

## The League of Nations (My notes from your book):

### 1. The Constitution:

#### I. The Assembly.

- a) All members had 3 representatives.
- b) All decisions were made by unanimous vote.
- c) Indirect Veto right.

#### II. The Council.

- a) The four permanent members, GB, France, Italy and Japan.
- b) The fifth permanent member is Germany after 1926.
- c) Temporary members appointed by the Assembly.
- d) The Cabinet / Government of the League.
- e) In fact the part that made the decisions.

#### III. The Secretariat.

- a) Administrative powers.
- b) Kept records.

#### IV. The Permanent Court of International Justice.

- a) Judging cases submitted by individual states.
- b) Giving legal advice to the Council.

#### V. The Covenant.

- a) The heart was articles 8 - 17:
  - Preventing war.
  - Reduction of arms.
  - Article 12: Arbitration in disputes.
  - Article 13: members to follow judgements by Court or recommendations by the Council.
  - Article 16: Acts of war against a member is an act of war against all members. Members should attack the aggressor.

#### VI. Problems with the Constitution:

- a) Important members lacking.
- b) An ineffective decision-making-apparatus.
- c) Only organized to deal with declarations of war, not guerrilla war.
- d) No police.

e) Too idealistic and unrealistic.

VII. Good things with the constitution:

a) Small nations got a forum where they were equals.

b) Arbitrary role between smaller nations and solving issues when the great four weren't involved.

## 2. the League Struggles to find a Role.

I. Where on the International Arena should it play its role?

a) France - doubted the ability to outlaw war.

- This meant a serious blow against any disarmament attempts between Germany and France.

b) Germany - saw the organisations as means of enforcement of the Versailles.

c) US - avoided to deal with the organisation.

II. This means that the organisation might be used in order to achieve goals, but not respected when the organisation goes against the state and its ambitions.

## 3. The mandates.

I. the former Turkish and German Territories.

II. The mandate powers were required to send annual reports to a Permanent Mandate Commission.

a) This commission could start inquiries and ask embarrassing questions.

- GB pro-Arab in 1930.

III. The first step towards independence for colonies.

a) Voice and forum for the natives.

## 4. the League's Social and Economic Work.

I. Social issues were seen as mean of tying the states closer to each other.

a) Limiting production of opium.

b) outlawing sale of women and children for prostitution.

c) abolition of slavery.

II. Economic attempts to promote free trade.

a) Failed in the protectionistic era.

b) Managed to help Hungary and Austria

III. ILO International Labour Organisation.

## 5. the League as Peace-maker and Arbitrator, 1920-5.

I. May 1920 Persia appealed against Soviet aggression.

FAILURE

a) League did nothing.

II. Protection of Armenia against Turko-Russo attack.

FAILURE

a) League failed since none of the great powers provided force.

III. Poland - Lithuania over Vilna (Vilnius). FAILURE

a) League managed to negotiate a cease-fire in oct 1920

b) Didn't hold and Poland attacked shortly after.

c) League wanted to hold a plebiscite.

d) In 1922 Poland annexed the area

e) In 1923 an other forum, the Conference of Ambassadors (GB, Fr and It) recognised polish sovereignty.

- This undermined the League as arbitrator of peace.

IV. Finland - Sweden, Åland. SUCCESS

a) 1921 the compromise was settled.

V. Albania against Greece and Yugoslavia. SUCCESS?

a) Conference of Ambassadors used the threat of sanctions by the League against Yugoslavia in order to get the to ably.

b) Italy was given the role as protector of Albanian interests.

VI. Anglo-French dispute over Upper Silesia plebiscite.

SUCCESS.

VII. Memel dispute. SUCCESS.

a) Lithuanians didn't want Memel to be international harbour.

VIII. Ruhr Crisis. FAILURE

a) Sweden and GB referred the question to LoN.

b) France blocked it.

IX. Corfu Incident Aug Sept 1923. FAILURE

a) 3 Italians assassinated in Greece, on Albanian border.

b) Mussolini issuing conditions to Greece that they can't accept.

c) Italy insisting that Conference of Ambassadors to solve it.

d) Greece to pay compensation to Italy. Italy redraws.

X. 1924 Mosul. SUCCESS.

- a) British and Turkish both claiming Mosul, Kurdish territory.
- b) LoN provides a way out for Turkey.
- c) Plebiscite in Mosul, the Kurds prefer British and it is decided that Mosul will belong to Iraq. Iraq is under British Mandate.

XI. 1925 Greece-Bulgarian conflict. SUCCESS

- a) the Council managed to negotiate a cease-fire and then ruled in favour of Bulgaria, and both sides accepted the ruling.

XII. Success?

- a) Yes, when the need for a way out is needed by the great four.
- b) Yes, when small nations are involved.
- c) No, when the Great Four have other interests.

XIII. Failure?

- a) See the points above.

**6. The League, America and Disarmament.**

I. Army:

- a) Geneva Protocol 1924.
  - A very ambitious plan for world disarmament.
    - i. US - GB naval tensions increasing
    - ii. US - Japan naval tensions increasing.
- b) Rejected by GB. Preferred regional arrangements.

II. Navy:

- a) Cancellation of Anglo-Japanese Treaty from before WW1 put under US pressure.
- b) Washington Treaty 1922.
  - Halting the building of capital ships, and agreed on ratios for other. Involved GB, Italy, Japan and the US.

III. US attitude towards the LoN improves 1922 - .

- a) President Harding (1921 - 1923) wanted to join the Court of Justice, but the Senate voted against.
- b) Peace movement is strong in the US and that affect

governmental policies.

#### IV. Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact 1928.

- a) Frank Kellogg was the US Secretary of State
- b) Aristide Briand was at the time a respected french politician, prime minister from time to time and winner of Nobel Peace Prize 1926 together with the German Stresemann for his work with the Locarno Treaty.
- c) Originally signed by 15 states and by 1933 another 50 had signed it.
- d) It consists of three articles only:
  - i. "... [Signing nations] condemn recourse to war for the solution of international controversies ..."
  - ii. "... agree that the settlement ... of all disputes or conflicts ... shall never be sought except by pacific means."
  - iii. "This treaty ... shall remain open ... [to] all the Powers of the world."
- e) The LoN had the means to set up commissions and to inflict cooling-of periods.
- f) But it was still just a declaration of intent.

#### V. World Disarmament Conference in 1932 at Geneva.

- a) But the timing couldn't have been worse:
  - Manchurian Crisis.
  - Rise of nationalism in Germany.
  - Depression pushing back the US towards Isolationanism.