Hitler
- **Britain & France did not want to offend Mussolini - scared he would join forces with Hitler!**
- USA not in League = important factor
  - could have provided troops to help Britain & France stop Mussolini

### SECRET DEALING - SELF-INTEREST

- Hoare-Laval Pact
- Hoare = British Foreign Secretary
- Laval = French Foreign Minister
- Secretly worked out plan with to offer Mussolini most of Abyssinia
- But plan leaked to press & became public!
- Disastrous for League!
- Haile Selassie demanded immediate League debate
- In Britain & France, seen as blatant act of treachery against League
- Hoare & Laval both sacked

### INEFFECTIVE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

- Also, **USA did not have to obey League's economic sanctions!**
- Sanctions only effective if imposed quickly & decisively
- But delayed decision on banning oil exports to Italy for 2 months
- Feared USA would not support sanctions
- Feared own economic interests would be further damaged
- League did not impose sanctions on oil & other essential supplies
- Oil ban would probably have stopped Mussolini
- Suez Canal - owned by Britain & France - not closed to Mussolini's supply ships
- Suez Canal was Italy's main supply route to Abyssinia
- **Closing Suez Canal could have ended Abyssinian campaign quickly**
- Britain & France afraid closing canal would result in war with Italy
- **British self-interest was a factor in League's failure**
- HITLER - Britain & France concerned in 1935
  - did not want to clash with Mussolini in case he joined forces with Hitler



## Year 11 GCSE History Revision 8

### Paper 1, Sections A and B

### International Relations, 1919-39

Key Question 3: Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?

## HITLER'S FOREIGN POLICY (1).

How far was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of war in 1939?  
Were other factors equally important?

Did Hitler plan war from the beginning? A planner?

Or

Was Hitler an opportunist who took chances? A gambler?

Background:

Tension rose dramatically between countries in the 1930s. The world was struggling with the effects of **economic depression** & a series of international problems. **Dictatorships** became more & more powerful & the democracies seemed either unwilling or unable to stop them.

Between 1924 and 1929, relations between Germany & other major powers had been steadily improving. However, the **economic depression** caused chaos in Germany and Hitler, leader of the Nazis, took advantage of the situation to take power in 1933. Hitler controlled German foreign policy from 1933. He immediately withdrew Germany from the League and **rearmed** Germany, openly defying the Treaty of Versailles.

Hitler saw the Treaty of Versailles as one of the major causes of Germany's problems. He promised the German people he would reverse the Treaty & get back the territory Germany had lost. In the longer term, he also planned to expand into eastern Europe to give the German people the lebensraum (living space) that Hitler believed they needed. From 1935, relations in Europe became increasingly tense. This was partly the result of the failure of the League which encouraged Hitler. Each time Hitler took over some more territory, he managed to convince many European leaders that once Germany had obtained territory lost at Versailles, no further demands would be made.

## Hitler's Aims

### *Mein Kampf*

Determined to **destroy Treaty**, with force if necessary!

Unite all Germans in a single Reich (Empire)

Win **Lebensraum** (living space) for Germans

Defeat Communism

Germany's foreign policy in the 1930s - increasing **militarism** of Germany

## Rearmament

- Forbidden by Treaty
- Hitler's first step was to increase Germany's armed forces
- Thousands of unemployed workers drafted into army
- Made great public display of desire not to rearm Germany
- Claimed Germany was rearming because other countries were refusing to disarm
- 1933 withdrew from League & then pulled out of Disarmament Conference
- May 1933, Britain learnt Germany was secretly rearming
- Most British politicians accepted Treaty needed to be changed & that Germany could partly rearm for her own security
- Britain also thought a strong Germany was a good buffer against Communism
- France reluctant to act without British support
- Nothing was done to stop Germany rearming
- By 1935, Germany's army had trebled to 300,000
- Conscription introduced in 1936!
- Guessed correctly he would get away with rearmament
- Collapse of Disarmament Conference in 1934 had shown that other nations were not prepared to disarm

## Retaking the Saar, 1935

- Hitler's first step to reverse the Treaty was entirely legal
- The Saar region had been run by the League of Nations
- Under Treaty, German industrial area called the Saar was due to vote on whether it wanted to return to German control
- 1935 - people of the Saar voted in a plebiscite to become part of Germany
- 90 per cent voted in favour - great morale boost for Hitler
- Gave Hitler new large resources of coal, iron & steel

## Remilitarisation of the Rhineland, 1936

- Hitler's first big risk - bigger gamble!
- Germany's border with France - under the Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Treaty, German troops were not allowed into it
- Resented by Germany
- March 1936, Hitler ordered German troops into the Rhineland - Reoccupation
- Broke terms of Treaty - clear breach of Treaty
- German troops were in no position to stand up to the French army
- Hitler ordered his troops to withdraw if they were attacked - they were not
- But League preoccupied dealing with crisis in Abyssinia!
- France appalled but concerned with own domestic problems
- Britain was keen not to provoke Germany - keen to avoid war
- Doubt in Britain about fairness of Treaty - British public opinion supported German control of the Rhineland - Germany's 'own back garden'
- French wanted to stop Hitler but were unwilling to act without support of Britain
- Hitler's gamble paid off!
- Convinced Hitler Britain & France would not stop him achieving other aims
- Beginning of policy of Appeasement
- Consequences of reoccupation:
- Germany built a line of forts along the Rhine, protecting the great industrial area of the Ruhr & making it more difficult to enter Germany to stop her breaking treaties
- France had German troops right on her border
- Hitler was encouraged to take another gamble
- Britain & France began to rearm

## Stresa Front

- Leaders of France, Britain & Italy worried by growing strength of Germany
- Agreed to stand together against Germany
- Agreement known as Stresa Front
- But soon fell apart!
- Britain upset France by signing the Anglo-German Naval Treaty which allowed Germany to build a navy up to 35 per cent of the British fleet
- 1936, Italy fell out with Britain & France when they opposed invasion of Abyssinia

## Spanish Civil War, 1936 - 39

- Between Nationalists & Republicans
- Britain & France urged no involvement
- But Nationalists received troops, supplies & air power from Italy & Germany
- **Support from Italy & Germany helped Franco win the war**
- Another blow to peace in Europe
- Spanish Democratic Republican government had been overthrown by a dictator
- Hitler used war to test German weapons, men & tactics
- **Hitler & Mussolini had given their forces practice of actual war**
- League of Nations could do nothing
- Britain & France appeared weak & helpless

## Anti-Comintern Pact, 1936

- Anti-Communist alliance
  - Signed by Germany & Japan
  - Alliance against Communist Russia
  - Italy joined pact in 1937
  - Further warning

Hitler's foreign policy up to 1939 continued in Revision 9:

- Austria - Anschluss
- Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia
- Appeasement
- Munich Agreement
- Nazi-Soviet Pact
- Poland



# Yr 11 GCSE Revision Checklist

## Paper 1

### **Sections A and B International Relations 1919-1939**

#### Were the Peace Treaties of 1919 Fair?

The Background to the Treaty of Versailles

- Damage caused by WW1
- Germany to blame
- The Paris Peace Conference

The aims and motives of the different leaders at the Paris Peace Conference

- George Clemenceau (France)
- David Lloyd George (Britain)
- Woodrow Wilson (USA) and his Fourteen Points

The Treaty of Versailles

- Guilt
- Military
- Reparations
- Territory
- League of Nations

The Other Peace Treaties

- St Germain
- Trianon
- Neuilly
- Sevres and Lausanne

Why did all the victors not get everything they wanted?

The impact of the Treaties on Germany up until 1923

- German reaction to the Treaty
- Effects of the Treaty on Germany – The Weimar Republic, Kapp Putsch, Reparations, French invasion of the Ruhr, Hyperinflation, 1930's.

Could the Treaties be justified?

- Views expressed of the Treaties at the time
- Views of Historians

#### To what extent was the League of Nations a success?

How the League of Nations worked – its strengths and weaknesses

- The aims of the League of Nations
- The structure of the League
- The membership and non-membership of the League
- The Leagues Powers in theory and in practice

The Leagues successes in the 1920's

- The Aaland Islands
- Greece/Bulgaria
- Other successes – International Labour Organisation, Committees etc

The League's failures in the 1920's

- Vilna
- Corfu
- Disarmament

How far did the weaknesses in the League's organisation make failure inevitable?

How far did the Depression make the work of the League more difficult?

Why did the League fail over Manchuria and Abyssinia?

The Manchurian Crisis

- Causes
- Events
- Consequences

The Abyssinia Crisis

- Causes
- Events
- Consequences

Reasons for the League Failure

- Members and their self-interest and non-members
- Organisation
- Powers
- Treaties of 1919
- Depression

Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?

What were the long term consequences of the Peace Treaties of 1919?

What were the consequences of the failures of the League in the 1930's?

The foreign policies of the major powers in the 1930s

- Germany, Italy and Japan

How far was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of war?

- Rearmament
- Saar
- Rhineland
- Spanish Civil War
- Anschluss – Why and What
- The Sudetenland crisis and the Munich Agreement – Why and What
- Czechoslovakia

Was the Policy of Appeasement Justified?

- France's foreign policy
- Britain's foreign policy
- For and against appeasement – was it justified? Then and now?

How important was the Nazi Soviet Pact?

- Who?
- What?
- Why?

Why did Britain and France declare war on Germany in September 1939?