

# History Knowledge Organiser

## Conflict and tension 1918 - 1939 The League of Nations



### 1920's

1920 Vilna - capital city of Lithuania. The majority of people were Polish and a Polish army took control. Lithuania asked the League for help and they told Poland to leave. They refused and kept Vilna

1921 Upper Silesia - on the border of Germany and Poland. Both countries wanted it for its iron and steel. A plebiscite was held and 60% voted for Germany. However the rural areas were given to Germany and Poland the industrial areas. Neither side was happy but had to accept it.

1921 Åland Islands - Both Sweden and Finland claimed the islands and were threatening war. The League investigated and gave it to Finland but no forts were allowed. Sweden agreed.

1923 Corfu - An Italian surveyor Tellini and his team were murdered on the border between Greece and Albania. Mussolini blamed Greece, demanded compensation and invaded Corfu. The League made Greece apologise and pay Italy compensation.

1925 Bulgaria - Greek soldiers were killed on the Bulgarian border. Greece invaded but the League condemned them, made them withdraw and pay compensation to Bulgaria.

1929 Wall Street Crash - The American Stock Market crashed. The US had lent money to many countries around the world and wanted the money back. This led to a global depression.

### 1930's Manchuria

Japan was suffering the effects of the depression, much of its trade had been in luxury goods. So it looked to Manchuria in China, that had natural resources. The army generals dominated the Japanese government and wanted land. On 18th September 1931 there was an explosion on the South Manchurian Railway, owned by Japan. They blamed China and invaded Manchuria which they renamed Manchuko in 1932. China went to the League and Lord Lytton was sent to investigate and write a report. The report was published in October 1932 and said Japan should not have invaded. Japan ignored the report, left the League and then continued their invasion of China. By 1938 most major Chinese cities were controlled by Japan's army.

**FAIL**

### 1930's Abyssinia

Mussolini wanted an empire in the sun for Italy and they had previously tried to invade Abyssinia unsuccessfully in 1896. After signing the Stresa Front with Britain and France he did not think they would stand in his way. In December 1934 Italian and Abyssinian troops clashed at Wal Wal. Emperor Haile Selassie addressed the League on 30th June 1935 asking for help. Despite moral condemnation from the League Italian troops entered Abyssinia on 3rd October 1935 using the latest weapons including chemical. In December the British and French Foreign Ministers secretly agreed to give half of Abyssinia to Italy. This was leaked to the press with both men resigning. Still the League failed to act and did nothing when on 5th May 1936 Italian troops took the capital Addis Ababa. They could have stopped Italy using the Suez Canal or impose trade sanctions on oil, steel, iron and coal but it did nothing.

**FAIL**

### Key dates

1921 - 1922	<b>Washington Treaty</b> Japan, USA, Britain <b>Limited size of Japanese Navy to USA and Britain 5 boats for every 3 Japan had. made the League look weak and unnecessary.</b>
1922	<b>Treaty of Rapallo</b> Germany and USSR Agreed to stay friends and secretly agreed to trade weapons and military information. Against Treaty of Versailles and very damaging for the League.
1925	<b>Locarno Treaty</b> France, Britain, Belgium, Italy and Germany. Germany, France and Belgium agreed to keep to the borders set in the Treaty of Versailles. Germany was now a member and the League stronger.
1928	<b>Kellogg-Briand Pact</b> 65 countries agreed not to use war to solve disputes. Looked promising but made the League look weak as it was not set up by them.

### Key people

Mussolini



Lord Lytton



Emperor



Haile Selassie

Pierre Laval



Samuel Hoare



### KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS

Assembly, unanimous, veto, Secretariat, civil service, Council, Geneva, collective security, Permanent Court of International Justice, Covenant, mitigation, moral condemnation, economic sanctions, plebiscite, border, global depression, Manchuria, Abyssinia, Suez Canal, Stresa Front, compensation, disputes, crisis.