

Effects of the Great Depression: Economic nationalism

<i>Protectionism</i>	- Some countries (B,F,US) introduced tariffs to protect their own industries and limit or stop imports. - Trading partners did the same, resulting in an overall fall in trade volumes
<i>Calling in loans</i>	<i>US banks called in their loans → collapse of banks and businesses → mass unemployment</i>
<i>Rearmament</i>	<i>Many countries (B,G,I,J) began rearmament process to boost industry and create jobs for the unemployed</i>
<i>Radicalism</i>	<i>GP helped bring radical regimes to power, like the Nazi party In other states like Italy, GP caused the regimes to adopt more extreme and aggressive policies</i>

Failure of LON in the 1930s

Failure of disarmament

<i>Washington Naval Conference (1921) – Success</i>	- Negotiated outside the League to limit the size and the number of warships held by Britain France Japan and US - BUT it was organised by the US, who was not a LON member - Ratio of capital ships of B, US, J, F, and I set at 5:5:3:1.67:1.67
<i>Locarno Treaties (1925) – Partial Success</i>	- Negotiated outside the league between countries like B,G,F,I and more - Germany accepted its western borders and the demartilisation of Rhineland + Weimar govt agreed to settle any disputes with the above countries through the LON
<i>League Commission to prepare for World Disarmament Conference (1926) – Failure</i>	- B+F refused to cooperate
<i>Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928)</i>	- Negotiated outside the league between 15 countries

- Failure	- Agreement that force should not be used to settle disputes BUT there was no clear way to enforce the pact
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World Disarmament Conference in Geneva (1932)

- *Limiting Offensive weapons* → Conference produced resolutions to prohibit the bombing of civilian population + chemical warfare + limit the size of artillery and tonnage of tanks → BUT they still could not agree on a few things
 - Difficult to agree on what offensive and defensive weapons are
 - Resolutions did little to ensure how limitations on weapons would be achieved e.g. bombing of civilians was banned but the planes capable of bombing could not be abolished
 - Individual countries used the conference to raise their own issues, e.g. Italy demanded to have a navy the same size as France
- *Dealing with Germany:*
 - Many countries did not know what to do with Germany → many thought that the terms in TOV was unfair, and should be changed, but they had differing views on how it should be changed → came up with 2 options
 - 1: Every country to disarm to the level that Germany had been forced to
 - 2: Germany to be allowed to rearm to a level closer to that of other powers
 - France: Due to WWI → very wary of Germany rearming → pressured the LON against rearming + demanded either France had a bigger army OR US and B would guarantee to fight alongside F if a war broke out between G and F → BUT B + US were reluctant to guarantee F's future security
 - Germany also accused F and other powers of hypocrisy when G put forward proposals for all countries to disarm down to its level (July 1932) → conference failed to agree and Germany walked out
- *Conference reconvenes Feb 1933:*
 - Hitler (new leader) agreed to attend the conference and seemed genuinely interested in making progress on disarmament
 - BUT he actually started a secret rearmament programme + his military commanders were secretly making plans for rearmament, Hitler pretended to engage

with other powers on the issue of rearmament → May 1933: promised not to rearm Germany if all other nations agreed to disarm in 5 years, trying to put pressure on other countries esp F

- Hitler: appeared to be calling for large-scale disarmament, claiming to be a supporter of peace and progress BUT he also knew that other powers would not disarm to the same level that Germany faced under the TOV → Gave him the justification he needed to rearm G
- Oct 1933: He pulled G out of the disarmament conference and from the LON

Abyssinian Crisis 1934-1936:

- Mussolini invaded Abyssinia in 1935, who felt Italy had more to gain from friendship with Hitler's Germany (rather than B and F who he thought were in decline when Nazis took power) and started to discuss an alliance
- Hoare-Laval Pact: B+F wanted to give him $\frac{2}{3}$ of Abyssinia and in return he would call off the invasion (and this was done even when LON was discussing sanctions against Italy) → however this was leaked to the French press, it was regarded as an act of treachery against LON and the pact was dropped
- 1935: Mussolini's army was ready to launch a full-scale invasion in Abyssinia → LON immediately set up a committee to discuss what sanctions to impose against Italy and they had to do it quickly → decided to ban arm sales, all loans and export of rubber, tin, metals to Italy + banning all imports from Italy
- Feb 1936: LON concluded stopping oil sales to Italy would be bad + US also refused to support a ban on oil sales and even increased its supplies of oil to Italy
- Suez canal: Opened by B+F was still open to Italy's supply ships (cuz they were afraid of war with Italy)

LON loses credibility

- The crisis damaged the global confidence in the LON + the leak of the pact damaged its reputation → the failure to impose sanctions on Italy also led to Italian takeover of Abyssinia → Hitler was convinced the LON would not hinder Germany's plan of expansion

- During crisis: German troops marched into Rhineland in March 1936 + act against the TOV but the LON did nothing to stop it + also signed agreement with Italy, which the LON could do nothing about
- This showed that its lack of authority in enforcing peacekeeping measures resulted in the collapse of collective security, damaging its credibility in resolving conflicts and maintaining world peace

Increasing Germany's military capability

- Conscription + rearmament(1933-1935):
 - It restores Germany's pride and strength after the humiliation of TOV (Secret rearmament and conscription program from 1933 to 1934 + Creation of Luftwaffe (air force))
 - Also reduced unemployment
- Remilitarization of Rhineland(1936):
 - Test the willingness of the Allies to enforce the TOV (used excuse of Franco-Soviet alliance and claimed Germany was under threat + ordered 22000 german troops to cross the Hohenzollern Bridge and remilitarize Rhineland)
 - It was a gamble too, because German army was still not strong enough to stand up to a French response BUT B+F+LON was occupied with the Abyssinian crisis and B would not guarantee their support for F if F challenged Hitler → LON condemned Hitler's actions but no further action was taken → Hitler gained more prestige and confidence in the eyes of Germans
 - This strategic piece of territory strengthened German defences and economy by giving Hitler access to the rich coal-producing region.

Involvement in the Spanish Civil War:

- Hitler wanted to divert B and F's attention away from his plans for expansion in E.E. + wanted to test his army and air force
 - He sent soldiers, equipment, warplanes to support the Spanish Nationalist forces against the communists + German planes also raided several Spanish cities

- Added to Allied power's perception that Hitler could be trusted as he portrayed himself as anti-communist + lack of intervention strengthened Hitler's views that B and F were weak and emboldened him
- With each successful act of aggression, Hitler became bolder and brought Europe closer to war, from violating TOV to invading neighbouring countries → his actions threatened the peace and agreed-upon borders of Europe, causing B and F's growing distrust of Germany and shattering their reluctance to go to war to defend existing borders

Reasons for appeasement

Fear of another major war	- Pacifist mood → public disgust for war - Impact of WWI - Impact of GP: still recovering → cannot afford war or rearmament to deal with Germany
US isolationism	- Help against Hitler was not an option as US adopted a policy of isolationism in 1920s and 1930s because of losses in WWI
Genuine sympathy over TOV	- Many politicians knew people believed TOV was too harsh - Believed that German grievances were valid - Felt that Hitler's intentions were only to grant Germans in Czechoslovakia self-determination - People felt it was fair for Hitler to argue Germany was being unfairly treated if it had to disarm while other countries were unwilling to (so when he reclaimed Saar and Rhineland, few spoke up against it)
National interest	B: Feared communism (feared Stalin and USSR more than Hitler) + believed a strong Germany will actually be a buffer against Soviet Union + actively conceded to Hitler even when it broke TOV → e.g. Anglo-German Naval agreement (1935) that allowed Germany to have a navy with $\frac{1}{3}$ the total tonnage of British surface fleets and an equal tonnage of submarines → B hoped to reduce German anger over TOV + reduce German re-armament so G would not be a significant threat to B F: Feared Hitler more than Stalin/Soviet Union → refusal of B to formally ally with F against G pushed F to sign an alliance with Soviets in 1936

Misjudgement of Hitler	Most B+F politicians did not comprehend the real threat Hitler posed + many like chamberlain believed Hitler was man who could be reasoned with + believed Hitler's aims were to revise TOV
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Policy of appeasement:

Unification with Austria

- Believed that Germany and his homeland Austria belonged together + many people from both Austria and Germany also supported this union, SO many felt the TOV was unfair as it neglected Austria's wishes
 - Encouraged Austrian Nazis to make trouble and push for political union with G → pressure led the Chancellor to hold a plebiscite
 - Hitler sent troops to Austria on the day of, and 99% of the population voted for Anschluss
- With anschluss, Germany absorbed Austria's population, industry and natural resources + Germany also had access to Austria's reserves of gold and iron → strengthening Germany's size and stature
- It also increased Hitler's power and standing → He was breaking TOV but B+F did nothing as B sympathised with G and felt that TOV was unfair to them
- B+F: misjudged Hitler's actions and ambitions, they just found it hard to deal with a politician who simply did not care about rules and relations of international diplomacy → misunderstood and underestimated him

Control of Sudetenland

- Got Nazis in Sudetenland to instigate Germans there to demand to be a part of germany + Hitler threatened to go to war for this area if necessary → Czech leader also willing to fight, but leaders of B+F were keen to avoid conflict
- Munich Agreement (1938)

- Leaders of B, F, I and G met in Munich and signed the M.A. where the whole of Sudetenland would be given to Germany + Czechoslovakia was given an ultimatum to accept it or go to war on your own
- B: There was genuine British Fear that war would occur since Hitler said he would go to war if necessary + Czechs willing to fight, even mobilizing troops + Chamberlain had felt Hitler was just responding to the flaws of TOV
- As Hitler gained the whole of S without having to fight, he set his sights on the whole of C + MA contributed to his belief that he could keep having his way (invasion of C in 16 March 1939)

Invasion of C:

- Hitler wanted C to be a part of Greater Germany + believed he could keep taking more with no reaction from the allies
- This was a step too far for Chamberlain as the Czechs were not separated from their homeland by TOV like the Sudeten Germans → Hitler's next target was likely Poland if B+F did not intervene
- B+F threatened to declare war on Germany if Hitler invaded Poland

Nazi-Soviet non-aggression Pact

- Hitler: wanted to ensure SU would not be involved in G's invasion of Poland + prevent war on 2 fronts
- Stalin: Distrusted B+F (even though he was also concurrently negotiating with them) → wanted breathing space to prepare for possible war
- Details: 10 years where both countries would not attack each other + secret plan to divide EE into 2 spheres of influence → Poland was also divided between them
- This signalled to the rest of Europe Hitler's true intentions → all countries began to ready for war + B and P signed a mutual defence treaty

Invasion of Poland

- Hitler wanted the majority-German city, Danzig to be part of Germany + connect Germany with East Prussia by building a railroad across the Polish corridor

- *Negotiations with Poland broke down due to Polish leader's distrust of Germany + B+F were still willing to negotiate with Hitler regarding Danzig which convinced Hitler that they would not declare war on Germany*
- *Hench when negotiations did not proceed as he wished → Hitler invaded Poland*
- *3 Sep 1939: B+F declared war on Germany*