

League of Nations

Aims of the League of Nations To deal with disputes among nations To prevent war To protect the independence of countries and safeguard their borders. Encourage reduction of arms Help countries economically and socially Attitude of Britain and France towards the League Britain Had an empire to worry about, did they really have to get involved in every little squabble? League was supposed to uphold the terms of the Treaty, Britain felt it was too harsh France As long as the league protected them from Germany, they were happy Organisation of The League of Nations The General Assembly Met annually representatives from all countries decided upon general policy and Finances Unanimous decisions only The Council Met at least three times a year 4 permanent members (Britain, France, Italy and Japan) 4 other members on 3 year rotations (later 9 members) worked on specific political disputes decisions had to be unanimous The Permanent Court of International Justice Based in the Hague, Holland 15 Judges of mixed nationality Sorted legal disputes between states The Secretariat Administration and Paperwork Commissions and Committees Specific problems mandates, military affairs, minority groups, disarmament commissions International Labour Organisation, World Health Organisation Child and drug trafficking, women's rights Peace Keeping Collective Security Council decides action members contribute weapons/troops Why was everyone so optimistic for the League when it was set up? After war, it was seen as something better Idealistic views It was new Never seen before Great promises Many members Strong members Giving it a chance to prove itself A guide WW1 memories, and a desire for peace The League of Nations in the 1920's Mainly boundary disputes Minor changes to Poland, Danzig, Memel, and Silesia Disputes over areas in Turkey, South Armenia and the Baltic sea. Failed to stop war between Greece and Turkey (1919-22) Vilna - 1920 Poland invaded Vilna, the capital of Lithuania. Poland kept it France and Britain didn't want to act Upper Silesia - 1921 Germany and Poland wanted it A plebiscite was taken was split in half Peace was maintained Aaland Islands - 1921 Finland and Sweden both wanted them Finland got it, since League said so, and Sweden accepted Peace maintained Corfu Incident - 1923 Italian General shot, while there Italy shelled Island, and demanded compensation Conference of Ambassadors overrode League, so Italy didn't have to back down League then had to be in favour of Mussolini (he pressured them) Reparations had to be paid to Italy Locarno Pact - 1924 (Britain and France went outside of the League of Nations to make this) Germany promised to keep to its western borders. (no mention of Eastern borders.) Bulgaria - 1925 Greek troops invaded Bulgaria League condemned the action Greece had to pull troops out, and pay reparations to Bulgaria (Greece felt this was unfair, since in Corfu incident, the powerful country got its way) Also Turkey claimed Mosul a British mandate of Iraq. League gave it to Iraq (no surprise, since Britain controlled League Kellogg Pact - 1928 No war pact 65 countries joined The Great Depression - 1929 Unemployment Falling standards of living Dictators came into power There was very little move towards general disarmament at all during the 1920's. The League of Nations in the 1930's Wall Street crash 1929 <- Start of the Great Depression Distrust grew Dictators came to power The Japanese Invasion of Manchuria - 1931 Japan invaded Manchuria China appeals to the League of Nations In 1933 the League of Nations condemned Japan's action Japan left the league League had no influence in that area, and could do no more German Rearmament 1932 - World Disarmament Conference failed Germany walked out 1933 - Germany left the League 1935 - Britain made a naval agreement with Germany Germany would keep its navy 35% of Britain's This was breaking the Treaty of Versailles The League of Nations was helpless, because Britain made the deal Abyssinian Crisis (Ethiopia) 1934-35 Reasons for Italian aggression Italy had always wanted to take over Abyssinia One of the few uncolonised countries in Africa In 1896, Italy had invaded, but failed to take over Mussolini needed a successful war to distract from incompetent government Mussolini said he wanted to civilise a backward people Mussolini wanted to set up a North African Empire What Happened Mussolini invaded Abyssinia Abyssinians appealed to the League of Nations Weak economic sanctions were imposed (not including coal, oil and steel) French and English worried about upsetting Mussolini and pushing him closer towards Hitler Hoare-Laval pact - Two thirds of Ethiopia would go to Italy - this was not accepted when public found out (Hoare and Laval lost positions) Only collective security from the League could have stopped him - It didn't happen Commissions and Committees Though the League failed in many respects, it was successful with its social and economic agencies. International Labour Organisation (ILO) fix a maximum working day and week adequate minimum wages sickness and unemployment benefit Old age pensions Refugee Commission Led by Fridtjof Nansen Returned thousands of prisoners of war home World Health Organisation (WHO) Investigated causes of epidemics combated typhus epidemic in Russia The Mandates Commission Supervises government of mandate Separate commission for the Saar Disarmament Commission Failed There are many other examples, you may want to look up, as well as specific examples, though for the exam, this is enough.

About the Author

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