Evidence of the league's successes

Aaland islands 1920
Swedish government took issue to League of Nations: decided the islands should remain Finnish, but no weapons could be kept there. The Swedish accepted the ruling.

Upper Silesia 1922
The Treaty of Versailles gave the people of Upper Silesia right to a referendum - to be part of Germany or part of Poland. 700,000 voted for Germany and 500,000 voted for Poland. Result led to rioting between two sides.
The issue was taken to the League of Nations: they decided to split Upper Silesia between Germany and Poland. The league's decision was accepted by both countries and people in upper Silesia.

Bulgaria-Greece 1925
Some Greek soldiers were killed in a small skirmish on the Greek/Bulgarian border. Greeks were angry and invaded Bulgaria. Bulgaria asked the league for help.
The league condemned the Greeks, and told them to leave Bulgaria. The Bulgarian government told its army not to fight back. The Greeks left Bulgaria.

Treaties in the 1920s:

Washington Naval Conference 1921
The USA, Britain, France, Japan and Italy agreed to limit the number of their battleships. Designed to stop another arms race.

Geneva Protocol 1924
The league tried to stop future wars by asking countries to agree that any country that refused arbitration/negotiation would be labelled an aggressor and every nation in the league would act against it. Britain did not agree because it feared its empire could be drawn into war.

Dawes Plan 1924
German reparations were renegotiated to boost the German economy and reduce Franco-German tension.

Locarno Treaties 1925
Britain, France, Belgium, Germany and Italy agreed to guarantee national boundaries as set out at Versailles. Designed to stop countries seeking to regain lost territory. Treaties between Czechoslovakia, Germany and Poland in which Germany promised not to use force against them. Germany was ALLOWED INTO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS in 1926.
Why did Hitler sign the Pact?

- He wanted to gain time to prepare for his invasion of the USSR
- It allowed him to invade Poland
- It avoided a possible war on two fronts (GB and France plus the USSR)

Why did Stalin sign the Pact?

- He was not convinced Britain and France would be strong and reliable as allies against Hitler.
- He had designs for large sections of eastern Poland - wanted to take over the Baltic states
- He hoped for TIME to build up his DEFENCES, as he didn’t believe Hitler

The Nazi-Soviet Pact made war more likely because:

- Agreement to divide Poland would invoke Britain and France’s guarantee to Poland
- It would allow Germany and the USSR time to prepare for their inevitable war
- Showed Britain and France were isolated - it was up to them to stand up to Hitler
- Hitler believed Britain and France were even less likely to defend Poland without Stalin’s support.

The invasion of Poland September 1939

- 1st September
  - Germany invaded Poland (west)
  - 8 days after Nazi-Soviet Pact - Stalin did nothing
- 3rd September
  - Britain and France declared war on Germany
  - Upholding the Polish Guarantee
- 17th September
  - USSR invaded eastern Poland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Took Germany out of the League of Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>Began rearming Germany</td>
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<td>1935</td>
<td>Tried to take over Austria but was prevented by Mussolini</td>
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<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Held massive rearmament rally in Germany</td>
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<td>1937</td>
<td>Reintroduced conscription in Germany</td>
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<td>1938</td>
<td>Sent German troops into the Rhineland</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Made an anti-Communist alliance with Japan</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Tried out Germany’s new weapons in the Spanish Civil War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Took over Austria</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Took over the Sudetenland area of Czecho-Slovakia</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Invaded the rest of Czecho-Slovakia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Invaded Poland</td>
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