

# Conflict Key Topic 1: Peacemaking



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## Key people

### The 'Big Three'

#### Woodrow Wilson

President of America at the end of the First World War. The man with the idea of the League of Nations.

#### David Lloyd George

British Prime Minister at the end of the First World War, keen to make sure that Germany remained able to trade.

#### Georges Clemenceau

French Prime Minister. He wanted to cripple Germany and make sure they could never threaten France again.

### Germany

#### Kaiser Wilhelm

Grandson of Queen Victoria and Cousin of King George V of England. King of Germany before and during WW1.

## Key words

### Article 231

### Saar

### Rhineland

### Demilitarised

### Reparations

### Anschluss

### Treaty of Versailles

### League of Nations

### Colony

### Mandates

### Danzig

### Polish Corridor

### Isolationism

### Franco-Prussian War

### Propaganda

### Weimar Republic

### Abdicate

### USSR

War guilt – Germany had to take the blame for starting WW1

Industrial, coal rich area of land, given to the League of Nations for 15 years

Border area between Germany and France. Demilitarised by the T of V

No German military allowed to be in this area

Payment made to victorious countries by Germany. £6,600 million demanded.

Unification of Austria and Germany.

Peace treaty signed in 1919 that formally ended WW1.

International organisation designed to keep peace.

A country owned by another country

German colonies given to the League of Nations after WW1

Port taken from Germany and made a free city. Near Poland.

Land that was given to Poland that split Germany from East Prussia.

US policy of distancing itself from European issues.

1870 war in which France lost the border land of Alsace and Lorraine to Germany. This was disputed land.

Political information designed to make people believe a certain set of ideas.

New German Government set up after the abdication of the Kaiser.

To give up being the king/queen of a country.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – New name for Russia

## Key events

### First World War background

- 32,663,593 men were killed or wounded during the First World War. It was the most destructive war that had ever been fought
- The war lasted for 4 years 1914-1918
- The war had been fought in trenches, these were mainly located in France and Belgium
- The conditions were unlike anything that had ever been seen before. There is an argument to say that world leaders were not really equipped to create a peace treaty to undo the mess this war had created.

### The 'Big Three'

- This term refers to the leaders of France, Britain and the USA.
- Clemenceau represented France. He had seen his country invaded twice by Germany in his life time.
- Wilson represented America. He wanted to create a future free from war. America was not as damaged by the war and as such did not have as much hatred for Germany.
- Lloyd George represented Britain. He was the middle man. He wanted Germany to be able to trade but was elected by the public because he promised to 'make Germany pay' and said he would 'hang the Kaiser'.

### Peace treaties

- Each of the defeated countries had a separate peace treaty.
- Germany = Versailles
- Austria = St. Germain
- Bulgaria = Neuilly
- Hungary = Trianon
- Turkey = Sevres and Lausanne

### German reaction

- The Germans did not have any representation at the negotiations for the Treaty of Versailles. They were not invited by the Big Three
- Historians agree that the decisions taken at Versailles affected Germany for the following two decades and ultimately led to the rise of Hitler and the slide towards the Second World War
- The Germans referred to the Treaty of Versailles as Diktat. This means dictated peace.
- They thought it was unfair and punished Germany in a way that isolated them from the rest of Europe.
- Germany lost 16% of coal, 48% of steel and 6 million German speakers were displaced
- They also had to accept the blame for the war through clause 231.

### Reaction of the Big Three

- Lloyd George was pleased with the land that Britain gained and the notion that Germany was blamed. He was less pleased with the reparations, he felt they were too harsh and that trade would be damaged
- Clemenceau was angry that Germany kept its army. He was also unhappy about the land that France gained. The French did not re-elect him which suggests that he too was unhappy.
- Wilson was devastated by how harsh the Treaty was. He had hoped for something far more constructive. The American public did not support the Treaty at all.



# Conflict Key Topic 2: The League of Nations



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## Manchurian Crisis

**Lord Lytton**  
British representative of the L of N sent to Manchuria

## Abyssinian Crisis

**Haile Selassie**  
Leader of Abyssinia

**Mussolini**  
Fascist leader of Italy

**Samuel Hoare**  
British Foreign Secretary, represented GB in the Hoare-Leval Pact

**Pierre Laval**  
French Prime Minister, represented France in the Hoare-Leval pact

## League of Nations outline

- The idea of American President Woodrow Wilson to bring the world together in peace. It would be a group of countries that would work together to solve world problems.

- Aims**
  - To stop war from breaking out again
  - To encourage disarmament
  - To improve working conditions
  - To tackle deadly diseases
- Based in Geneva, Switzerland where the Red Cross was also based.
- The USA never joined when the Senate refused to agree.

## Successes of the League of Nations

- Many of the commissions had success in their own areas. For example, the Heath Commission was later renamed The World Health Organisation. This is incredibly important today in the fight against diseases such as Covid 19
- In 1921 The Aland Islands were disputed between Sweden and Finland. The League stepped in and created an agreement that successfully avoided war
- In 1925 Greece invaded Bulgaria. The League was able to make Greece remove their troops from Bulgaria.

## Other international agreements

- Locarno 1925
  - A treaty designed to improve relations between Germany and France
  - Things that were not clear after Versailles were tidied up at this meeting. For example, the old disputed land of Alsace Lorraine. Germany gave up any claim to this
  - Britain, Czechoslovakia, Italy and Belgium also signed this treaty
  - Germany seen as more peaceful and by 1926 they were allowed to join the League of Nations
- Kellogg-Briand 1928
  - 65 countries met in Paris where they signed an agreement saying that they would not use war to solve problems
  - Germany, France and the USA were some of the first to sign
  - This all took place outside the League of Nations making the League look useless

## The Manchurian Crisis

- Japan was suffering from the economic depression, the army was pressuring for more power and murdered the Prime Minister in 1932
- Japan then staged an explosion on the South Manchurian railway in China and used this as an excuse to invade
- The League sent the Lytton Commission to investigate. It took a year to recommend that Japan should leave China. This was ignored and Japan left the League of Nations

## The Abyssinian Crisis

- Mussolini invaded Abyssinia to try and recreate the Roman Empire and bring glory to Italy
- Haile Selassie appealed to the League of Nations for help defending his country
- The League put weak trade sanctions in place refusing to sanction coal and oil. They also failed to close the Suez Canal
- Secretly the Hoare-Leval Pact was negotiated which saw Britain and France trying to give away parts of Abyssinia to Italy. This brought disgrace to France and Britain and showed how unsupported the League was.

## Key words

### League of Nations

International organisation designed to keep peace.

### Geneva

Major city in Switzerland, home of the League of Nations

### Fontainebleau Memorandum

A document from Britain saying they completely supported the League of Nations

### Locarno Treaty

Began the process of allowing Germany to join the League of Nations

### Collective security

The idea that if all countries worked together they could make sure that war didn't break out again

### Mitigation

Getting countries together to talk through problems to try and avoid war

### Covenant

Document that set out how the League of Nations would deal with any aggressive country

### Moral condemnation

Giving a country a telling off to try and make it behave in line with the covenant of the League of Nations

### Economic sanctions

Members of the League of Nations would not trade with aggressive or war causing countries

### Humanitarian

Making it your priority to make sure humans live in good conditions in their countries

### Fascist

Political belief that leads to dictators and intolerance within countries

### Council

Body that had the power of Veto for certain countries

### Permanent Court of Justice

The League of Nations court set up to deal with international arguments

### Assembly

All members represented. Decision had to be unanimous

### Secretariat

Carried out the paper work/administration for the League of Nations

### Unanimous

All must agree to a decision

### Veto

The power to block a decision. The League of Nations Council had the power of veto

### Refugee

A person displaced from their home by a reason beyond their control

### Commissions

Groups put together to tackle specific issues. For example, the Slavery Commission

### Depression

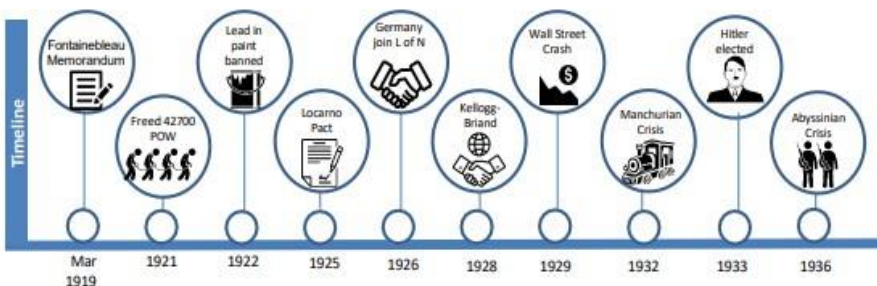
A period of time when countries struggle for money and the people of a country are often unemployed

### Dictator

A ruler with total and unchecked power over a country, for example, Hitler

### Stresa Front

1935 agreement that Britain, France and Italy would unite against Germany





# Conflict Key Topic 3: Road to War



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## Key people

<b>Britain</b>	<b>Neville Chamberlain</b> British Prime Minister 1937-1940. Most famous for his policy of appeasement
<b>Czechoslovakia</b>	<b>Edvard Beneš</b> Czech politician who was President of Czechoslovakia from 1935 to 1938. He was in charge of Czechoslovakia during the Sudeten Crisis where he was largely ignored
<b>Germany</b>	<b>Adolf Hitler</b> Nazi leader of Germany, elected in 1933. Wanted to overturn Versailles.
<b>Austria</b>	<b>Kurt Schuschnigg</b> Chancellor of Austria from the 1934 assassination of his predecessor, Dollfuss, until the 1938 Anschluss with Nazi Germany.  <b>Arthur Seyss-Inquart</b> Austrian Nazi politician who served as Chancellor of Austria in 1938 for two days, before the annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany

## Key words

<b>Foreign policy</b>	The way a country deals with and interacts with other countries
<b>Lebensraum</b>	Translates as <i>living space in the east</i> . Hitler wanted to make sure Germany had enough land to live and farm on
<b>Volksdeutsche</b>	People with German blood who don't live in Germany
<b>Greater Germany</b>	Bringing back all German people into one country
<b>Rearmament</b>	Rebuild the German army after the damage done to it by the Treaty of Versailles
<b>Luftwaffe</b>	The German air force
<b>Appeasement</b>	A policy of giving Hitler a little of what he wanted in the hope of stopping a full scale war
<b>Pacifist</b>	A person who believes war is never the answer to problems
<b>Capitalist</b>	A political or economic belief that means you want people and your country to run businesses and make money
<b>Remilitarisation</b>	Putting military back into an area of land. For example, the Rhineland
<b>Pact</b>	A formal agreement between people, organisations or countries
<b>Fuhrer</b>	Name used by Hitler to describe him as the unchallenged leader of Germany
<b>Anti-Semitic</b>	Hateful thoughts, policies or behaviour towards Jews
<b>Satirical</b>	Sarcastic or critical of something. Often the case for political cartoons in this period
<b>Sudetenland</b>	Border and defensive region of Czechoslovakia, a new country created by the Treaty of Versailles
<b>Soviet</b>	Describing the actions, people or Government of the USSR

## Key events

### Hitler's aims

- In Mein Kampf, Hitler said he would overturn Versailles and take Lebensraum for the German people. This formed the basis of his aims
- These policies meant Hitler would have to invade other countries to fulfil them, there was a very real risk that these policies would start another war
- Hitler vowed to make Germany strong again, economically and politically
- Hitler also had a clear hatred of Communism. He said he would destroy this.

### Remilitarisation of the Rhineland

- Hitler defied the Treaty of Versailles and marched his troops back into the Rhineland
- Hitler's own military generals warned against this action. They felt that, if France chose to fight Germany would be crushed. In reality, the French were distracted by an internal election and they were involved in negotiations around the Abyssinian Crisis that took place at the same time.

### Anschluss

- Unification of Austria and Germany
- Hitler made it clear that this was an aim. He felt the people were the same and should be united in a Greater Germany. This was compounded by the fact that Hitler himself was Austrian.
- Nazi action took place in Austria to make it impossible for the country to continue independently.
- Seyss-Inquart forced Schuschnigg out and took control of the country before inviting the Nazi German army in.

### Sudeten Crisis

- Appeasement was applied here. Britain and France negotiated with Hitler to give him the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia.
- There were German speakers here, Hitler felt this gave him a claim to the land.
- President Beneš of Czechoslovakia wasn't even consulted
- This is seen as appeasement in action. Britain and France were only concerned with keeping Hitler happy. The fate of Czechoslovakia did not concern them.

### Nazi-Soviet Pact

- Stalin had been alienated by Britain and France, he turned to Hitler
- The two signed an agreement that publicly stated that the two countries would not go to war again
- Privately the agreement said that Germany and the USSR would invade and split Poland between them
- This action changed Britain's opinion of Germany. They signed an agreement that stated, if Poland was attacked, Britain would fight. This made war inevitable.

### Appeasement

- This policy aimed to prevent another war. It was used by Britain and Chamberlain in dealing with Hitler
- Many believe Chamberlain made a mistake by trusting Hitler, Britain and France could have stopped Hitler if they had acted earlier. It could be argued that missed opportunities here led to the slide to war that took place
- Modern historians accept that appeasement was probably the only option available and that Chamberlain was trying to delay war until a point when Britain would be ready to fight.

