

## International agreements after Versailles:

### Problems faced by Europe:

Unsolved problems of the Versailles:

- *New countries and boundary problems.*
  - **Germany** claiming German territory.
  - **France** wanting to punish Germany with occupying the Rhineland.
  - **New countries** wanting to defend their independence.
  - **Hungary** claiming territories from the same countries as Germany.
- *National security.* France **felt threatened**, as did Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Estonia etc.
  - **GB** didn't want **France** to **get too strong**.
  - **France** wanting to make sure that Germany wouldn't revenge the Versailles.
  - **Czechoslovakia** wanting to **keep** its **territory** from Hungary and Germany.
  - **Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania** being **threatened** by the Soviet Union.
  - **Poland** **stuck** in the **middle between** Germany and Russia, both claiming its territory.
  - **Germany** left with a **useless army**. Plus **internal problems**.
- *Economic problems*, the cost of war. Not only a problem for Germany! France and GB had paid a lot too.
  - **France** wanted Germany to **pay for** the war.
  - **GB** felt the same way.
  - **Germany** being **stripped** of its natural resources.

## How did the countries solve the problems?

### National Security:

- *France and the “eastern countries”*:
  - Signed a treaty with **Poland** in 1921 against any future German aggression.
  - “**The Little Entente**” signed in 1920 by **Czechoslovakia** and **Yugoslavia** against any future attack from **Hungary**, **Romania** joined in 1926.
  - **France** signed an agreement with “The Little entente” in 1924.
  - The **problem** with this deal is that it gave a **false impression of security**, the actual help that France would be able to give was very limited, as seen in the German occupation of Sudetenland etc.
- **USA** **isolated** it self, not joining the **League of Nations**.
- **GB** was **troubled** by the **French aggression** and saw reasons for easing the German debts to herself and France.

## The Economic question:

- *The Genoa Meeting and the Rapallo Treaty:*
  - In 1922 an international conference was held:
    - **GB and France** demanded that **Germany** should **pay** its debts.
    - **France** also insisted the **communist** regime should **pay** for Russia's part in the war.
    - Led to the "**Treaty of Rapallo**" where **Germany** and **Russia** agree that they should **claim no war damages** from each other and should **cooperate** in economic deals.
- *The First London Conference:*
  - **Britain** propose that GB and France should **cancel all war debts** by Germany **IF** the **US** cancelled all European debts to her.
  - The **US** refused
  - and **France** **claimed all debts** from Germany but agreed on **discussing the sum** as long as they got full right of exploiting the mines in Ruhr.
  - **GB** said "Bad, bad Frenchmen, we don't like this at all". The French couldn't care less....
- *The Second London Conference:*
  - **GB** proposed a **cancellation of payment** despite the US response.
  - **France** **insisted** on that **Germany** should pay.
- *The occupation of Ruhr January 1923:*
  - In response to the second London Conf, **France** **feared** that the whole **treaty was at stake**.
  - **Occupied** with the support of **Italy** and **Belgium** the **Ruhr** area.
  - German workers responded by passive resistance and refused to work.
  - The **French** brought in unemployed French workers.

- The **German** currency collapsed and extremist parties threatened the unity of Germany.
- *GB and US respond:*
  - Both were concerned by this **French** action and condemned it.
  - They feared the **French** would tilt the power balance in Europe and saw the aggression as opposed to the Versailles treaty.
  - France realized that she couldn't act entirely on her own.
- *The Dawes Plan:*
  - **France** agreed to a decrease in German war debts.
  - The plan was to operate for five years and meant that **Germany** had to deposit some of its industry and railroad to the allies.
- *The Young Plan*
  - **Germany** complained to the level of payment and that no fixed sum was set in the Dawes plan.
  - This plan solved these problems:
    - German reparations and payments were further reduced and spread over time until 1988.
    - **GB** and **French** payments to the **US** were linked with German payment.
  - Weakness of the plan:
    - A large sum of American capital were invested German industry leading to that the faith of German economy now lay in the hands of American economy.
    - When the Depression strikes the US in 1929 Germany will get severe economic problems.

## Treaties on the issue with German borders:

- *The Treaty of Locarno 1925:*
  - **France's** action in the **Ruhr** was the topic to discuss:
    - **GB** was **reluctant** to give its full **support** to **France**, worrying about France's involvement with the Little Entente.
  - **France** was **worried** that **Germany** would **reinvade** Alsace-Lorraine.
  - **Germany** was **worried** that **France** would **abuse** this "threat of invasion" and **occupy** more parts of Germany.
  - **Germany** also worried about the **presence** of **foreign troops** in the Rhineland.
  - Solving the problem?
    - **Germany, France and Belgium** signed a **mutual agreement** to **status quo** in the **border** issue.
    - **Germany** accepted a **demilitarized zone** in the Rhineland.
    - **Germany** **accepted** that **Alsace-Lorraine** was a part of France
    - **Germany** accepted territorial losses to Belgium (**Eupen-Malmedy**)
    - **Germany** accepted the French deal with **the Little Entente**.
    - **GB and Italy** agreed to **intervene** if **any** side should break the agreement.
    - **France and Belgium** would invade German territory.
    - **Germany's western borders** were set.
  - Not solving the problem?
    - **Italy** tried to make **Germany** accept the **prohibition** to **join Austria** with Germany but failed.

- **Germany** never agreed on the eastern borders. Still claiming Polish territory in the Polish Corridor.
- Borders against Czechoslovakia not agreed on.
- What would happen if Germany was military reinforced?
- *The Kellog-Briand Pact 1928:*
  - **Germany** signed along with **GB, France** etc an agreement that war was not a method to gain national political goals.
  - **Germany** was accepted into the League of Nations.
  - **Germany** became part of the community again.

Germany and the fragile Weimar republic had survived a very difficult time in history, but would not survive the next problem, the Wall Street Crash in 1929 and the coming World Depression.