2.5.5 Social problems

- the League blacklisted four large German, Dutch, French and Swiss companies which were involved in the illegal drug trade
- it brought about the freeing of **200,000 slaves** in British-owned Sierra Leone
- it organised raids against slave owners and slave traders in Burma
- it challenged the use of forced labour to build the Tanganyika railway in Africa where death rate among the African workers was a staggering 50%
- league pressure brought this down to 4% which they said was a more acceptable figure
- even in areas where it couldn’t remove social injustice the League kept careful records of what was going on and provided information on problems such as drug trafficking, prostitution and slavery
- it was also an economic and financial organisation
- helped countries with financial issues
- in **1922 Austria was close to bankruptcy**
- the league devised a rescue plan
- they helped trade revive and unemployment go down and they also set a limit the budget
- it also did this for **Hungary, Greece and Bulgaria**

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2.6 International Treaties (Not to do with the League)

- most of these treaties:
  - improved international relations
  - economic recovery
  - helped peace
  - Disarmament and better relations between countries (2 aims of League)

2.6.1 The Washington Conference 1921

- USA, Japan, Britain and France (and some elements Italy) agreed to limit the size of their navies (it only applied to battleships and cruisers)
- however, the agreement was as far as disarmament got and nothing came of it

2.6.2 The Rapallo Treaty 1922 (weakened the Peace Settlements)

- the Soviet Union and Germany re-established diplomatic relations
- both countries felt like international pariahs (isolated by other countries since it was not in the League) and found friendship with each other
depression= the League does not have the resources to attack (both Britain and France are dealing with the depression so they don’t have the resources to attack)

geography= not interested in it since most of the League’s major powers are in Europe so they are not concerned with it (if USSR and USA had been in the League they would have had the resources and have been interested in solving this)

Economic sanctions don’t work= they only use moral condemnation since the economic sanctions will affect their own economy, upset Japan and are meaningless since Japan will still be able to trade with the USA (Britain used to trade a lot with Japan) (Br still traded)

Fear of Germany= Britain and France are downsizing their own defence spending so would prefer to spend the little money they had on protecting their Empires (France is still afraid of Germany so will spend money on defence against Germany (eg. Maginot line) since Germany is rearming (not officially till 1933)

Fear of Japan= Feared attack on their Far East colonies if sanctions were imposed

Japan left= couldn’t control it anymore

2.8.6 Overall assessment of the Manchurian incident

- clear failure of the league due to slow and effectiveness (eg. one year for the report by the Lytton committee)
- special case as it was in Japan (League said that if it had been in Europe they could have dealt with it more easily) so didn’t damage the League’s reputation as much as if it had been in Europe
- Manchuria let Mussolini see that he could get away with aggressors
- It showed that the League was not interested in problems outside Europe
- Not having the USA meant that the League was geographically based in Europe
- Hitler and Mussolini look in interest at this case since they see that Japan can get away with aggression (Japan just ignores and leaves the League)
- Self interest since showed problems in imposing sanctions since Br kept trading
- Japan kept Manchuria
- Shows that if not happy with the League can just leave
- in July 1937 they also invaded China.

2.9 Why did the League Fail in the 1930’s? Case Study 2- Disarmament 1932-1934

- one of the League’s 4 aims was to work towards universal disarmament
- very little progress had been made in the 1920’s (even the Kellogg Briand Pact which renounced (said no) to war had not encouraged disarmament)
• due to the situation in the 1930’s (bad due to the depression and other factors) made the problem of disarmament even more crucial

2.9.1 1932-1934 Disarmament Conference (Geneva)

• by July 1932 they agree:
  ○ not to bomb civilian
  ○ limit size of artillery
  ○ no chemical warfare

• they don't abolish anything yet (eg. if you don't want to bomb civilians you have to decide what you are going to do about fighter planes (which bomb civilians))

2.9.2 Problem- Should Germany be Allowed to Re-arm?

• Germany had been part of the league for 6 years
• Germany wanted equality
• the question came about whether Germany should be allowed to re-arm or should all other countries disarm
• by now most countries agree that Germany has been badly treated by the Treaty of Versailles
• they know that no countries are going to disarm so to what extent should Germany be allowed to re-arm
• this is a big concern for France as it is afraid of Germany rearming and attacking her
• in January 1933 Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany (leader of Germany) and begins secret rearming
• in October 1933 talks break down and Hitler withdraws Germany from the League

2.9.3 Why did the Disarmament Conference fail and what consequences did this have for the League?

• they were thinking about their own country instead of compromising
• Britain and France are divided on the issue (Britain pro disarmament (Britain sending the note) (in France against disarmament))
• in Britain many felt the Treaty of Versailles was unfair and that Germany should be able to have a bigger army than it was given
• in 1935 their is a Naval agreement between Britain and France (Germany could only have a navy less than 35% of the size of the British navy (didn't consult the League or any of it's allies so their was a lot of anger among countries))
• France was afraid of the Germans re-arming and did definitely not want to disarm out of fear
• failure of disarmament is very damaging to the League's reputation in Germany since most Germans were angry that Germany had been forced to disarm but others had not
League and caused Manchuria and Abyssinia due to problems with resources and the fact that countries didn’t want to deal with situations that did not directly involve them making the League pointless.

2.13 How far was League of Nations a success? (common assessment autumn)
1920’s, commissions  1920’s, 1930’s

The League’s aims were to keep peace done through moral condemnation, economic sanctions and if needed force. It wanted to provide better relations between countries as well as get disarmament (failed at disarmament committee) as well as improve social and working conditions (through its commission). ToFV Most agree it had a few successes in the 1920’s but was useless in the 1930’s

On the one hand the League of Nations was a success in that in the 1920s the League had some success in solving peacekeeping problems. In 1921 Germany and Poland were fighting over Upper Silesia since they both wanted it for it’s rich iron and steel industry. It was agreed that their was going to be a plebiscite by the people living their and French and British troops were sent to keep order. The rural people voted for Poland and the industrial parts voted for Germany. The League drew up borders according to this. They also installed a lot of infrastructure such as a good water source and transport. This therefore shows links between it’s peacekeeping side and it’s social side. This was a success since they were able to prevent war between the two countries and set up infrastructure.

The League also had to settle a small dispute between Sweden and Finland. Sweden wanted the Aaland Islands owned by Finland. They were both prepared to go to war over it. The League agreed that it should remain part of Finland but Finland couldn’t keep weapons on the island. This shows how the League settled disputes between countries.

The League also had many commissions which did much good for the world. The way they worked is by providing evidence and statistics to convince the countries to accept new decisions since they couldn’t force anyone to do anything. The refugee’s commission had the goal to send back prisoners of war and refugees back to their homeland. This was a huge success and the League was able to send back 400,000 refugees in the first few years of it’s existence. It also worked closely with the red cross to improve conditions in the camps. This shows how the League was successful in helping refugees and prisoners of war and how it did good for the world.

The League also had the International Health Organisation which did many good things such as banning lead as well as starting a campaign to exterminate mosquitoes. They were successful in reducing the numbers of mosquitoes. This shows how they helped the illness in the world.

The League of Nations also had a transport organisation as well as a social organisation. The social organisation helped to ban four companies involved in trafficking drugs as well as reporting on slavery and prostitution. They launched a few raids to free slaves which shows how the organisation helped countries and people. This was one of the League main four aims to improve living and working conditions. This also helped to improve relations between countries since the League’s health initiatives united many countries to face diseases.

On the other hand in the 1920’s the League had peacekeeping failures. In 1920 Poland and Lithuania (both created by the Peace settlements) fought over Vilna. Poland invaded the capital of Lithuania Vilna and Lithuania appealed to the League. The League sided with Lithuania and Poland was to pay compensation but Poland refused to pull out. This was a failure since the League failed it’s first test (lowering it’s reputation) it showed that France didn’t want to upset Poland due to fear of Germany as well as the fact that since the League did not have it’s own army it couldn’t act quickly.

The League also failed in Abyssinia in 1935 and this highlighted many of the League’s key failures such as self interest. When the French Premier Laval and the British Prime minister Hoare agreed to give Mussolini the two