

GCSE HISTORY REVISION CARDS

PAPER 1

**Conflict and Tension
1918-39**

❑ The First World War Ends

- ❑ The war had dragged on for many years and caused huge damage to both sides.
- ❑ As well as 8 million soldiers and 8 million civilian deaths there was extensive damage to factories, farms, railways and many other essential infrastructure.
- ❑ After defeating the Russians in 1917 a German victory seemed possible until the USA joined the war.
- ❑ Germany made one last push in the spring of 1918 but this failed.
- ❑ Germany were offered an armistice by the allies, they did not like the terms but signed it because they had no choice.

Why sign the Armistice?

After the spring offensive Germany was short of man power and supplies.

The USA had more supplies and troops. Defeat became inevitable.

In November 1918, German sailors mutinied and refused to fight the British any longer.

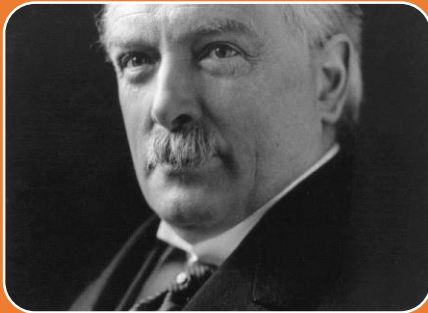
After this many German civilians began to protest the impacts of the war in major cities.

To calm the demonstrations the Kaiser stepped down and fled to Holland. The replacement government signed the Armistice.

Reactions: Many Germans were unaware at how badly the war was going and so accepting the Armistice seemed like a betrayal. Those who signed it came to be known as 'November Criminals'. Many German soldiers believed that the Armistice was only temporary and that fighting would start again shortly. The allies celebrated a great victory whilst the German state seemed on the brink of a civil war.

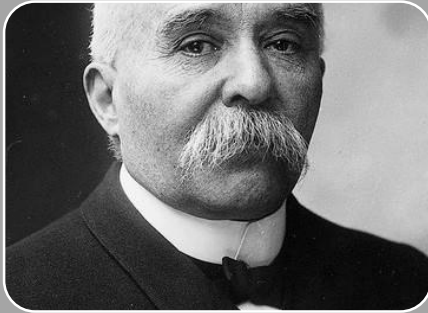
Aims of the 'Big Three'

Going into the Treaty of Versailles, each of the leaders of the 'Big Three' countries had their own set of aims. David Lloyd George, Georges Clemenceau and Woodrow Wilson all wanted a different settlement with very different degrees of punishment for Germany.



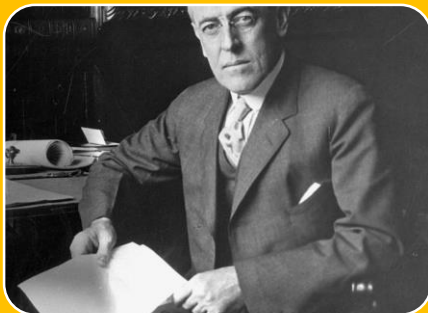
Great Britain had suffered some damage during the war as well as many losses. David Lloyd George was under pressure to punish the German people:

- He did not want the treaty to be so harsh that it caused the Germans to retaliate causing another war down the line.
- He wanted Germany to remain strong enough to trade with Britain
- He wanted to protect the British Empire by taking German colonies away and reducing the size of their navy to ensure Britain was the foremost naval power on earth.



France had been decimated by the war. Many farms, factories and cities had been destroyed as well as the massive death toll. Clemenceau wanted revenge:

- He wanted Germany to pay a massive reparations bill for the war.
- He also wanted Alsace-Lorraine returned to France.
- His final demand was for Germany to be too weak, financially and militarily to ever threaten France again. He suggested splitting Germany into 4 smaller states to achieve this.



America was not as thirsty for revenge as other nations. They had made a lot of money selling weapons to the allies and were in a strong position after the war:

- Wilson was concerned that a treaty that was too harsh would cause another war eventually.
- He was an idealist who believed in self determination and the end of Empires around the world.
- His main hope rested in his '14 points' aimed to encourage international cooperation. Point 14 of these was the establishment of a League of Nations to keep the peace.

The Treaty of Versailles

Versailles settlement

3

The **Peacemakers** came to a compromise and the Treaty of Versailles was formed. Germany were not present at discussions on the treaty and were forced to sign it with no negotiation. If they refused to sign then the allies would restart the war. The Germans called this a '**Diktat**' (dictated peace).

Blame

Article 231, otherwise known as the war guilt clause stated that Germany had to accept blame for starting the war. This left many Germans feeling humiliated.

Anschluss

Germany was never again allowed to unify with Austria.

Reparations

Accepting blame for the war meant Germany had to pay a reparations bill to the allies. This was totalled at £6.6 billion. An astronomical figure.

Army

- Military to be reduced to 100,000 men. Conscription banned.
- No tanks allowed.
- No air force allowed.
- Navy reduced to 15,000 men, 6 battleships, no submarines.
- The Rhineland became a demilitarised zone to protect France from any future German attacks.

Territory

- Alsace Lorraine was returned to France.
- The coal rich Saarland was given to the LON for 15 years.
- All colonies were taken away
- The Polish Corridor was created splitting Germany in 2 to give Poland access to the sea.
- Overall Germany lost 13% of their land leaving 6 million Germans living outside the borders of their own country.

Terms of the Treaty of Versailles



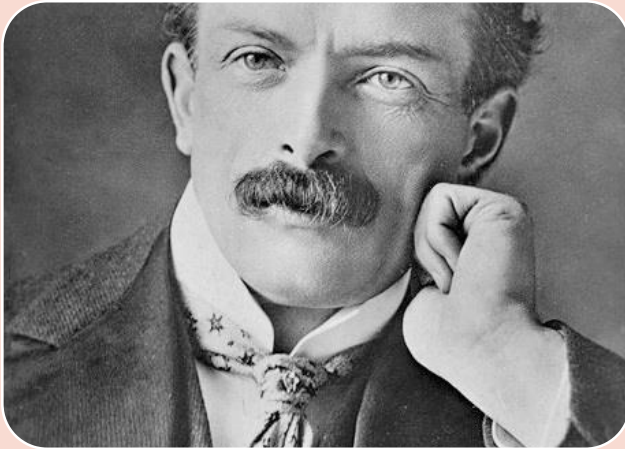
LON

A League of Nations was set up but Germany was not allowed to join. This meant all LON territory was effectively controlled by GB and France.

Were the Big 3 Satisfied?

Versailles settlement

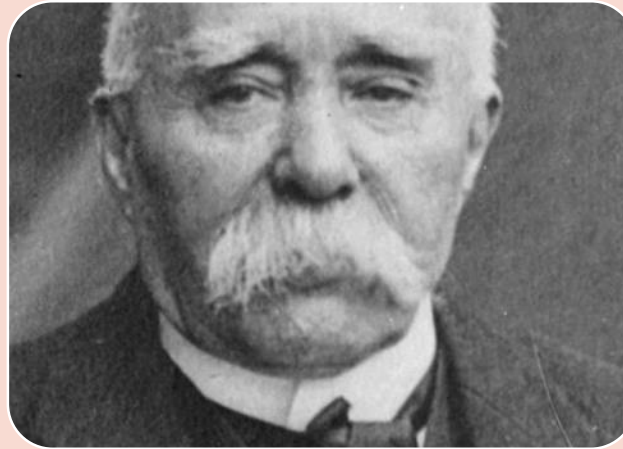
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Lloyd George believed that the war guilt clause could lead to another war in 25 years

He was pleased that the German navy was weakened and that Britain had gained territory from the German Empire.

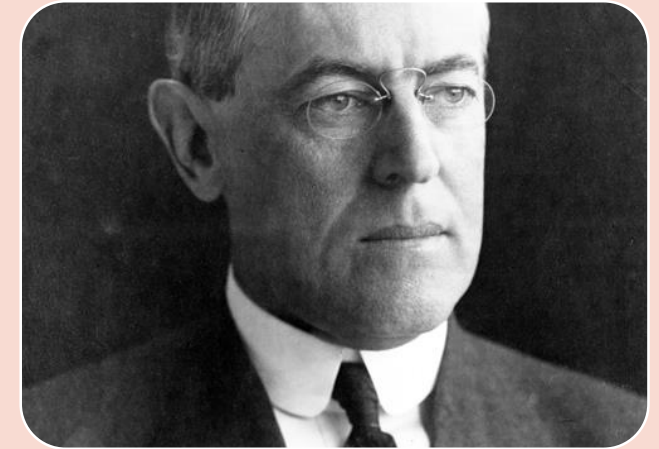
Reparations had crippled Germany so they could no longer trade. This was not good.



Clemenceau wanted the Rhineland to be independent, not just demilitarized. He was also unhappy that Germany had any army.

Reparations fees were still lower than the cost of the war.

Many French people believed the treaty had not gone far enough. Clemenceau was voted out of power at the next election.



Wilson was disappointed that the allies kept their empires.

He was pleased that the LON was formed and that nations agreed to work together to prevent war.

Like Lloyd George he was worried that the Germans would seek revenge for the treaty in the future.

The People

Most people felt the treaty was fair. The war had taken its toll on the British people. Almost everyone had lost someone and food shortages had been difficult. They wanted to Germans to pay. Overall the treaty was popular, it was declared that Germany would never again threaten Britain and Lloyd George was seen as a hero.



The French were desperate to punish Germany. Some parts of the treaty (Alsace-Lorraine, Saarland and the demilitarisation of the Rhineland) were popular. However, many people felt like the treaty had not gone far enough and that Germany was still too strong. The French blamed Clemenceau for this and removed him from power next election.



Many Americans felt that the treaty was harsh on Germany and that GB and France had become too powerful as a result.

Americans believed in **isolationism** (The USA should not become involved in foreign affairs) As a result the Senate refused to accept the treaty as it was not based around the 14 points and as such was not in Americas best interest.



The Leaders

Although he was praised, Lloyd George was not happy with the treaty:

- He worried that the treaty was far too harsh and would cause future conflict.
- He was concerned that reparations had damaged Germanys ability to trade.
- He was concerned that giving German land to Poland would result in the German people wanting to re-join Germany further down the line.

Clemenceau was angry about many things:

- He was upset Germany had been allowed to keep any army at all.
- He had wanted the Rhineland to be it's own independent state not a demilitarised zone.
- Incredibly he did not think reparations were high enough, he was concerned Germany were not financially weak enough.

Wilson was also upset with the outcomes of the TOV:

- He was worried that the harshness would lead to the USA being pulled into another war.
- Most of his 14 points had been ignored.
- The Senate refusing to accept the treaty meant that the USA did not join the LON. Wilson campaigned for the USA to join until his death in 1924. The USA however remained an isolationist nation until the late 1930s.

The German people were very unhappy with the terms of the treaty. They felt that the Diktat was deeply unfair and blamed the government for signing the treaty. In truth they had no choice, the alternative was a return to war.

Blame

Article 231 meant that Germany had to take the blame. This was by far the most hated part of the treaty as it was a humiliation for the German people that would stay with them for generations. They did not feel that they were solely to blame for the start of the war and so were left feeling unjustly punished by this.

Reparations

The astronomical reparations bill of £6.6 billion left an already financially crippled Germany in turmoil. Things got so bad that when the Germans could not pay an installment in 1923 the French invaded the industrial Ruhr and took German goods in place of money. This led to the Germans printing more money which caused Hyperinflation (Where money becomes worthless) by the end of the year a loaf of bread was worth 200,000,000,000 marks.

German objections

Army

Germany objected to the limiting of their armed forces for a number of reasons. Their first objection was that the reduction in their armed forces left them defenseless and open to attack from any rival nation. As well as this the limit on not only their army but also their navy and air force meant that hundreds of thousands of men were left unemployed as a result.

Territory

Germany were very upset to have lost 13% of their land particularly because much of it was valuable industrial land. Their main issue though came because over 6 million Germans were not left outside of Germany. They were concerned they would be discriminated against in a new nation and wanted to be a part of Germany again.

The New States

The treaty created a number of new nations based on the principle of Self-Determination. However, many of these countries contained a mix of ethnic backgrounds some of whom were not happy with the situation.



<p><u>Czechoslovakia</u></p>	<p>Czechoslovakia declared their independence from Austria-Hungary in 1918 this was then accepted at the Treaty of Versailles. They had inherited a lot of Austria's industrial land and so were financially and mostly politically stable. 1/5 of their population was German, mostly in the Sudetenland, and they resented being forced to be part of Czechoslovakia.</p>
<p><u>Yugoslavia</u></p>	<p>Yugoslavia was formed from several different ethnic groups. Due to this there was frequently tension between them. However, Yugoslavia remained as a fairly stable state until their incredibly violent collapse in the 1990s.</p>
<p><u>Poland</u></p>	<p>Poland was created as a buffer between Germany and the USSR. Poland was given the Polish corridor, splitting Germany in two and giving Poland access to the sea. German citizens in this area resented living in Poland. To the east lay the USSR who were not happy about the Polish border. To the west lay the Germans who were unhappy about being split in two. Poland was surrounded by hostile nations from the start.</p>

Was the Treaty Fair?

Fair

Unfair

Germany had already agreed to many of the terms at the Armistice. Including paying reparations.

Germany were strong enough to rebuild their army and military and start a war 20 years later.

Expecting Germany to pay for a war that had caused untold damage, especially to France, was not unfair.

It was normal for losing nations to be treated harshly. Germany had treated Russia very similarly at the treaty of Brest-Litovsk in 1917.

The causes of the war were complicated and not completely Germany's fault. Yet they were made to take the blame.

The Germans signed the armistice believing the treaty would be based on the 14 points but it was not. They may not have signed had they known the treaty would be a Diktat.

6 million Germans now lived in new, often hostile, countries. This gave them an excuse to regain lost land in future.

Many leaders, including Wilson and Lloyd George, believed the treaty was far too harsh and would cause future problems.

Formation of the League of Nations

- ❑ The LON was Woodrow Wilson's 14th and most vital point when he arrived at Versailles.
- ❑ The League was an international organisation committed to cooperation between nations and the promotion of international peace.
- ❑ All countries agreed on what the rules of the league should be at Versailles.
- ❑ After the losses during WW1, international leaders wanted to find a way to work together to avoid wars. The intention of the league was to promote compromise and negotiation.
- ❑ Geneva was chosen as the headquarters for the league as Switzerland had been neutral during the war.

Aims of the League

- 1) To resolve disputes between members
- 2) To prevent future wars
- 3) To encourage international cooperation
- 4) To tackle diseases
- 5) To improve living and working conditions

LEAGUE OF NATIONS



SOCIETE DES NATIONS

The LON had 42 founding members. It was dominated by the remaining imperial powers (Britain, France, Italy etc). However, Germany, Russia and the USA did not join.

Who joined the League?

When the league was founded there were 42 member states. These included many European, South American and Asian nations. African countries mostly did not join as they were usually under the control of European Imperial powers.

Why did countries want to join?

Countries wanted to join the league to benefit from collective security, to avoid another large scale war, to have a say over matters such as disarmament and to cooperate on issues to do with health and the drug trade.

Who didn't join and why?

Germany, Austria and Turkey were not allowed to join as they had lost the war.

GB and France were suspicious of the communist Russians so they were not invited to join.

The US Senate refused to allow the USA to join as they did not want to be dragged into European issues. This was the beginning of US isolationism

Changes in membership

Germany were allowed to join in 1926 after the Locarno treaty was signed. The USSR then joined in 1934.

Some nations left the league over disputes: Germany (1933), Italy (1937), Japan (1933). The USSR were expelled in 1939.

The council

The Council were the leaders of the league and would decide when or if the league should take action in a situation. They had 4 permanent members (GB, France, Italy and Japan). Any council member could veto (overrule) the decisions of the assembly. They made the important decisions and so met more often

The Assembly

The Assembly was the leagues parliament. They met once a year and each member sent a representative. They would vote on issues such as membership or finances. Decisions had to be unanimous, this often led to very little being done.

The Secretariat

The secretariat was the leagues secretary. It managed the admin of the league and organised non-military decisions. Unfortunately there were not enough workers to stay on top of this and so it was disorganised.

Court of International Justice

The court would handle border disputes between nations. They would make decisions which countries had to follow. They had no way to enforce these decisions though.

How would the League deal with disputes???

Arbitration

Getting countries together to discuss the problem and try to solve it.

Moral Condemnation

Warning countries in the wrong that they need to behave better.

Trade Sanctions

Members stop trading with offending nations trying to force change.

Military Intervention

The LON would ask members to use their military to protect another member.

Silesia 1921

- The people had the right to a plebiscite on whether they wanted to join Germany or Poland
- The result was very close and led to rioting from each side.
- The League decided to split Upper Silesia between Germany and Poland. The League's decision was accepted by both countries and by the people in Upper Silesia.

Aaland Islands 1921

- These Islands were between Finland and Sweden. They were always Finnish but the people wanted to be ruled by Sweden.
- The League's decision was that they should remain with Finland but that no weapons should ever be kept there. Both countries accepted the decision and it remains in force to this day.

Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928

- The pact was signed by 23 nations and supported by 65, to outlaw war and to solve all disputes by peaceful means.
- Though not necessarily created by the LON his marked a high point in international relations and the world appeared a safer place.

Vilna – 1920:

After World War One, Lithuania had been re-established and Vilna made its capital. 30% of the population was from Poland. In 1920, the Poles seized Vilna. Lithuania asked for League help, but France saw Poland as an ally against Germany and so the League did nothing.

The Ruhr 1923:

In 1922 the Germans failed to pay an installment of their reparations. In 1923, contrary to League rules, the French and the Belgium's invaded the Ruhr – Germany's most important industrial zone. To other nations, it seemed that if you wanted to break League rules, you could. The League clearly failed on this occasion, primarily because it was seen to be involved in breaking its own rules.

Invasion of Corfu 1923:

The Italian leader Mussolini invaded the Greek island of Corfu. The Council of the League condemned Mussolini, and told him to leave Corfu. Mussolini **refused** to accept its decision. He refused to leave Corfu. The League changed its decision. It told Greece to apologise to Mussolini, and to pay money to Italy. The Greeks did as the League said. Then Mussolini gave Corfu back to Greece.

1920s Disarmament:

In the 1920s, the League largely failed in bringing about disarmament, one of their main aims. In 1921 the USA, Japan, Britain and France agreed to limit the size of their navies, but that was as far as disarmament ever got. In 1923, the League's first attempt at a disarmament treaty was accepted by France and other nations, but was rejected by Britain because it would tie it to defending other countries. In 1926, plans were finally made for a disarmament conference, it ended up being a massive failure in the 1930s

There were two main treaties which occurred outside of the LON in the 1920s. Whilst these were not orchestrated by the League they did have a significant impact on international cooperation.

The Locarno Treaties, 1925

- ❑ Organised by German foreign minister Gustav Stresemann.
- ❑ Germany, France, Belgium, Poland, Britain, Czechoslovakia and Italy all signed.
- ❑ Germany were to be treated as an equal at the conference and not an aggressor.
- ❑ All countries agreed not to go to war with each other.
- ❑ Most importantly, Germany accepted the border changes from the TOV
- ❑ France and Germany agreed to resolve disputes peacefully in future
- ❑ The Rhineland was made a neutral zone where no country could send troops.
- ❑ The following year Germany joined the LON.

The Kellogg-Briand Pact, 1928

- ❑ Aristide Briand, the French foreign minister was focused on securing international agreements to protect France.
- ❑ This was a plan to agree that the USA and France would not go to war. US foreign secretary Frank Kellogg was worried this agreement may force the USA to protect France should they be attacked.
- ❑ He proposed bringing more nations into the agreement to outlaw war.
- ❑ In August 1928, 62 countries including Germany, the USA and France agreed to the Kellogg-Briand pact agreeing to resolve conflicts through peaceful means.

Consider this: Both of these agreements were involving nations who were not League members. This meant that the League were not involved in negotiations. Rather than being at the front of peace discussions the League were not involved at all. They were seen as the organisation where issues were discussed but never solved.

The Wall St Crash 1929

In October 1929 the US economic boom of the 1920s came to an end with the Wall St Crash. Stocks and shares lost their value, banks collapsed and companies went out of business.

By 1933, 13 million Americans were unemployed and many had lost their homes. Many people around the world were living in extreme poverty. This became known as the Great Depression.

The Worldwide Impact

- ❑ American banks had lent money to European countries to help them rebuild after WW1. After the crash these loans were called in causing economic crisis globally.
- ❑ The US government also increased tax on foreign goods, hoping to force Americans to buy US goods. This caused a significant drop in international trade.

The Rise of Nationalism

- ❑ With unemployment rising and people facing starvation they began to turn to extreme leaders (Hitler and Mussolini).
- ❑ These men promised to take land by force to provide food, land and resources.
- ❑ They offered simple solutions such as Hitler's 'Work and Bread' slogan.
- ❑ Blaming others for the nations problems e.g. the Treaty of Versailles and the Jews in Germany.

Impact on the LON

The LONs powers were ineffective against dictators like Hitler. They did not care for collective security and were not afraid of moral condemnation. In a time of economic crisis countries did not want to impose economic sanctions and limit their own trade. They also could not afford to support the LON with their armies. The path was clear for Hitler in the 1930s.

Causes: The Japanese had been hit hard by the Great Depression and American tariffs on trade, Manchuria was rich in natural resources. The Japanese government was also being strongly influenced by the military who wanted to make Japan a strong nation again. The Japanese set off an explosion on the South Manchurian railway which they owned and blamed the Chinese. The Military saw this as their opportunity and invaded Manchuria.

Events: China appealed to the LON for help but many Europeans saw them as too far away to be concerned by. They were also convinced by the Japanese argument that China had attacked first. The Chinese were poorly organised and weak, many felt that Japan would take Manchuria far more effectively.

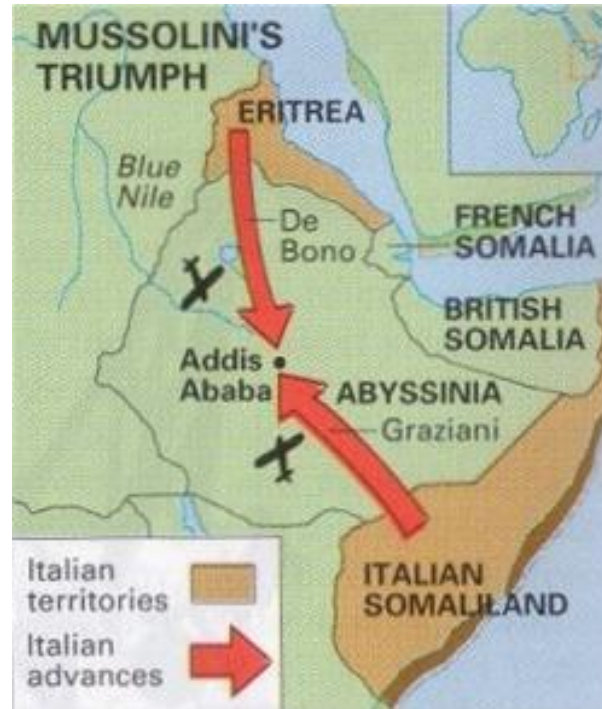


Events: The LON sent Lord Lytton to Manchuria in 1932. Lytton took a year to publish his report claiming that Japan was in the wrong. However, by this point most people had lost interest. The league condemned Japan and told them to leave Manchuria. Japan ignored the League's order and left the league in 1933. The League did nothing in response.

Consequences: The League had failed to uphold international peace. One of their strongest members had broken the rules and the League had done nothing about it, slowly. This showed more powerful nations that they could get away with aggressive actions. Many still believed that the League would deal with issues in Europe more competently but this theory was to be tested in the coming years. As the Japanese invaded the Jehol province of China, Italian leader Mussolini made plans of his own closer to home.

Causes: At the start of the 1930s Mussolini expressed his desire to create an Italian empire bringing back the glory of the Roman Empire. Italy was not immune from the effects of the Great Depression and Abyssinia had fertile land and natural resources that would be useful. On top of this Italy had previously failed to invade Abyssinia in 1896, Mussolini wanted revenge for this. Having seen that Britain and France were unlikely to oppose him, he made his move in October 1935.

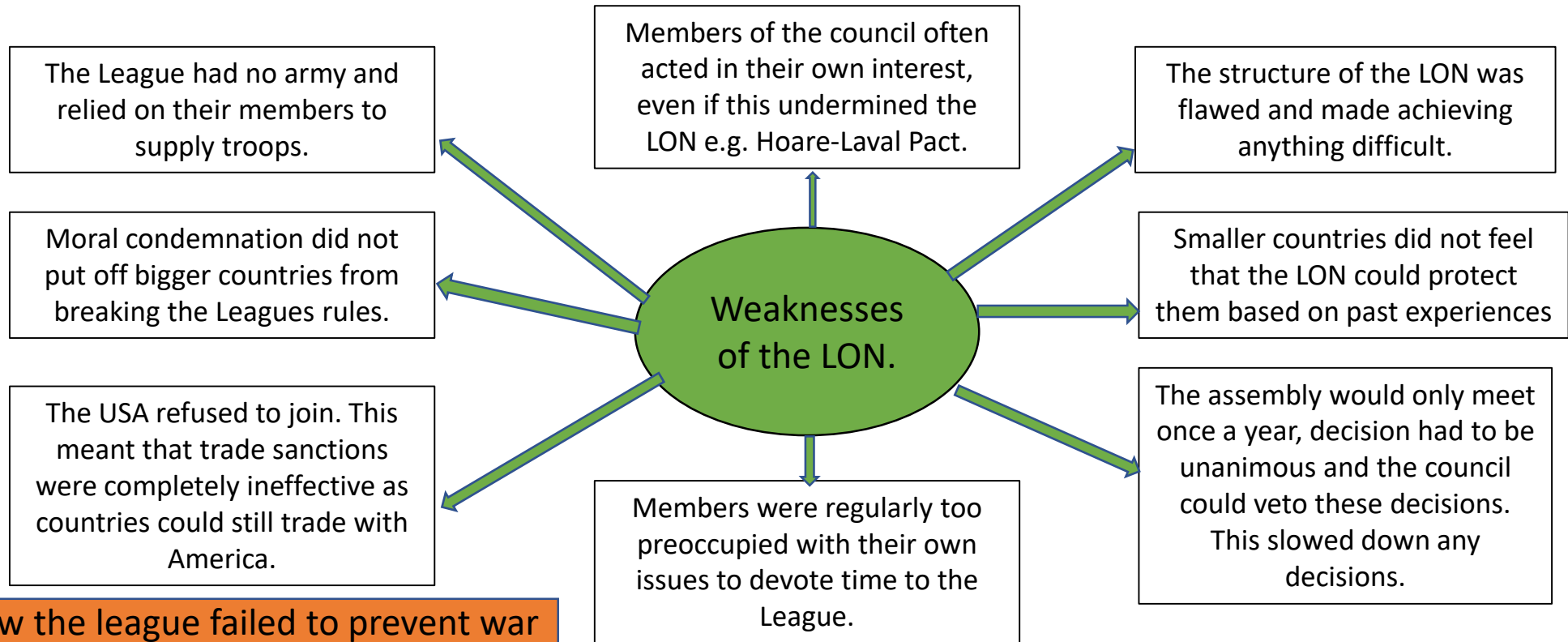
Events: The League initially issued a moral condemnation of Mussolini. This had no effect. The Abyssinians were mostly farmers armed with pre WW1 weapons, they were no match for Mussolini's high tech armoured tanks and poison gas. Addis Ababa was captured in 1936 and Haile Selassie was removed as the leader. He appealed to the League for support in June 1936 shortly before Italy left the League in 1937.



Events: The League had banned the sale of weapons to Italy. They did not ban the sale of oil, coal, steel or iron, essentials for Mussolini's armoured vehicles. It was thought that the USA would sell Italy oil anyway so trade sanctions would be useless. Crucially Britain did not close the Suez Canal giving Italy access to Abyssinia by sea. This would have ended the invasion but Britain did not want to risk pushing Mussolini towards an alliance with Hitler.

Consequences: In 1935, British and French foreign Ministers Hoare and Laval came up with a secret plan to give Italy half of Abyssinia called the Hoare-Laval Pact. The League was not consulted on this. In the end the plan was leaked to the press, the League looked very weak and both Hoare and Laval were sacked. This showed that Britain and France were willing to undermine the League in order to serve their own interests. Once Italy left the League in 1937 it was clear that they were not only unable to control stronger countries but they were unwilling to control them for fear of starting a war. Small nations now knew that the League would not protect them if the time came. Hitler saw this lack of action and began to make his own plans.

In September 1939 the Second World War began. Many people blame the failure of the League of Nations for the outbreak of war. In truth there were many factors that caused the war but we will be looking below at the weaknesses of the League and how this contributed to the breakdown of international cooperation.



How the league failed to prevent war

The Great depression made countries more concerned with themselves and less likely to cooperate

Poverty and unemployment meant that aggressive nationalists (Hitler/Mussolini appeared more appealing.

The British and French were more interested in keeping Mussolini as an ally against Hitler than in protecting the Leagues interests

Failure to deal with the Abyssinian crisis showed Hitler that the League could do nothing to stop him.

Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany in 1933. He had gained power promising to restore Germany to greatness and overturn the hated Treaty of Versailles. His policies and aims caused much tension among European nations.

Hitler's Aims	Why they caused tension
<p>To <u>overturn the Treaty of Versailles</u>. Like most Germans, Hitler believed that the treaty humiliated Germany and that the men who signed it were traitors.</p>	<p>The treaty had created peace after WW1. Overturning it would be admitting that this peace was flawed. Many nations had been created by the treaty and did not want to lose their self-determination.</p>
<p>To expand German borders into the east to make up for the land lost in the TOV. This new land to the east was called <u>Lebensraum</u> (living space).</p>	<p>To expand into the east Hitler would need to invade the countries of Eastern Europe. This would be an act of war and put Czechoslovakia, Poland and the USSR on high alert.</p>
<p>To unite all German speaking people (the <u>Volksdeutsche</u>) into one 'Greater Germany'. This included those displaced by the TOV and Anschluss with Austria.</p>	<p>It was unlikely other countries would willingly give up their German speaking areas and as such an invasion would be necessary. Anschluss was also outlawed by the TOV.</p>
<p>To root out and destroy <u>communism</u>.</p>	<p>The USSR's powerful communist government was building relations with Britain and France and was allied with other Eastern European nations. They were a very powerful enemy.</p>
<p>To make Germany strong again by rebuilding the armed forces and reducing unemployment. He wanted to reintroduce conscription and create an air force (<u>Luftwaffe</u>).</p>	<p>Rearmament was a direct violation of the TOV. This not only broke international law but made many nations feel threatened (France, Czechoslovakia and Poland).</p>

Allies Reaction to Hitler

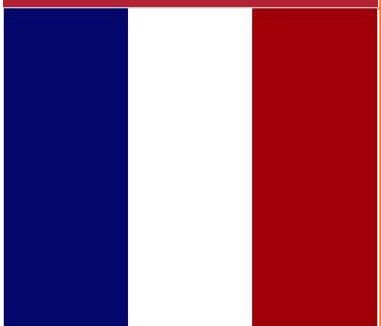
Hitler had made his intentions clear. He wanted to restore Germany to power and was willing to use military force to do so. The allied powers reacted differently to this.



- Many were concerned by Hitler's aggression but were too scarred by the First World War to consider military action. Early in the 1930s Hitler signed a non-aggression pact with Poland which eased tension.
- Neville Chamberlain pursued a policy of appeasement, giving Hitler a bit of what he wanted in order to avoid a conflict. This was supported by many in Britain.
- Many Brits felt that the Treaty of Versailles had been unfair and Hitler was only planning to take back what was rightfully Germany's. Many were more concerned by Stalin and saw Hitler as a solution.
- Politicians such as Winston Churchill opposed the idea of appeasement claiming it made Hitler stronger.



- The USA continued to be an isolationist power. A poll in the 1934 showed 70% of Americans believed becoming involved in WW1 was a mistake.
- In 1936, Roosevelt promised not to send the USA into another European war. He tried to dissuade Hitler from invading other countries but was ignored.
- The US Government did not try to interfere again but did begin to build up their armed forces.



- The 1930s were a decade of difficulty for France. The Great Depression had effected the economy, which was still recovering from WW1, very badly.
- There were many protests against the government and outbreaks of rebellion. French President Edouard Daladier was distracted by this and had to ignore the threat posed by Hitler.
- It was clear that if France was attacked they would need to rely on other nations to help defend them.
- They signed an agreement with the USSR in 1935 to protect each other if necessary.



- The USSR was a communist dictatorship led by Josef Stalin, this led to difficult relationships with other countries
- Hitler had been clear about his hatred of communism. This worried Stalin.
- He was also concerned about the other allied powers as they had not let the USSR join the League of Nations initially and overall had frozen them out of international affairs.
- The USSR eventually joined the League in 1934.

1. Germany leaves the LON disarmament conference, 1933.

The conference took place between 1932-34. Hitler agreed that he would stay disarmed if other countries would do the same but currently Germany was the only disarmed country. Hitler argued that he should be able to increase his army to the same size as France in order to defend Germany from attack. France refused to allow this. Hitler stormed out of the conference and left the LON shortly after.

2. The Dolfuss Affair, 1934.

Anschluss was a key part of Hitler's plan to unite the Volksdeutsche. He was of course Austrian himself. Dolfuss, the leader of Austria had banned the Nazi party. Hitler organised for them to cause chaos in the streets, Dolfuss was murdered. However, the plot failed as the Austrian army did not support Anschluss and Mussolini had moved his troops to the Austrian border to prevent the invasion. Hitler pretended Austrian Nazis had acted on their own.

3. The Saar Plebiscite, January 1935.

The Saar, an important industrial area, had been given to the LON for 15 years. In 1935 this time was up and a plebiscite was held so the people could decide whether to join Germany or France. 90% of the population voted to re-join Germany. This gave Hitler more ammunition for his argument that German people wanted to be united. The Saar also gave him an important source of coal which helped to boost the economy.

4. Freedom to rearm rally, March 1935.

At this rally Hitler took the opportunity to display the troops and weapons he had been building up in secret. He also announced that he was going to reintroduce military conscription building the army up to 1 million men. He also planned on introducing an air force he called a 'Luftwaffe'. This was a direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles.

5. The Stresa Front, April 1935.

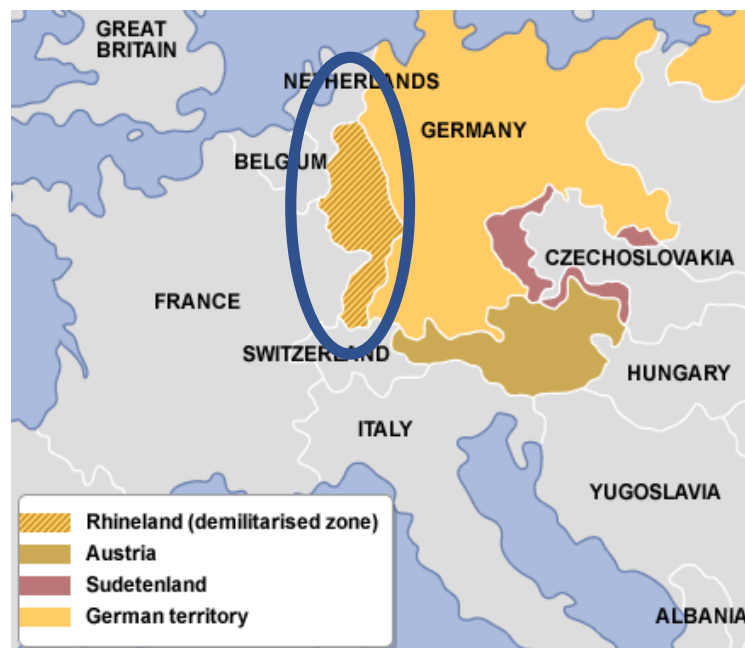
The Stresa front was an agreement between Italy, Britain and France to protect the agreements in the Locarno treaties, prevent Hitler from seeking Anschluss with Austria and enforce the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. This agreement gave security to Britain and France making Mussolini an ally but did not seem to put Hitler off at all.

6. Anglo-German Naval Agreement, June 1935.

Many British people felt that the Treaty of Versailles had been too harsh on Germany. This agreement stated that Hitler could build his navy to 35% of the size of the British navy. This felt like a good deal as it was fair on Germany whilst still protecting the British naval supremacy. However, Hitler saw this as Britain admitting that the TOV was unfair allowing him to ignore it. Britain also signed this without consulting France or Italy, the French were not pleased.

Causes: The Rhineland is the area on Germany's border with France. The Treaty of Versailles had banned the Germans from having and troops, weapons or fortifications here in order to protect France from Germany. Hitler knew that to fulfil his policy of gaining Lebensraum he would need to invade countries in the east. If he did this then Britain and France may respond, he needed to make sure that Germany's western border was protected. When France and Russia signed the Franco- Soviet pact, an agreement to protect each other against Germany, in 1935 Hitler claimed he felt threatened by an enemy on both sides.

Events: On the 7th March 1936 Hitler marched 22,000 troops into the Rhineland. They were mostly welcomed with flowers and celebrations. Hitler had ordered his generals to retreat if they encountered resistance as Germany were not strong enough yet to defeat the French, this was a big risk as the fines that the Germans may have been given would ruin the country.



Events: The British public felt that Hitler was entitled to secure his countries borders and so did not support any action against him. The French were in the middle of an election and believed a war would cost votes so they did nothing. Both countries had sent troops to African colonies to protect them after the Abyssinian Crisis and so did not want to take action. Hitler's gamble had paid off.

Consequences: As a result of this event Hitler grew in confidence knowing that he could break the terms of the TOV without repercussion. He could now pursue his quest for Lebensraum in the east knowing his western border was secure. Mussolini also saw Hitler as a powerful ally and signed the Rome-Berlin Axis in 1936 agreeing to be allies. As a reaction to this both Britain and France began to rearm their militaries and secure their borders fearing the threat of invasion. The British also reaffirmed their agreement at the Locarno treaties to protect France and Belgium if they were attacked.



Italy

- ❑ Mussolini had previously stopped Hitler's attempt to achieve Anschluss with Austria in 1934.
- ❑ By 1936, Mussolini's relationship with Britain and France had deteriorated and he wanted a new ally. He signed the **Rome-Berlin Axis** with Hitler in 1936 agreeing to work more closely together.
- ❑ They both saw the benefit of this alliance as both leaders wanted to expand their nations and also feel protected.
- ❑ In May 1939, Germany and Italy agreed a formal agreement of friendship and alliance. This was called the **Pact of Steel**. Japan then joined this agreement in 1940.
- ❑ The three nations are often referred to as the Axis.

Japan

- ❑ Japan still had poor relations with Russia dating back to the 1905 Russo-Japanese War.
- ❑ In 1919 the USSR established the **Comintern**, a group of organisations hoping to spread communism.
- ❑ By 1936, Japan were invading large parts of China. They were concerned the USSR may step in to stop them. Hitler opposed communism and so the Japanese met with him to discuss an alliance.
- ❑ Nazi-Germany and the Japanese Empire established the **Anti-Comintern Pact** in November 1936.
- ❑ This pact was later extended to Italy in 1937.

Anschluss with Austria, 1938

Hitler was Austrian himself. The two nations shared a language and a culture. On top of this Austria had an army and valuable resources Hitler could use. He had failed at his attempted Anschluss in 1934, now he was ready to try again.

After the Dolfuss affair Schuschnigg was appointed Chancellor of Austria. He gave Austrian Nazis jobs in the government to appease them. By 1938 though these Austrian Nazis began to demonstrate against the government.

The plans were clear to overthrow Schuschnigg. He met with Hitler in order to find a resolution. Hitler demanded that the Nazis be given more power in Austria including control over the police, finance and military. Schuschnigg agreed on one condition.

In April 1938 Nazi troops marched into Austria. The plan was to ensure that the people voted the way that Hitler intended as he could not afford an embarrassing loss in the plebiscite.

In March 1938 Hitler forced Schuschnigg to resign before the plebiscite could be held. He made sure that Nazi official Seyss-Inquart replaced him as Chancellor. He immediately declared Austria as a place in Chaos and asked for Hitler's help.

Schuschnigg's condition was that a plebiscite had to be held on the Anschluss so that the people could decide. If the people voted against the Anschluss then Hitler would not be able to justify an invasion.

Under the watchful eye of Nazi storm troopers 99.75% of Austrians voted for the Anschluss, a major exaggeration of the policy's popularity in the nation. Hitler had achieved one of his aims and overturned another part of the TOV

Britain and France did not react to this. Many British people saw the two countries as the same nation anyway. The French were in the midst of riots and protests due to the economy and could not intervene.

Benes, the leader of Czechoslovakia became increasingly concerned. He knew of Hitler's policy of Lebensraum and began to worry that Czechoslovakia would be the next target for the Nazis.

Causes: 3 million German speakers lived within the Sudetenland, Hitler claimed they were being mistreated and wanted to achieve his aim of uniting the Volksdeutsche. Czechoslovakia itself had been created by the TOV, something Hitler wanted to overturn. Czechoslovakia also had a large army, strong fortifications and useful industrial areas that would aid Hitler in his war effort.

Chamberlains appeasement:

- ❑ In May 1938 Hitler claimed that ethnic Germans were being persecuted and needed protection.
- ❑ GB and France knew that if Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia then they would be obliged to go to war. They had seen the devastating impact of his Luftwaffe in the Spanish Civil War and wanted to avoid this at all costs.
- ❑ Chamberlain met Hitler on 15th September 1938. Hitler said the only way to avoid war was to let him have the Sudetenland. Chamberlain agreed providing the takeover was peaceful.
- ❑ However, a week later, Hitler changed his demands. He now wanted the Sudetenland sooner, and for Hungary and Poland to take some of Czechoslovakia. This was more than Chamberlain had agreed to.



Consequences:

- ❑ The German army marched into the Sudetenland on 1st October 1938.
- ❑ This area contained much of Czechoslovakia's mountain based military defences. Without them Czechoslovakia would be helpless against a German invasion.
- ❑ Hitler's success in the Sudetenland not only made Germany stronger but made him even bolder increasing his popularity in Germany and his resolve to continue gaining Lebensraum.
- ❑ Britain and France had failed in protecting Czechoslovakia, another nation they had promised to protect.

Chamberlain and Hitler were not reaching an agreement over the Sudetenland. War was looking more likely. Mussolini suggested that GB, France, Italy and Germany should meet to agree Czechoslovakia's borders. The meeting took place in Munich on 29th September 1938. The leaders of Czechoslovakia (Benes) and the USSR (Stalin) were not invited.

Hitler's Demands:

Hitler repeated the demands he had made when he and Chamberlain met on the 22nd September. He wanted Czechoslovakia to remove troops from the Sudetenland and allow Germany to invade on Hitler's earlier timetable. Hitler insisted that Hungary and Poland's claim to Czech land should be agreed to as well. In return Hitler promised peace in Europe. Chamberlain and Daladier agreed, they claimed that by securing peace they had fulfilled their duty to protect Czechoslovakia.

The Negotiations:

Hitler counted on GB and France agreeing to his demands to take the Sudetenland. He was correct. The USSR would have been willing to step in to protect Czechoslovakia but Britain did not want to ally with communists. Benes, the leader of Czechoslovakia, was furious with the decision. However, he had no power to resist the Nazis and so had to accept the decision made. His main protest came from the fact that he was not even present at the negotiations where part of his country was handed to the Nazis.

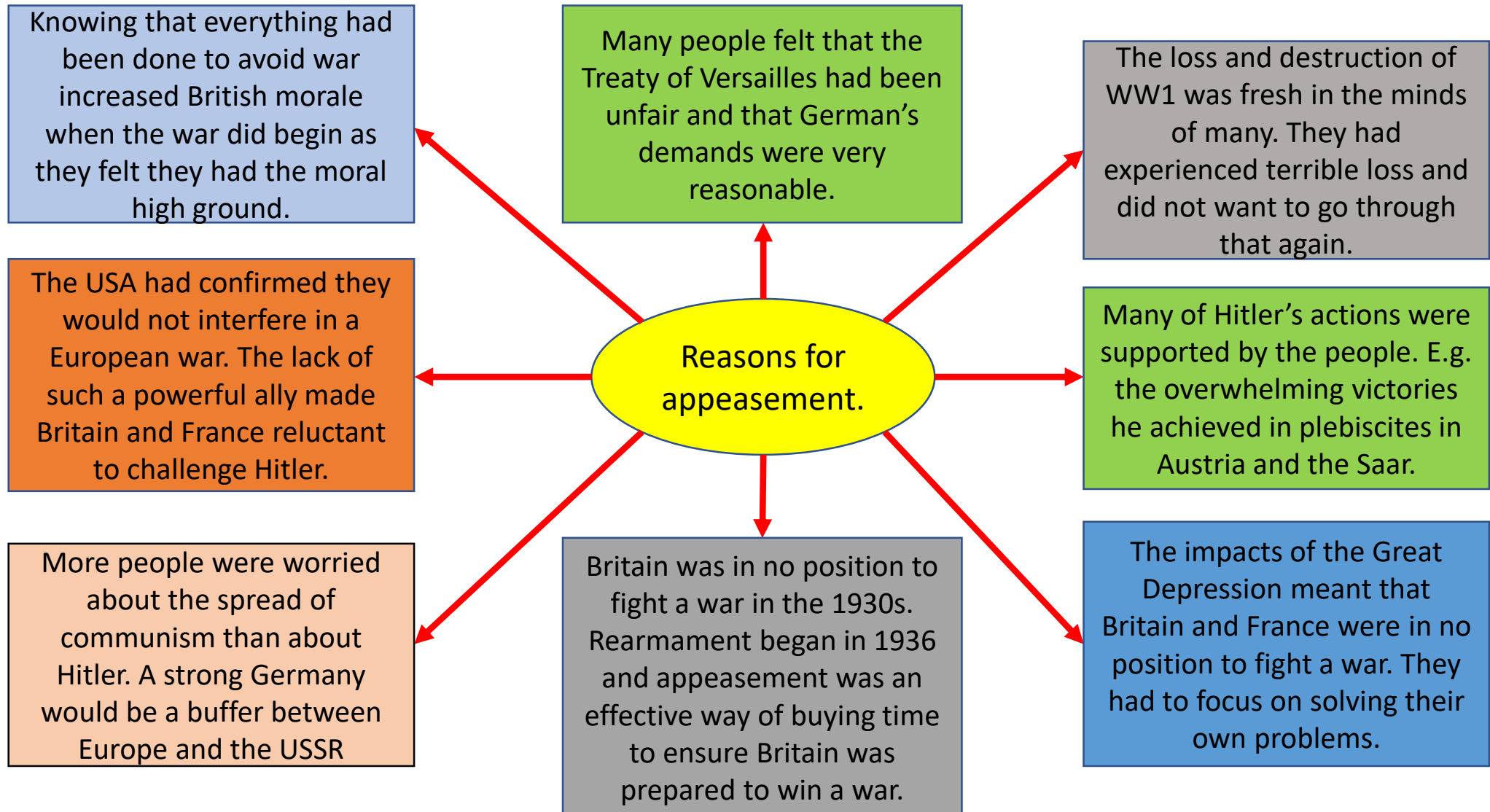
Reactions:

- ❑ The Czechoslovak government called the treaty a Diktat because it was "about us but without us".
- ❑ The 3 million German Sudetens were pleased to be part of Germany but Czechoslovakians feared this was only the beginning of an invasion.
- ❑ The USSR had not been consulted on the agreement. Stalin was furious. GB and France wanted him to promise support in the event of war but would not involve him in decisions. Germany now threatened the USSR's eastern allies which worried him.

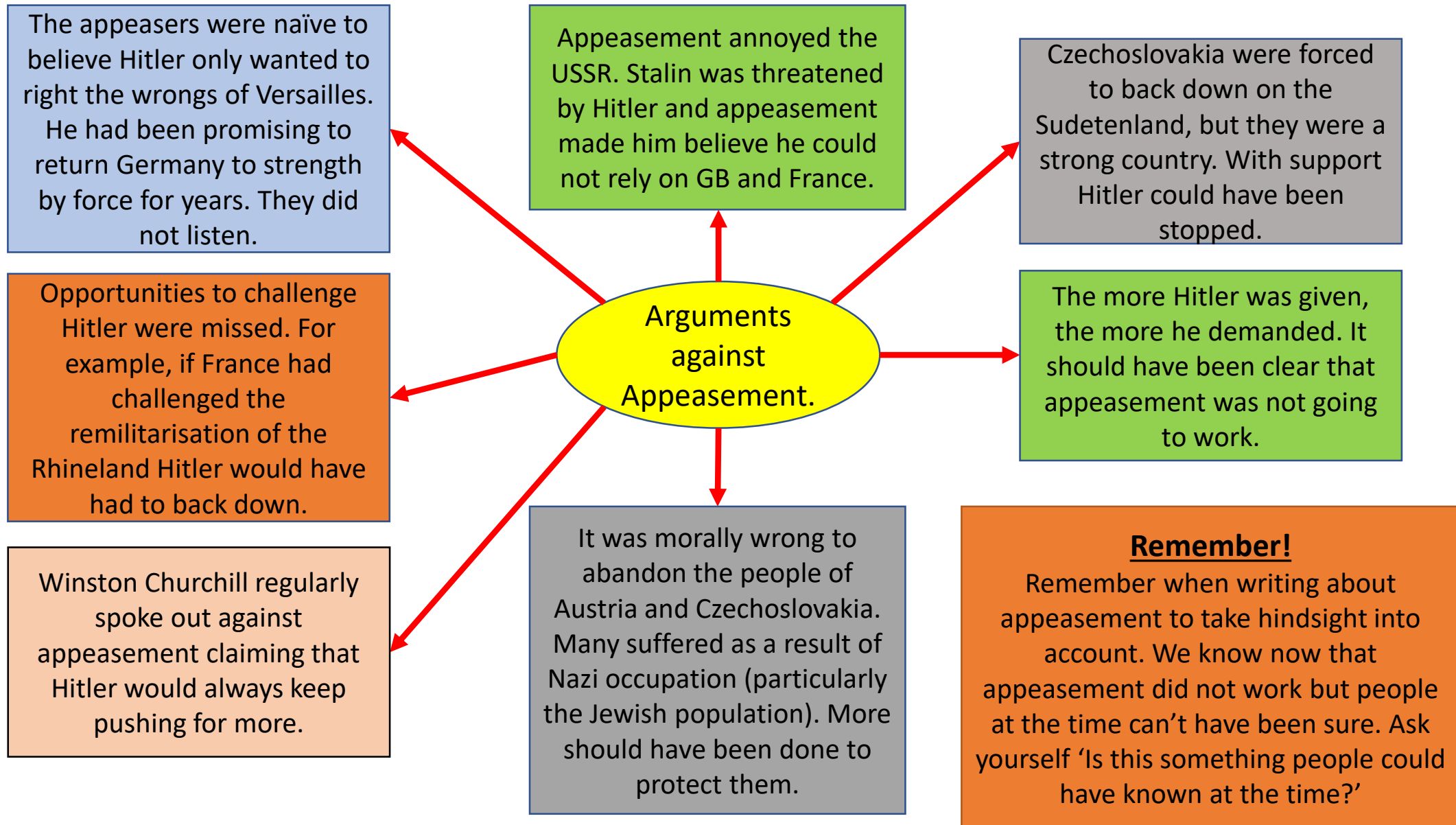
The Munich Agreement:

The Agreement was signed on 30th September 1938. Germany, Britain, Italy and France all agreed to the terms. Hitler promised that after being given the Sudetenland he would no longer seek to expand the German borders. Part of the deal included Britain and Germany signing the **Anglo-German declaration** to never go to war with each other. Chamberlain returned to England claiming that he had achieved '**peace in our time**'. In reality he probably knew that he had only bought Britain more time to prepare for war.

Appeasement was the policy followed by the British government during the 1930s. Many believed that what Hitler was asking for was very reasonable and so in order to avoid another war it was best to give him what he wanted. This was seen as a very rational approach to securing peace. At the very least it bought Britain time to prepare for war.



Despite the fact that appeasement was a relatively popular policy, seen as a reasonable approach to avoiding war, not everyone supported it. Prominent politicians such as Winston Churchill were critical of the policy.



Hitler and the expansion of Germany

By 1938, it was clear that Hitler was prepared to use aggression to unite the people of 'Greater Germany' and undo the territorial losses of the Treaty of Versailles.

If Czechoslovakia was annexed by Hitler, Poland was very likely to be next.



German expansion, 1933-1939.

Hitler invaded the Rhineland, a demilitarised zone, in 1936.

The Sudetenland was annexed by Hitler after the Munich Conference in September 1938.

Germany annexed Austria via the Anschluss in 1938.

Once Hitler had taken the Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia was very vulnerable to invasion.

The Munich agreement left Czechoslovakia defenceless. Hitler forced the Emil Hacha, the new president to tell his army to surrender or he would bomb Prague, the capital. Hacha agreed and on 15th March 1939 Nazi troops marched in to Czechoslovakia.

Hitler had occupied a country he had no claim to. There were no German speakers outside the Sudetenland so he could no longer claim to be uniting the German people.

Chamberlain promised Poland, probably Hitler's next target. That Britain would protect them.

Significance of the occupation

Britain and France had to accept that Hitler was not simply reclaiming what was lost at Versailles.

Hitler broke the promises he made at Munich. Chamberlain had to accept that appeasement had failed.

What was the Nazi-Soviet Pact?

- Both countries were upset about having lost land at the Treaty of Versailles to create the new state of Poland.
- Poland was Hitler's next target for Lebensraum but he was concerned that an invasion may provoke Stalin to act against him.
- Hitler decided to offer Stalin a deal: If the USSR allowed Germany to invade Poland then they would be given Polish land.
- Stalin agreed and on 23rd August 1939 the two countries agreed to a non-aggression pact and secretly agreed to split Poland.

What was in it for Germany?

- Germany lost the first world war largely due to splitting their troops between the east and west.
- Hitler knew that war with Britain and France was inevitable.
- He wanted to take the USSR, and its enormous army, out of the picture entirely.
- The Nazi-Soviet pact allowed him to ensure he would not be fighting a war in the east and west simultaneously.

What was in it for the USSR?

- Stalin could regain land in Poland without having to fight for it.
- Stalin knew eventually Hitler would turn on him but this agreement gave him time to prepare.
- Reclaiming territory in Poland would give the USSR a 'buffer zone' between themselves and Germany.
- Stalin could no longer trust Britain and France after the Munich Agreement. The USSR was isolated and could not rely on support if Hitler attacked. The Nazi-Soviet pact was the only option Stalin had.

Why didn't Stalin trust Britain and France?

- Stalin saw the weakness of the LON and had no confidence in their ability to prevent war.
- He was not invited to the Munich conference or consulted on it. This he saw as an insult.
- Appeasement was justified by the idea that Hitler could create a barrier between Europe and Communism. This made it clear Stalin could not trust Britain and France.
- Hitler had shown Stalin more respect than Chamberlain did, for example sending senior diplomats to negotiate with him.

Significance of the Nazi-Soviet Pact

Hitler could now invade Poland without facing a war on 2 different fronts.

If war did break out, the powerful Soviet army would not side with the allies.

After the breakdown of appeasement following the invasion of Czechoslovakia, GB and France had promised to protect Poland.

The pact made was almost an imminent certainty. Britain got ready to fight.

On the 1st September 1939 Hitler invades Poland. He launched a naval assault on the city of Danzig whilst the Luftwaffe and the military launched the invasion. The entire Polish air force was destroyed before it could leave the ground.

On this same day Chamberlain and Daladier began to prepare for a declaration of war. They waited 3 days hoping that Hitler would back down but he did not. On the 3rd September 1939 Britain and France declared war on Germany.

Hitler believed a war with Poland would be quick. He was convinced that Chamberlain and Daladier may continue to appease him and given that he had signed the Nazi-Soviet pact with Stalin he had no threat of a retaliation from the USSR.

Chamberlain's policy of appeasement had failed. War had broken out in Europe and around the world. Less than a year later Chamberlain would resign as Prime Minister to be replaced by Winston Churchill. Whilst Chamberlain is regarded as a failure due to appeasement it is very often argued that without the time he used to rearm the military and the air force Britain would have lost WW2.



Some say that the Second World War had only one cause: Hitler. Many Historians though argue that it is much more complicated than this and that a number of factors played a role in the outbreak of war.



The Treaty of Versailles, 28 June 1919.

- Hitler was able to turn the resentment felt towards this harsh treaty to his advantage.
- He was allowed to get away with so much because many felt sympathy with his desire to overturn the treaty.
- Stalin resented the taking of Russian land to create Poland. This led to him agreeing to the Nazi-Soviet pact in order to regain this land.
- The new states created (Czechoslovakia, Poland) contained a lot of German people that Hitler aimed to unite.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS



SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS

The Failure of the League of Nations 1930-39

- The League was weakened from the start by the absence of the USA. This did tremendous damage to the effectiveness of trade sanctions.
- The failures of the League in Abyssinia and Manchuria showed how weak they were. They had no army and were unable to control stronger nations or protect weaker ones.
- Key powers not being in the league meant that important diplomacy took place outside of it (Locarno). The Hoare-Laval pact showed that GB and France would undermine the League if it suited them.



The Great Depression 1929-39

- Extreme poverty and unemployment led to people turning to dictators like Mussolini and Hitler who promised a return to power and someone to blame.
- Governments were more interested in solving their own problems than helping the League.
- Member countries of the LON were unwilling to impose economic sanctions as it would damage their own trade.
- The Depression increased the USA's determination to be an isolationist nation. This decreased international cooperation.

Try to sort the causes of war into Long Term, Short Term and Trigger (the event that finally causes something to happen, it may not be the most important).



Chamberlain and Appeasement

- Opportunities to stop Hitler were missed by the allies such as the remilitarisation of the Rhineland.
- Chamberlain should not have trusted Hitler. He had made his aims clear from the moment he took power.
- Appeasement was partly motivated by a fear of communism meaning that the policy alienated Stalin, a powerful potential ally against Hitler.
- The Munich Agreement was the final straw for Stalin and led directly to the Nazi-Soviet pact.
- Despite this, appeasement was still a popular policy as the people sought to avoid war at any cost.



Hitler and his aggressive foreign policy

- Hitler was aggressive from the start. He had made clear in his book, *Mein Kampf*, that the only way to regain German strength was through violence, overturning the TOV, uniting the German people and gaining Lebensraum.
- Hitler hated communism and always made clear that he planned to destroy it. This would inevitably lead to confrontation with the USSR.
- Achieving the policy of Lebensraum was only going to be possible through invading other nations. Nothing other than a war could stop him from doing this.



Stalin and the Nazi-Soviet Pact

- The agreement with Stalin meant Hitler did not have to worry about a war on both fronts. He could focus on the west.
- Although Stalin was not going to support Hitler, he was also not going to support the allies.
- The pact made the invasion of Poland inevitable. Given that Britain and France had promised to protect Poland it made war inevitable as well. This was the trigger cause of the war.