

# Conflict and Tension, 1918-1939



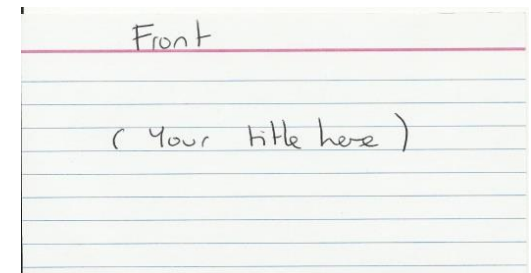
Exam Paper 1 - Revision Cards

# Topic: Treaty of Versailles - Revision Focus Areas

1. Paris Peace Conference
2. Aims of the Big Three
3. Terms of the Big Three
4. Reaction of France to the Treaty
5. Reaction of Britain to the Treaty
6. Reaction of USA to the Treaty
7. Reaction of Germany to the Treaty
8. Fairness of the Treaty



*You could do revision cards!!!*



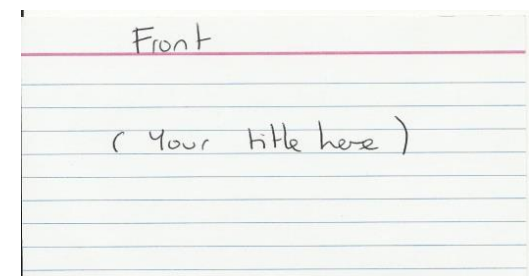
# Topic: League of Nations - Revision

## Focus Areas

9. Aims of the League
10. Structure of League and Powers
11. Why America didn't join
12. Organisational Weaknesses
13. Successes in 1920s
14. Failures in 1920s
15. Failures in 1930s
16. Big Reasons for the League's failure



*You could do revision cards!!!*

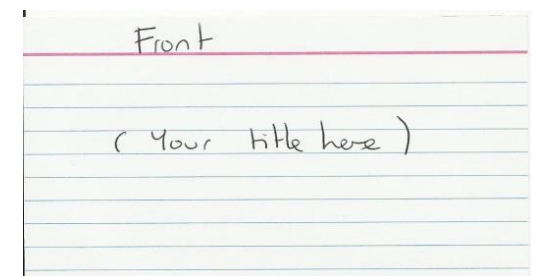


# Topic: Hitler and road to WW2 - Revision Focus Areas

17. Hitler's aims
18. Remilitarisation of Rhineland
19. Anschluss with Austria
20. Sudetenland Crisis
21. Arguments for and against  
Appeasement
22. Nazi-Soviet Pact
23. Big Reasons for WW2



*You could do revision cards!!!*



# Conflict and Tension Card 1

Paris Peace Conference

- **Background** - After WW1 the leaders of the winning countries met in Paris in 1919 to try to settle the issues raised by the war.
- **Main Issues** - to come up with a way prevent a war like this happening again and decide how to deal with the losing countries.
- **Treaty of Versailles** - the main agreement to come out of Paris. It took 6 months and was focussed on Germany.

# Conflict and Tension Card 2

Aims of the Big Three

**Big Three** - the main 3 winning countries after WW1. They would decide how to deal with the losing countries like Germany.

The Big 3 wanted different things:

- **France (Clemenceau)**

- Wanted a harsh punishment so Germany would never be a threat again
- A big fine so they had money to rebuild
- To break Germany up into lots of smaller countries
- Land from Germany

- **Britain (Lloyd George)**

- To punish Germany but not too harshly - still wanted trade with Germany
- Reduce the German navy because this threatened our Empire
- Land from Germany

- **USA (Wilson)**

- A fair treaty so Germany wouldn't seek future revenge
- Had a plan called the '14 Points' for peace
- A new League of Nations where countries would work together to avoid war
- Disarmament for all countries to avoid future wars



# Conflict and Tension Card 3

5 Terms of the Treaty

## 1. Reparations:

- Germany had to pay compensation to the winning countries of **£6.6 billion**

## 2. Land:

- Lost all overseas colonies and 10% of land in Germany.
- **Anschluss** (joining together) between **Austria and Germany** was forbidden
- **Alsace-Lorraine** given to **France**
- **Colonies in Africa** were redistributed mainly between Britain and France

## 3. War Guilt:

- The War Guilt Clause made Germany agree that it was guilty of starting the war

## 4. Armed Forces:

- Army limited to **100,000 men**
- No tanks, submarines or aircrafts
- Navy limited to only **6 battleships**
- Rhineland became demilitarised

## 5. League of Nations:

- Set up as an **International 'Police Force'** but Germany not allowed to join

# Conflict and Tension Card 4

Reaction of France to  
Treaty

**France** - had wanted a harsh punishment so Germany could never be a threat again

- **Happy With**

- £6.6 billion fine (use money to rebuild)
- Military limits on Germany (felt safer)
- Getting Alsace-Lorraine back
- Demilitarisation of Rhineland (felt safer - land next to France)

- **Unhappy With**

- Central Germany not broken up (could still be future threat)
- The fine should have been higher (could still be a threat)

# Conflict and Tension 5

## Reaction of Britain to the Treaty

**Britain** - had wanted to punish Germany but not too harshly

- **Happy With**

- Reduction in German navy to 6 ships (no longer threat to Empire)
- New land colonies given to them like German East Africa (strengthen and increased the Empire)

- **Unhappy With**

- Fine too big (could lead to revenge and hurt trade)

# Conflict and Tension 6

## Reaction of USA to the Treaty

**USA** - had wanted a fair peace to avoid future revenge and war

- **Happy With**

- The League of Nations set up (could help keep peace)

- **Unhappy With**

- Fine too big (could lead to revenge)
- Britain and France getting new land of Germany
- Only Germany had disarmed (unfair and danger of future war)



# Conflict and Tension 7

## Reaction of Germany to the Treaty

The German people hated the Treaty. They called it a 'dictat' - dictated peace that they were forced to sign.

In particular they hated:

### **1. War Guilt Clause:**

- They did not feel they had caused the war alone - unfair to just blame them

### **2. Feelings about the League of Nations**

- Germany felt insulted by not being invited to join the League.

### **3. Feelings about disarmament:**

- Felt vulnerable to attack - 100,000 was very small for a country of Germany's size and this hurt their pride.
- Angry that none of the other countries were made to disarm.

### **4. Feelings about size of reparation fine:**

- £6.6 billion would take 65 years to pay - this would create huge poverty
- The war was followed by economic chaos and Germany struggled to meet its payments - they printed more money but this created hyperinflation of prices

Conflict and Tension 8

Fairness of the Treaty

People disagree about just how fair the Big 3 were to Germany.

• **Arguments it was fair**

1. Germany would have punished the Big 3 just as bad (their Treaty of Brest Litovsk to Russia in 1918 had a huge fine too)
2. France had suffered terrible damage - it was fair Germany compensated them with £6.6 billion.
3. Military limits made Europe safer - Germany had invaded France twice in recent years

• **Arguments it was not fair**

1. Germany didn't deserve the blame/war guilt for starting the war
2. High reparation payment of £6.6 billion created years of poverty/taxes - innocent people suffered
3. Military limits such as only 100,000 soldiers made Germany vulnerable to attack

# Conflict and Tension 9

## Aims of the League of Nations

The League was set up in 1920 with 4 big aims

### **1. Keep Peace:**

- All nations in the League will protect each other from any aggressor - this was known as COLLECTIVE SECURITY

### **2. Disarmament:**

- Encourage all countries in the world to reduce their weapons

### **3. International cooperation**

- Promote trade and business between countries to improve the relationships between them so war is less likely

### **4. Improve lives of ordinary people:**

- Improve living and working conditions of people in member countries

# Conflict and Tension 10

Structure and powers of the  
League

The League was made up of different organisations which did different jobs. Some of these were

## **1. Assembly**

- All member countries took part
- Met once a year to discuss big issues

## **2. Council (IMPORTANT)**

- Only 9 countries including 5 biggest League members (Britain, France, Italy, Japan and later on Germany - all had a veto which could stop action happening)
- Powers included - Shame (writing reports attacking how countries have acted, Sanctions (stopping trade with a country, Force (using soldiers against a country)

## **3. Commissions (IMPORTANT)**

- Groups that worked to improve lives of ordinary people (e.g. Slavery Commission)

## **4. International Court of Justice**

- Met in Holland, 15 Judges, decided on issues to do with land borders

## **5. International Labour Organisation**

- Discussed rules for workplaces across the League



# Conflict and Tension 11

Why America didn't join the  
League

The League was America's idea but they didn't join because:

### **1. Cost**

- As richest country in world they worried they'd have to pay to fix all the problems of other countries

### **2. Danger of getting involved in other conflicts**

- Lost many soldiers in WW1 (a European war) and the public didn't want this to happen again

### **3. Treaty of Versailles**

- Many Americans thought this was unfair and knew the League had to make sure Germany followed this

America not joining created big problems for the League

**1. Reputation** - Not having the world's most powerful country

**2. Sanctions** - Countries could still trade with America even if the League banned trade

Conflict and Tension 12

Organisational Weaknesses  
with the League

- **No army** - The League never had an independent army of its own. It had to ask members for soldiers. Later on countries realised it carried little threat of force.
- **Decision Taking** - it took a long time for the League to reach decisions. In the Council a big country could use a veto to stop action.
- **No America** - put other countries off joining the League and hurt the League's ability to use powers like sanctions (banning trade) well.

# Conflict and Tension 13

Successes of the League in  
the 1920s

The League had some important early successes

## 1. Keeping Peace Example - Aaland Islands 1920-21

- Islands midway between Sweden and Finland. Both countries claimed them and were prepared to fight for them.
- The League studied the matter and awarded the islands to Finland.
- A success as both countries accepted the decision.

## 2. Improving people's lives Examples - Commissions

- The Refugees Commission housed 400,000 people after WW1 and the Slavery Commission freed slaves across the world including 200,000 in British Sierra-Leone.
- The Health Organisation (now the World Health Organisation) worked globally to tackle leprosy, plague, malaria and yellow fever.

# Conflict and Tension 14

Failures of the League in the  
1920s

The League had some important early successes but these were with smaller or weaker countries. They struggled to deal with big countries. For example:

## 1. Corfu 1923

- 5 Italian surveyors were murdered on the border between Greece and Albania working for the League.
- The Italian Leader Mussolini blamed the Greeks and ordered them to pay compensation.
- When they refused he ordered his navy to shell Corfu.
- The League Council wanted to condemn Italy with a moral sanction, but it was blocked.
- Instead, it put pressure on the Greeks to pay the compensation and only when they did, did Italy withdraw their forces



# Conflict and Tension 15

Failures of the League in the  
1930s

Both the examples below involved key members of the League.

## 1. Japan and Manchuria 1932-1933

- A Japanese owned railway in Manchuria was destroyed and Japan accused China
- In response the Japanese army invaded and took over Manchuria by force.
- China appealed to the League for help.
- It took a full year for the League to write and present their report (Lyttton report).
- The report told Japan off but Japan ignored it and left the League.
- Showed how powerless the League was - Britain and France were more interested in keeping up good relations with Japan than agreeing sanctions or using force.

## 2. Italy and Abyssinia

- Italian soldiers died whilst patrolling the border with Abyssinia
- The Italian Leader Mussolini demanded an apology and then invaded
- League wanted to keep good relations with Italy (feared they'd leave and join up with Hitler's Germany) so only introduced weak economic sanctions which failed
- Britain and France were then caught making a secret deal - the HOARE-LAVAL PACT - offering Italy 2/3 of Abyssinia.
- Showed Britain and France would put their interests first and not those of the League. Caused huge reputational damage.

Conflict and Tension 16

Big Reasons for Failure

- **Organisational Weakness**

- The League never had an independent army of its own so big countries like Italy and Japan never feared it.

- **No America**

- This hurt the League's ability to use powers like sanctions (banning trade). This was seen when Italy invaded Abyssinia and sanctions failed.

- **Slow Decision Making**

- The Council of the League found it hard to agree decisions as some countries had Vetoes. In the example of Japan and Manchuria it took a year to investigate.

- **Great Depression**

- The world suffered an economic crash after the Wall Street Crash in America in 1929. This created lots of unemployment in countries like Britain and France who decided to focus on their own problems rather than take action in the League against wrongdoers.

# Conflict and Tension 17

## Aims of the League of Nations

Hitler became Leader of Germany in 1933. Some key aims were:

## 1. Abolish the Treaty of Versailles

- Believed it was unfair and blamed it for Germany's problems

## 2. Expand Germany's land

- Wanted to restore the pride and importance of Germany
- Wanted to make a 'Greater Germany'
- Wanted Lebensraum (living space) for the German people

## 3. A country prepared for war

- Germany would get their land back through force if it had to.
- Would build up Germany's armed forces again

Conflict and Tension 18

Remilitarisation of the  
Rhineland 1936

Under the Treaty of Versailles Germany had been banned from keeping its soldiers in this land next to France.

Key events were:

- In 1935, Hitler openly announced he was increasing the size of the German Army.
- Soon afterwards France and Russia signed a pact promising not to attack each other.
- In March 1936 Hitler ordered troops into the Rhineland - Hitler claimed Germany was being threatened.
- Despite criticism from the League, Germany was not stopped.
- Britain and France were too focused on their own problems (unemployment) caused by the Great Depression.



Conflict and Tension 19

Anschluss with Austria 1938

Under the Treaty of Versailles Germany was banned from joining up with Austria into one country.

Key events were:

- Hitler said Germans living in Austria were being mistreated.
- He encouraged the Austrian Nazi party to stir up trouble and then forced the Austrian Prime Chancellor to hold a vote on the issue of Austria joining a political union with Germany.
- Hitler sent his troops in to 'oversee' the fairness of the voting.
- In March 1938 over 99 per cent of Austrians voted to join in a 'Greater Germany'.
- Britain and France did nothing as Germany and Austria re-united. This made Germany stronger with more men for the army and more industry to help build weapons.

Conflict and Tension 20

Sudetenland Crisis 1938  
(Czechoslovakia)

Under the Treaty of Versailles Czechoslovakia had been created out of old German land. It was a strong country that the Big 3 hoped with help keep peace in the area.

Key events were:

- Hitler said Germans living in the Sudetenland part of Czechoslovakia were being mistreated.
- He demanded Germany get the Sudetenland and threatened war.
- Britain and France had an agreement to protect Czechoslovakia.
- In September 1938 British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain flew 3 times to Germany to meet with Hitler to try to avoid war.
- They signed the Munich Agreement which agreed to give Germany the Sudetenland. This made Germany stronger with more men for the army and more industry to help build weapons.

# Conflict and Tension 21

Arguments for and against  
Appeasement.

**Appeasement** - means giving someone what they want in the hope of keeping them happy.

In the 1930s this was how Britain dealt with Germany - giving in to Hitler such as in the Sudetenland Crisis.

• **Arguments why appeasing Hitler was a bad idea**

1. Giving in to Hitler only encouraged him to be more aggressive.
2. Germany was able to grow stronger and became harder to control.

• **Arguments why appeasing Hitler was a good idea**

1. People were desperate not to repeat the horrors of WW1.
2. The Treaty was too harsh on Germany - by letting them put right their past wrongs people believed they would soon become peaceful.
3. Britain needed to buy time to strengthen their armed forces ready for a new war so had no choice but to give in to some of Hitler's demands.

Conflict and Tension 22

Nazi-Soviet Pact 1939

In August 1938 Germany and Russia surprised the world by announcing they had signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact. It said:

1. Both countries would never attack each other

2. That they would share Poland between them (the secret part of the deal) - when Hitler invaded Poland a week later this caused WW2

Hitler and Stalin (Russia Leader) signed this deal for different reasons. These included

### •Hitler and Germany

- Wanted to avoid fighting on two fronts (Britain to the West and Russia to the East).
- They knew Britain had a deal to defend Poland if it was invaded.

### •Stalin and Russia

- Decided to make a deal with Germany because he feared a German invasion and he didn't believe Britain and France would help Russia from attack.
- Like Britain, the deal bought Russia time to build up its armed forces ready for war.



# Conflict and Tension 23

Big Reasons why WW2  
started.

- **Failure of the League of Nations**

- The League never had an army and lacked key members like the USA so couldn't use sanctions. Big countries like Japan and Italy were able to get away with invading countries which inspired Hitler.

- **Great Depression**

- The world suffered an economic crash after the Wall Street Crash in America in 1929. This created lots of unemployment in countries like Britain and France who decided to focus on their own problems rather than take action in the League against wrongdoers.

- **Hitler's Foreign Policy**

- Hitler was aggressive and his aims like making a 'Greater Germany' meant he would have to invade countries and this would lead to war.

- **Appeasement**

- Giving in to Hitler made Germany stronger and encouraged Hitler to take bigger risks which would eventually lead to war.

- **Treaty of Versailles**

- This was too harsh on Germany and was one reason why Hitler was able to become German Leader. It made many Germans angry and want revenge.