Conflict and Tension: 1918 - 1939
Part 2: The League of Nations

LON Structure

The league was organised using the following structure:

- **The ASSEMBLY**- ***met once a year***, each member country had one vote- unanimous.
- **The COUNCIL**- a smaller group than the assembly and could meet quickly in a crisis- 4 permanent members- Britain, France, Italy and Japan & 4 non-permanent members, elected by the assembly once every three years.
- **COMMISSIONS** were set up to do most of the work. Each had a special focus such as the disarmament commission which worked to get member countries to reduce the amount of weapons they had.
- **COMMITTEES** looked into BIG world problems, e.g. disease, poverty etc.
- The League itself had **no army**… relied on individual countries and permanent members.

The League could take action in the form of sanctions:

MORAL sanction: persuading the aggressor that they were in the wrong and needed to stop.
ECONOMIC sanction: by stopping trading with a country to put pressure on it to stop its actions
MILITARY sanction: by sending in armed troops- these had to come from the Armies of Britain and France as the League did not have an army of its own.

No USA- *dislike of Treaty of Versailles*, dislike of old empires, **policy of isolationism**, *cost involved*.

Successes of LON	Failures of LON
• *The League attacked slave traders in Africa and Burma and freed 200,000 slaves.* • *The League closed down four big Swiss companies which were selling drugs.* • *The League set up camps and fed Turkish refugees.* • *The League took home half a million World War One prisoners of war.*	• *Disarmament Commission (1926) failed because Germany demanded equality of armaments with everybody else.* • *Commission on Armaments (1921), Failed to get agreement on disarmament because Britain objected.* • *Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928), Sixty-five countries signed the treaty to end war – but then they just ignored it.*

Locarno Treaty- October 1925

- This enabled Germany to be admitted to the League of Nations.
- Germany accepted the borders with France and Belgium that were decided in the Treaty of Versailles
- France and Germany agreed to settle any disputes through the League
- France felt it was at last secure of its borders and Germany had shown more goodwill to France than ever before. USSR only major European power that was not in the League was the USSR

Manchuria 1931

What happened- Japan owned the South Manchurian Railway (in China) In September 1931, an explosion blew up part of the railway. Japan claimed this was done by the Chinese and used it as an excuse to invade China using force and implemented a Puppet Government.
Why is this a problem? – Japan was a permanent member of the LON and should not be invading another country.
China's reaction? China asked the LON for help.
LON's reaction? Only ***MORAL*** sanction, told Japan to withdraw its troops from Manchuria but Japan just took over more. The economic sanction was not something anyone wanted to use due to Great Depression and British interests in Asia, e.g. Hong Kong and Singapore. ***Lytton Report***- favoured China but cane too late.
Result- LON looked weak, Japan left the LON, economic sanctions would not have worked because Japan could have still traded with USA outlines of the League's influence.

Abyssinia 1934

Mussolini wanted to create Italian East Africa (empire). Invaded Abyssinia using Italy's superior military strength. Haile Selassie turned to the League of Nations for help. A **MORAL** sanction was immediately put in place and they also ordered all members to impose an **ECONOMIC** sanction against Italy. 1st time League had used economic sanctions-it did not work because oil was not included and Britain did not close the Suez Canal. Britain and France plotted the **HOARE-LAVAL** plan but it did not go through. Made the LON look corrupt. October 1936 Hitler and Mussolini signed Rome- Berlin Axis- LON no longer took seriously and took no further action- disbanded in 1946.