

To what extent was economic nationalism a cause of war in 1939?

Going for the Bigger Picture

- French colleagues defining and examining economic nationalism – I'm looking at other causes and I'll be the one bringing it all together (hopefully!)

Thinking about the last school year

- I was shocked by the size of their end of year folder – I don't use the French text book but give our handouts etc)
- Not all of my students coped well in the confinement
- Not all students had great internet access or even frequent access to a computer
- Wanted to make things easier for the students and myself
- Yet still want to give them the 'big picture' opportunity and try and make it easier for the students who aren't 'big picture' thinkers to get there.

Building on 1e

- The post WWI Peace Treaties as they apply to Germany , Italy and Japan
- Diktat
- Mutilated Victory
- Racial Equality clause ignored
- My terminale this year will need extra quick input on Italy and Japan
Japan also link into Washington Naval Conference - I imagine some students might pick up on it
- League of Nations

Failure of League of Nations

- Manchuria - Japan
- Abyssinia - Italy
- Germany

(How + why?)



Leads to Appeasement.
How + why

Lack of consistency between Britain + France.



loses Italy to Hitler.

Japan's aims in Asia

USSR seeks accommodation with Nazi Germany (Missed opportunity by Britain?)

- Failure of USA to assume a world role

Are there other factors?

T of Versailles - as it relates to Japan, Italy + Germany.

Define Economic Nationalism

To what extent was Economic Nationalism a cause of war in 1939?

USSR less affected why not?

Yet France + Britain don't change too far politically?

Accords of Locarno



Impact of Wall St Crash + Depression on Global Economy (Especially, Germany, Italy, Japan.)


↓ (Enabled)

rise of totalitarian Dictators
Aims + objectives of Totalitarianism


- Germany -
- Italy -
- Japan -

Starting with mind map on board that indicates to students where we are going

League of Nations

- Structural weakness – USA not in it
- Actions taken in 1920s outside the L of N = Undermine it
- Failures of 1930s more important than successes of 1920s
- Examine when and where the League of Nations failed - and WHY
- Abyssinia and Manchuria 
- League of Nations = a dead duck

Onto Appeasement

- What it was and why it was implemented
- How it enabled Hitler
- How it lost Mussolini to the Dark Side 
- Why popular
- M.O ?
- Why it failed and came next?
- Judgement as to how important a factor



Fascism as a tool against Communism

- Links into appeasement and pandering to Hitler
- But also maybe a missed opportunity to get Stalin on side?
- = Made it easier for Hitler?

USA abrogating its responsibilities ?

- Links into the Neutrality Acts - Isolationism

Historiography

- Intentionalism v Functionalism debate

Lots of info but keep it focused on the essential
(Bunny videos – I use these a lot in lycée!)



The Invasion of Abyssinia

Next it was the **Italians** who tested the strength of the League of Nations.

Italy was ruled by Mussolini's Fascists

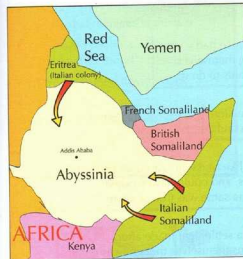
- 1) Italy was under the control of **Benito Mussolini** and his **Fascist Party**.
- 2) Mussolini had been made Prime Minister in 1922 after threatening to take power by **marching on Rome**. He used his new position to change the **voting rules**, and in the 1924 election the **Fascists** swept to **power**.
- 3) From 1925, he began to change Italy into a **dictatorship**.
- 4) Opposition political parties were **banned**.
- 5) He used a harsh **secret police** against his opponents.



In the early 1930s, Mussolini was more on the side of **France** and **Britain**. He joined them at the Stresa Conference in 1935 to stand **against** a possible **German invasion** of Austria.

Mussolini Invaded Abyssinia for Four Reasons

- 1) Italy had been **defeated** by Abyssinia in 1896 and the Italians wanted **revenge**.
- 2) Abyssinia — now called Ethiopia — was **well positioned** for Italy to add to her lands in Africa.
- 3) Mussolini had seen Japan **get away** with the Manchurian invasion **despite** the League of Nations' threats.
- 4) He dreamed of making Italy a **great empire** again.



- 1) In October 1935, Mussolini sent **troops** with heavy artillery and tanks to **invade**.
- 2) The Abyssinian leader **appealed** directly to the League of Nations for help.
- 3) The League of Nations imposed **economic sanctions**, but delayed banning oil exports in case the USA didn't support them.
- 4) Britain and France **didn't close** the Suez Canal to Italian ships — so supplies got through despite the sanctions.
- 5) By May 1936 Italy had **conquered** all of Abyssinia.

Italy took advantage while the League was weak...

Mussolini was building up a **Fascist dictatorship** in Italy, and the weak League of Nations **could not prevent** his invasion of Abyssinia. Make sure you can give reasons **why** he did it, and **how** he got away with it.

The Rise of the Dictators

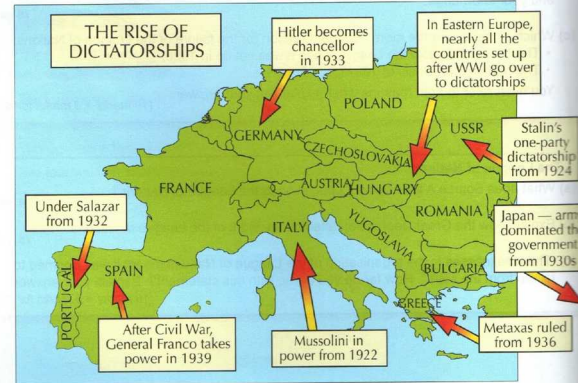
Poor conditions in 1930s Europe saw the rise of **dictators**, and increasing international **tension**.

Problems and Fears aided the rise of Dictators

Dictatorship might seem a scary idea, but for some people it solved a lot of **worrying issues**.

- 1) **LOCARNO** had only settled the **western** borders of Germany. The borders on the East were vulnerable if Germany wanted to expand — people wanted strong leaders to **protect** them.
- 2) **DEPRESSION** still affected most countries, causing widespread **unemployment** and **poverty**. People welcomed **strong governments** who could put things right.
- 3) **DEMOCRACY** was often **blamed** for the bad conditions — democratic governments seemed unable to prevent them happening or to improve the situation.
- 4) **COMMUNISM** was seen as a threat to all of Europe after the Russian Revolution in 1917 — people looked to strong leaders to fight the threat of **world revolution** by the workers.
- 5) **ISOLATIONISM** continued — the USA **stayed out** of world affairs, and Britain and France weren't strong enough to oppose the large numbers of foreign dictators.
- 6) **FRANCE** was still suspicious of Germany and was building **strong defences** along the Maginot Line — many Germans felt they needed a strong leader against this French threat.
- 7) **DISARMAMENT FAILED** — most countries **refused to disarm** to the same level as Germany in 1932. Germany saw this as **unfair** and became determined to rebuild their armed forces.

Dictatorships popped up All Over Europe



Dictatorship — simply irresistible...

This is really important stuff to learn. Europe was full of tension because of the **economic crisis** and the **threat of war** that still came from German anger over the Versailles Treaty. There was a power vacuum — people were afraid that no one was in control, so they turned to **dictators**.

Use the notes -don't do the notes

GCSE REVISION GUIDE -

As a starting point

Develop further in class

But students can use return to it as
an aide memoire for revision

This is where you – need to be able to make links (liens) and **work on more than one idea / theme** at a time = BIGGER PICTURE
These icons should remind you to do this and it's not always something that we will have time to do in class.
The information here , you will meet again in a different context



I use the above symbols to remind students to return to these pages and make links - the juggling is to encourage them to use in different contexts - avoid compartmentalising

A return to Isolationism?

After the First World War (1914-1918), the USA chose not to get involved in international affairs. The policy was known as **isolationism**.

The League was the idea of the American President

- 1) The League of Nations was largely the idea of the American president **Woodrow Wilson**. It was one of his **Fourteen Points** — fourteen principles on which he thought a peace settlement should be based.
- 2) He thought a League of Nations could act like a **world parliament** where the representatives of all the major powers would meet to discuss matters of international importance.
- 3) He was sure that such an organisation could prevent another world war.



Woodrow Wilson

But America Never Joined the League of Nations

- 1) A League of Nations was set up following the end of the First World War, as part of the **Treaty of Versailles**.
- 2) Wilson wanted the USA to join the League of Nations, but he needed the approval of the US Congress.
- 3) The problem was that **most Americans didn't want to join**.
- 4) The majority of the American people favoured **isolationism** — they wanted the USA to remain isolated from foreign engagements.

Americans Didn't Trust the League of Nations

- 1) Many Americans had been against the USA getting involved in the First World War and were upset by the loss of American lives.
- 2) They were worried that if America joined the League of Nations they would be obliged to interfere in conflicts that most Americans thought were none of their business.
- 3) The USA had a lot of citizens who were German or had German ancestors.



- These people saw the League as linked to the hated **Treaty of Versailles**. They were opposed to the USA joining an organisation that was forcing Germany to pay vast amounts in reparations to help for the war.
- 4) Some Americans were suspicious of the **French and the British**. They were sure that the League would come under British and French control, and that America would be called upon to help these countries defend their colonies. Many Americans felt that colonies didn't fit in with their ideas about **liberty and democracy**, and should not be supported.
 - 5) Other Americans were concerned that joining the League of Nations could cost them money. They were worried that the League would drag America into lots of expensive wars. Many businessmen contended that the US had grown prosperous by staying out of European affairs and that it should remain isolated from Europe.

Background
Homework :
Japan and a
few questions
for a quick
discussion
(relevant
mostly from
around 14
minutes)



Books used -

- Conflict and Tension: The Inter-War Years 1918- 1939 ISBN 9780198422914
- GCSE History Complete Revision and practice ISBN 9781782946090
- GCSE History – The Revision Guide ISBN 9781847624130
- Mastering Modern World History
- Mastering Modern European History
- Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini Totalitarianism in the Twentieth Century ,
Bruce F Paley