

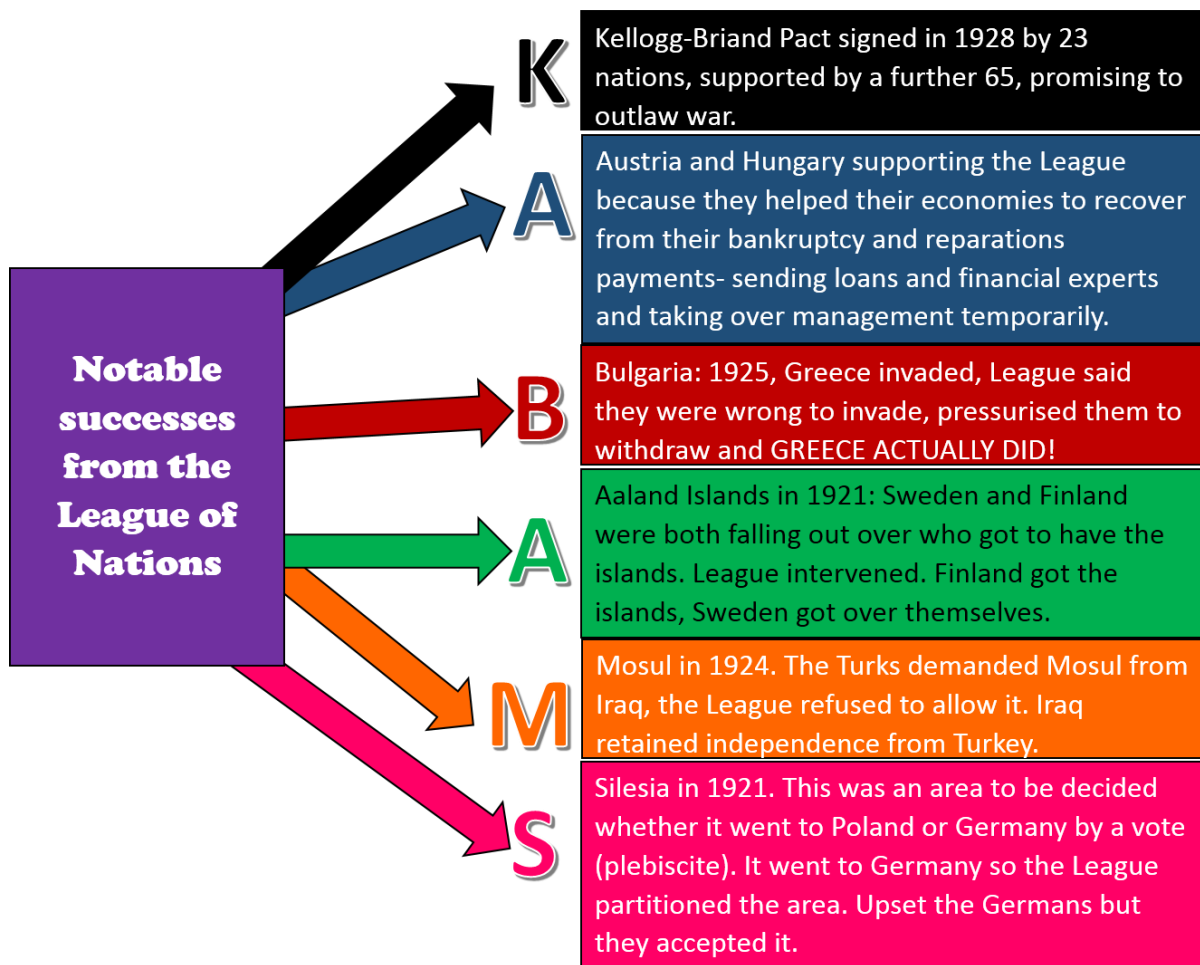
The Success of the League of Nations

Why was the League more successful in the 1920s than the 1930s?

- New spirit of co-operation following the horrors of the First World War.
- The Great Depression changed that by making countries more isolated from each other and more selfish as they tried to rebuild their economies.
- The Great Depression also increased nationalism in nations, making them more likely to want to expand territory aggressively.
- The problems caused by the Great Depression also made people in those countries turn to extremist parties as they seemed to offer solutions- namely aggressive, territorial expansion.

Most of the reasons why the League was more successful in the 1920s than the 1930s was simply because the Great Depression changed the circumstances of these countries- actually, it wasn't completely successful in the 1920s, partly due to weaknesses in its own structure.

Remember **KABAMS** to remember the notable successes of the League



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Other successes

The League was the first international organisation to suggest that the world community should take collective action to tackle problems such as starvation, disease and child slave labour.

Health Committee	International Labour Organisation	Slavery Commission	Commission for Refugees
<p>Channelled resources into ending leprosy, malaria and yellow fever. International campaign to exterminate mosquitoes. Prevented typhus epidemics in the Soviet Union (Russia).</p>	<p>Closed down four Swiss companies selling illegal drugs. Restricted addition of lead to paint, convinced countries to adopt an 8 hour work day and 48 hour working week, worked to end child labour, increased women's rights in the workplace. Survived and became part of the United Nations.</p>	<p>Ending slavery in Abyssinia enabling it to join in 1926, worked with Liberia to abolish forced labour, kept records to control slavery, prostitution and human trafficking. Set free 200,000 slaves in Sierra Leone and Burma.</p>	<p>Oversaw the return of prisoners of war to their homes. Returned prisoners of war to their homes (400,000 of them). Helped refugees in Turkish camps by sending doctors to stop the spread of typhoid and cholera, spent £10 million on building homes for refugees and supplying them with farming tools and equipment.</p>

But:

- They were never going to solve the problem of disease.
- It was difficult to ensure that all countries and companies complied with new rules and regulations. This also led to conflict across big business and the USA wasn't in it and was one of the largest economies.
- Slavery went underground and became more difficult to solve.
- Racism was a huge problem for the Commission for refugees.

Failures of the League

- VILNA: Both Poland and Lithuania claimed it. In 1920, the Polish occupied it and refused to League. The League required an army to take action but didn't have one and Britain and France did not want to supply one (as Poland was a barrier against Germany and Communist Russia). So the Polish kept it and unrest continued.
- CORFU: 1923 Italy demanded compensation from the Greek Government for the death of five Italian surveyors who were mapping the border. The Greeks did not offer any. He bombarded and occupied Corfu. The Council wanted to condemn Italy but Italy was one of them and so they weren't in agreement. They put pressure on the Greeks to accept Mussolini's demands instead. It was only resolved when the Greeks apologised and paid the compensation demanded that Mussolini withdrew his forces.