**Why did attempts at co-operation in Europe between 1919-1939 end in Failure?**

Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, Europe and the world globally was a tension fuelled place. After the Great War the leaders of the most powerful countries of the world gathered to try to create a sustainable peace for the foreseeable future. However what followed between 1919 and 1939 was an unprecedented failure of such gallant motives; the League of Nations was created and failed, there were many attempts at stronger and more peaceful relations, such as the Locarno Pact 1925 and the Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928. However these organisations and agreements were undermined and ignored by major powers. Appeasement lead to the rise of dictators and increased extremism the pinnacle of both being Hitler’s Nazi Regime. Lastly the Wall Street Crash which led to global economic depression which further promoted a rise in extremism which broke down cooperation with other more democratic countries. All of these factors contributed to the collapse of peace in 1939.

The League of Nation’s was American President Woodrow Wilson’s brain child to seek a peaceful future after World War I. The League’s Covenant stated that the League was set up to provide an international forum for discussion to prevent future disagreements, however the same Covenant also greatly limited the effectiveness of the League through its weak sanctions, its structure and the absence of leading powers. Moral condemnation, trade sanctions and military force were the three sanctions available to the League, the first, moral condemnation was weak as the members of the League never agreed to send their troops on another country’s behalf due to self-interest. Lastly, the trade sanction would have been viable if the US senate ratified the Treaty of Versailles, as it happened the US were not a member of the League, and therefore once more the sanctions place by the League lacked muscle as the aggressor could still trade with the US and other non-League nations. The League’s structure with a Security Council lead to slow decision making, the Veto meant members could easily act on self-interest, and the unanimous vote in the assembly lead to few decisions made with any speed, especially as they only met once a year. Finally, one of the key aims of the League was to encourage disarmament, this also failed, this was shown by Hitler walking out of the Geneva Disarmament Conference in January 1933.

Economic depressions cause extreme poverty which lead to people voting for the people who they think will make real and radical change quickly, therefore leading to the rise of extremist regimes. This is what occurred in Germany in 1933 when Hitler officially seized power from Hindenburg following the Reichstag Fire. The USA tried to prevent this rise of extremism through the Dawes Plan of 1924 and the Young Plan of 1929, these involved the USA providing Germany with loans to pay off the reparation payments and also reducing these reparation payments. However the Wall Street Crash of 1929 ruined these agreements, on the Wall Street Stock Share Market lots of shares were sold in quick succession and this lead to a global crash, across the world governments set up large international tariffs to save their own economies whilst America pulled back debts from Germany thus worsening the German situation. This sudden depression lead to the rise of the Nazi dictatorship, this included many radical policies such as Hitler’s opportunistic foreign policy which caused much tension across Europe in particular. Therefore the global depression ruined American attempts to reach out to Germany and it also encouraged self-interest among nations rather than the compromise required for cooperation.