

THE
DUSTON
SCHOOL

TDS
4-19

Curriculum
Knowledge
History

Year 9 Term 1: The Inter-War years



Enquiry Question:

To what extent was the Treaty of Versailles to blame for the turbulent inter-war years?

Big questions that will help you answer this enquiry question:

1. What were the aims of the Big Three at Versailles?
2. To what extent was the Treaty of Versailles fair on Germany?
3. What were the aims of the League of Nations?
4. How successful were the League of Nations?
5. Who was Hitler and why was he a threat?
6. What were the effects of the Depression on Europe?
7. Were Britain and France right to appease Hitler?
8. What was the Nazi-Soviet Pact?

When the Great War ended at 11:00am on 11th November 1918 the world wanted to ensure that another devastating war did not break out. By 1918 much of Europe was in a mess—land devastated, farms destroyed, railways blown up and mines flooded. Millions had died—and millions more were weak and starving. On the 7th March 1919, the winning countries of the Great War announced what was going to happen to Germany for its part in the fighting. Germany were not invited to the peace conferences at Versailles, France, and they formally signed it on 28th June 1919. The Treaty of Versailles was designed to cripple Germany, which the American President, Woodrow Wilson did not want, as he was worried that Germany may seek revenge in the future. He was right to worry—but was it the Treaty of Versailles that was to blame for the turbulent inter-war period?

Homework for week 1 and 2: Consolidation

Instructions: Revise and prepare for a knowledge test on the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, including key statistics and dates

You could revise by re-writing your notes, saying your notes aloud, creating a mind-map on the key topics we have studied so far

Homework for week 3 and 4: Preparation

Instructions: Read the accounts on Manchuria and Abyssinia crisis (on the next page). Answer the following questions for each crisis

1. When did it happen?
2. What happened?
3. How did the League react?
4. Why is this event significant in the Inter-War years?

Homework for week 5 and 6: Revision

Instructions: Revise and prepare for a knowledge test on the Inter-War years and assessment question—12 mark question

You could revise by re-writing your notes, saying your notes aloud, creating a mind-map on the key topics we have studied so far

Homework for week 3 and 4: preparation

In the early 1930s, two events destroyed people's belief in the ability of the League to stop wars. In both situations, the League did not act quickly enough or made poor decisions about how to suppress the aggressor nation. This served to show that smaller countries could not expect protection from the League and that aggressors (such as Hitler) had nothing to stand in their way. By February 1932, Japan (a member of the League's Council) had invaded and conquered Manchuria. It took the League nearly a year to send a commission and declare that Japan ought to leave - whereupon Japan left the League. The League couldn't send an army, and it needed America's support to impose sanctions successfully. In the end, it did nothing. In 1935, Italy invaded Abyssinia. Although the Abyssinian emperor Haile Selassie went to the League himself to ask for help, all the League did was to ban arms sales, which did Abyssinia more harm than Italy. A League commission offered Italy part of Abyssinia, but Italy invaded anyway. Far from stopping Italy, Britain and France tried to make a secret pact to give Abyssinia to Italy. In September 1931, the Japanese claimed that Chinese soldiers had sabotaged the Manchurian railway in Korea, which Japan controlled. Japan attacked and by February 1932, had brutally conquered Manchuria. Meanwhile, in January-March 1932, Japan attacked and captured the city of Shanghai in China itself. In March 1932, China appealed to the League of Nations. In April 1932, a League delegation led by Lord Lytton arrived in Manchuria to see what was happening, and in October 1932 it declared that Japan should leave. In February 1933, a special assembly of the League voted against Japan, so the Japanese walked out. The League, however, could not agree on sanctions, and Britain and France were not prepared to send an army. Not only did the Japanese stay in Manchuria, but in July 1937 they also invaded China. In December 1934, a dispute about the border between Abyssinia and the Italian Somaliland flared into fighting. In January 1935, Haile Selassie, the emperor of Abyssinia, asked the League to arbitrate. In July 1935, the League banned arms sales to either side, and in September 1935, it appointed a five-power committee to arbitrate. In October 1935, the League's committee suggested that Italy should have some land in Abyssinia. Instead, Italy's 100,000-strong army invaded Abyssinia. The Italian troops used poison gas and attacked Red Cross hospitals. Britain and France refused to intervene. In December 1935, news leaked out about the Hoare-Laval Pact - a secret plan made by the foreign secretary of Britain and the prime minister of France to give Abyssinia to Italy. In the end, the League did almost nothing. By May 1936, Italy had conquered Abyssinia.

Sample assessment material

Explain why there was opposition in Germany to the Treaty of Versailles (1919).

You may use the following in your answer:

- military terms
- territorial terms

You **must** also use information of your own.

How do I answer the question?

3 x PEE paragraphs

How long will the answer take me to write?

25-30 minutes

Do I have to use the two bullet points?

No, but if you do you must include information of your own

Firstly, there was opposition in Germany to the Treaty of Versailles because it was a diktat. The Germans were not invited to the peace negotiations, and had to sign something that had been decided without them there. They were particularly unhappy about the War Guilt Clause which stated that Germany had to accept total blame for starting the war. Many Germans felt that this was unfair because they alone had not been responsible for the outbreak of the First World War, and if they had had somebody there representing their interests, they could have defended this, or tried to prevent this clause from being placed in the Treaty. There was therefore opposition in Germany to the Treaty of Versailles as they believed the harsh terms were unjust, especially as they had not been involved in the decision making.

Secondly, there was opposition in Germany to the Treaty of Versailles because of the military terms. The German army was reduced to 100,000 men leaving them feeling vulnerable and unable to defend themselves. In addition, they were not allowed any air force or submarines and no German soldiers were allowed anywhere near France. This led to opposition within Germany towards the Treaty of Versailles because they were left feeling vulnerable and open to attack, which made the German people resent the Treaty of Versailles.

Thirdly, there was opposition in Germany to the Treaty of Versailles because of the extent of the territorial losses, which included losing Alsace-Lorraine to France as well as all of its colonies. There was strong opposition to the loss of Posen and West Prussia to Poland because this meant that East Prussia was separated from the rest of Germany, therefore making Germany weaker without its extended territories. Therefore, there was opposition to the Treaty of Versailles inside Germany because of the overall loss of 13% of its European territory.

Key Events

1	Armistice (1918): signed on 11/11/1918 – ended WW1
2	Treaty of Versailles (1919): designed to ensure peace throughout Europe and prevent another war breaking out
3	Vilna (1920): capital of Lithuania, on the border with Poland, Polish troops moved in and took over Vilna in 1920, the League did nothing to help
4	Upper Silesia (1921): on the border between Germany and Poland, both wanted to control the area, so the League held a plebiscite, the vote was divided, Upper Silesia was split
5	Corfu (1923): boundary dispute, involving the killing of an Italian General. The Greeks asked for help after Italy put pressure on them, however, the League put pressure on Greece
6	Bulgaria (1925): forces clashed on the border between Greece and Bulgaria, the League blamed Greece and Greece were forced to pay compensation to Bulgaria.
7	Wall Street Crash (1929): stock markets crash in America and cause chaos throughout Europe
8	Economic depression (1929-1933): as a direct result of the Wall Street Crash, leads to unemployment and poverty throughout Europe
9	Manchurian crisis (1931-1933): Japan invade a part of China, the League took a year to decide how to respond, and it did nothing. League looked weak
10	Abyssinian crisis (1934-1936): Mussolini invaded <u>Abyssinia</u> (Ethiopia) – the League did not protect <u>Abyssinia</u> , Mussolini got away with it
11	Hitler ignores the TOV: Hitler moved German troops into the Rhineland, he united Austria with Germany, which was not allowed according to the TOV
12	Munich Agreement (1938): Hitler invaded a part of Czechoslovakia called the Sudetenland – Britain and France let him do this as long as he did not invade the rest of Czechoslovakia
13	Invasion of Czechoslovakia (1939): despite Hitler promising not to take over the rest of Czechoslovakia, Britain and France said that they would declare war if he invaded any other countries
14	Nazi-Soviet Pact (1939): Hitler wanted to invade Poland, he worried that the USSR might try and stop him so he did a deal with his enemy Stalin where Hitler and Stalin divided Poland between them
15	Invasion of Poland (Sept 1939): Hitler invaded Poland, Britain and France declare war on Germany

Key Words

16.	Aggressive	Using force or threats
17.	Alliance	A deal between countries to help each other
18.	Anschluss	Joining Austria and Germany together
19.	Appeasement	Giving way to another person or country
20.	Armistice	Short-term end to fighting before a final treaty is signed
21.	Collective security	Policy of the League of Nations in the 1920s. Idea that all nations looked after each other's security so that any country which attacked another one would face the opposition of the rest
22.	Depression	Bad times in the economy, causing businesses to fail and leading to unemployment
23.	Diplomatic	Talking between countries by their representatives
24.	Independence	Freedom to rule yourself
25.	Isolationist	Attitude in the USA at the end of the First World War in which the USA did not want to get involved in the concerns of other countries
26.	League of Nations	Organisation set up by President Wilson in 1919 to try and keep the peace in the world
27.	Lebensraum	Living space – Nazis claimed Germany needed more living space
28.	Pact	Agreement or deal
29.	Plebiscite	Vote in which people decide on an issue
30.	Rearmament	Building up weapons
31.	Self-determination	Ability of small countries to rule themselves

Enquiry Question:

To what extent was the Treaty of Versailles to blame for the turbulent inter-war years?

Wider Reading List

- The Treaty of Versailles: A Concise History by Michael S. Neiberg
- The Treaty of Versailles: The Treaty that Marked the End of World War I by 50minutes.com
- Peacemakers Six Months that Changed The World: The Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and Its Attempt to End War by Margaret McMillan
- The League of Nations: The Controversial History of the Failed Organization that Preceded the United Nations by Charles Rivers Editors
- When Brown Meets Red: Nazi-Communist Collaboration 1919-1945 by Nevin Gussak
- The Deadly Embrace: Hitler, Stalin And the Nazi-Soviet Pact 1939-1941: Hitler, Stalin and the Nazi-Soviet Pact, 1939-41 by Anthony Reed

