

The League of Nations

- Formed 28th June 1919 - **44** countries signed a **Covenant** - aim of maintaining world peace
- Promised to accept League decisions, disarm and protect each other - **Collective Security**
- Disputes between members solved through League



Council → Small group of major members - met several times a year and settled disputes - unanimous decisions

Assembly → Parliament with one representative from every country - met once a year, gave ideas to Council

Secretariat → Carried out Council decisions

Permanent Court of Justice → Peacefully resolved international disputes

International Labour Organisation → Employer and worker representatives - improved working conditions

Special Commissions → Groups to tackle social issues, e.g. health, refugees

The Depression

- Caused by **Wall Street Crash Oct 1929**
- US government had to recall European **loans** - caused international **Great Depression**
- Rise in unemployment and hunger allowed rise in **extremism**, e.g. **Nazis**
- League couldn't afford to use economic sanctions or start wars against **fascist dictators**

Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928

- Signed by **60** countries
- Agreed war should only be in defence rather than 'national policy'
- Germany signed - seen as accepted member of international community

Locarno Treaties 1925

- France, Germany, UK and Italy agreed peace
- Germany agreed to keep troops out of Rhineland



2. THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE

Membership

US never joined - isolationist
WW1 losers not initially allowed
USSR joined in 1934
UK, France, Italy and Japan
Council members

The Abyssinian Crisis

- 3rd Oct 1935 - **Mussolini** invaded Abyssinia
- Britain and France wanted Italy as ally against Germany so refused to intervene
- League refused to trade rubber, iron and arms with Italy but this was ineffective
- May 1936 - Abyssinia declared Italian colony
- Destroyed League's remaining **credibility** - could not prevent **war** in 1939

The Manchurian Crisis

- Feb 1933 - League of Nations voted that **Japan** should abandon its invasion of **Manchuria**
- Japan **ignored** the League - invaded part of **China** then launched full invasion in 1937
- League couldn't enforce sanctions against Japan as **US** continued trading with them and Britain and France feared backlash from their **colonies**
- League seen as **weak** - **Hitler** and **Mussolini** emboldened

Contribution to peace in 1920s

- League decided **Aaland Islands** should remain part of Finland rather than Sweden
- Divided **Upper Silesia** between Germany and Poland
- League ordered Mussolini to leave **Corfu** - though he undermined them and forced Greece to pay him compensation for murdered Italian General
- League stopped fighting between **Bulgaria** and Greece
- League did nothing to stop Poland invading **Vilna**

