Stresa Pact: Agreement between Great Britain, France and Italy against German rearmament

Against Italy’s behavior Britain wanted to use force. This was discussed in the league, but it wasn’t strong enough to make this decision.

The League was so weak it offered Italy a piece of Abyssinia in exchange of their retirement. But they rejected it.

PHASE 2

In 1935 Italy fully invaded Abyssinia

It was a LARGER STATE vs a SMALLER STATE, it could have been solved easily.

Sanctions could work if imposed quickly, the league banned:

- Arm sales to Italy
- Loans
- Imports or Exports
- But doubted over Oil Exports

THE SUEZ CANAL REMAINED OPEN, closing it would have solved everything quicker by stopping the Supplies to Italy.

Hoare-Laval Pact: Between French and British ministers, it agreed to give Italy 2/3 of Abyssinia in return for calling off the invasion. While Mussolini continued invading Abyssinia, the USA stopped exporting oil productions to Italy.

The outcomes:

While the League was over the Abyssinia Crisis, Hitler disobeyed the Treaty and invaded the Rhineland in 1936. Then that same year Mussolini annexed the whole Abyssinia.

The League HAD FAILED Britain and France thought, solving this problem could have strengthened the League’s position against Hitler. But it weakened it.

November 1936: Hitler and Mussolini signed the Rome-Berlin Axis Alliance.

Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?

HITLERS WAR

Adolf Hitler arose between 1918-33. “How far was he responsible for WW2?”

His plans were never secretive. In 1924 he revealed what he would do if the Nazis achieved power:

- **Abolish the Treaty of Versailles:** He believed the Treaty was unjust, and the Germans who signed it were the ‘November Criminals’. He said the Treaty reminded Germans of the defeat of WW1 and how the allies humiliated them.
- **Expand German Territory:** The Treaty had taken away territory, and Germany wanted to recover it, to get it back. Also they wanted the union with Austria and other German minorities.
- **Defeat Communism:** Hitler wanted to defeat Communism/ Bolshevism, and build his empire from that.

This are some of the actions Hitler took before WW2 started:

1933 → Took Germany out of the League / Begun rearming Germany

1934 → Tried to take over Austria but was stopped by Mussolini / Became Furher

1935 → Massive Rearmament in Germany

1936 → Reintroduced Conscription / German troops entered the Rhineland / Anti-communist alliance with Japan