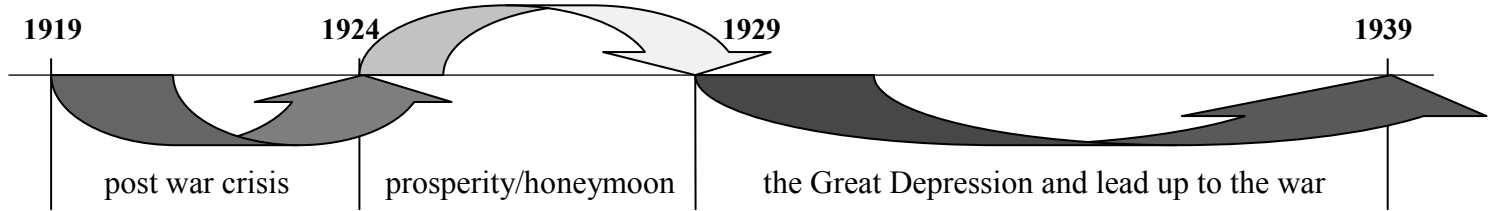


# EUROPE AND THE USA 1918-1933

**TASK 1:** *Timeline. Match the years on the timeline with the following events.*

Wall Street Crash	Dawes Plan	Paris Peace Conference	Beginning of the Second World War
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**TASK 2:** *Can you think of some important events which happened in each of the time periods above?*

## Post War Crisis 1919-1924

### The League of Nations

The League of Nations was set up in 1920 as an international organisation that was supposed to enhance international cooperation, prevent any armed conflicts and work on the improvement of living and working conditions.

Headquarters – **Geneva**, Switzerland

### Structure of the League of Nations

- **Assembly** of all the member states, meeting .....a year
- **Council**, meeting more regularly, its main task was to solve international disputes
  - **permanent members** –
  - 4-9 temporary members
- **Secretariat**, administration, records
- **Court of International Justice, Hague** –
- **Commissions** -
- **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** –

### Weaknesses of the League

- not all the states were members of the League
 

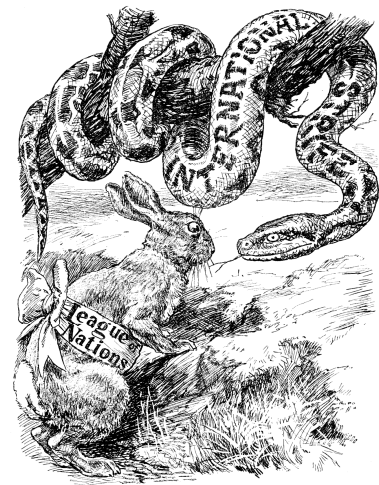
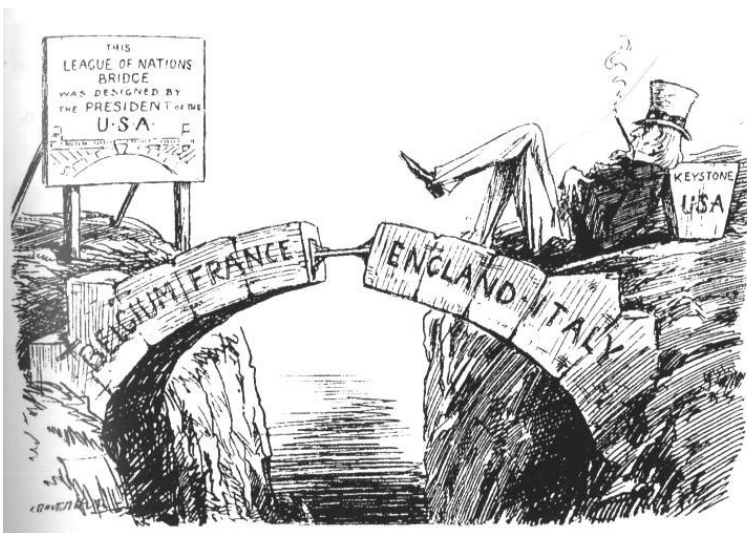
USA	Germany	USSR
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- it did not have its own army, in case of war the League could apply three means to stop it:
  - moral condemnation -
  - economic and financial sanctions -
  - military operation -

### Ups and Downs of the League

Although a lot of important and really helpful work was done in the commissions and in the ILO, the League did not fulfill its high aspirations in the field of international relations and security. However, there were examples of swift and successful actions of the League.

**TASK 3:** *Group work. Study the material provided for your group by the teacher and judge how successful the League of Nations was in tackling this given issue.*

**TASK 4:** *Study the cartoons and explain what features of the League the authors wanted to point at.*



### Post War Crisis in Germany 1918-1924

Germany underwent a turbulent period of transformation from an empire defeated in the war, to a democratic republic. It witnessed left and right wing attempts to seize power, intervention of foreign armies, deep economic crisis and a hyperinflation. All the above mentioned is dealt with in a separate set of study notes Nazism in Germany – see

[http://smd.gytool.cz/downloads/6-5\\_NAZISM\\_IN\\_GERMANY\\_bar.pdf](http://smd.gytool.cz/downloads/6-5_NAZISM_IN_GERMANY_bar.pdf)

## Post War Crisis in Hungary

Oct 1918 – Hungarian Army stationed in Slovakia, Croatia etc to prevent the loss of territory

March 23, 1919 – **Hungarian Soviet Republic** proclaimed, leader **Bela Kun**

- hope for help from Soviet Russia
- the revolution spread to Romania, Slovakia (Slovak Soviet Republic in Prešov)
- war with Czechoslovakia and Romania

August 1919 the communists defeated

June 6, 1920 Peace Treaty of **Trianon** signed

Admiral **Horthy** rules as a **regent** of Charles I of Habsburg

Charles I attempted twice to seize the throne back in 1921, not successful

## Troubled Renewal of Poland

Nov 3, 1918 Polish State proclaimed

**Treaty of Versailles** – all territories inhabited by indisputably Polish population, free and secure outlet to the sea  
x all Polish neighbours unhappy about the border arrangements

### Soviet Russia

1920 the peacemakers set the **Curzon Line** as the eastern border x the Poles not satisfied, demanded the 1772 border

April 1920 – Polish army under Pilsudski invaded Ukraine, advanced as far as Kiev

June 1920 – Soviet counter attack – advanced to Warsaw

Sep 1920 – Poland with French assistance pushed the Soviets back behind the Niemen

March 1921 – **Treaty of Riga** – Eastern border set

### Vilna

1920 seized during the war with Russia, never returned, ignoring all the proposals of the League of Nations

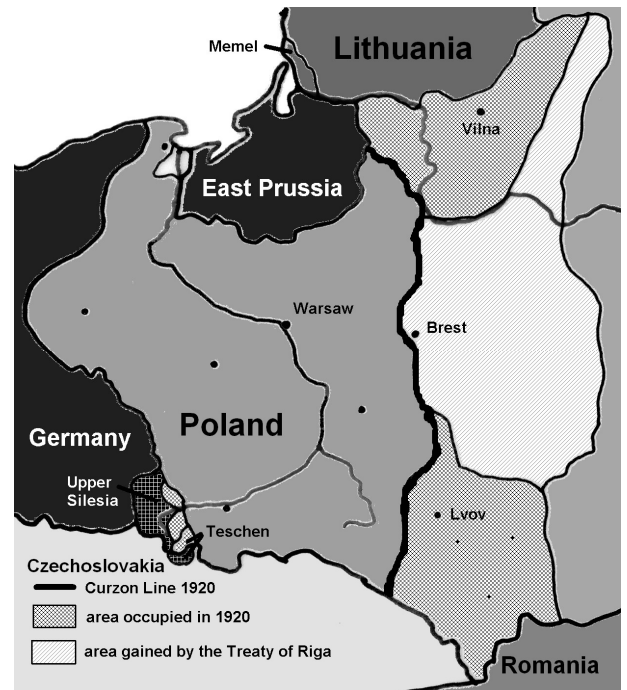
### Upper Silesia

March 1920 **Plebiscite** (60% for Germany, 40% Poland) – divided by the League of Nations x both sides disappointed

### Teschen

Jan 1919 – armed conflict with Czechoslovakia

July 1920 – divided by the Conference of Ambassadors



## International Relations 1919-1924

### Washington Conference 1920-1922

- Peace in the Pacific, dealing mainly with the problem of growing Japanese power

### The Genoa Conference 1922

- to deal with the problem of French-German hostility concerning mainly the reparations
- war debts to USA
- relations with Soviet Russia

x complete failure

- France refused to compromise – demanded full reparation payments
- USA refused to take part but insisted on full repayment of the war debts
- Germany and USSR signed the **Treaty of Rapallo** granting mutual help and cooperation

### The Ruhr Crisis 1923

## Age of Prosperity – ‘Locarno Honeymoon’ 1924-1929

### International Relations 1924-1933

**TASK 5:** *What post war problems were not solved by 1924? Try to suggest a way how to sort out the issue of the repayments.*

In this period the post war economic crisis was over, the time of prosperity, improving living standards, began. There was a new generation of politicians willing to compromise and sort out the international disputes too.

Germany: **Gustav Stresemann** (chancellor)

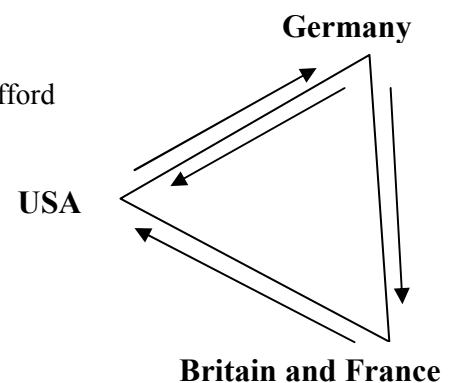
France: **Aristide Briand** (foreign secretary)

Britain: **James Ramsey MacDonald** (foreign secretary)

### Dawes Plan 1924

- agreed at a conference in London
- reparations not reduced but Germany should pay only as much as it could afford
- US loan (800 mil Gold Marks) to help Germany recover its economy
- France and Belgium withdrew its forces from the Ruhr

**TASK 6:** *Use the triangle to describe the way the Dawes Plan worked*





INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

**Geneva Conference 1924**

- any conflict should be solved by the League of Nations, member states should .....

**Locarno Treaties 1925**

- Germany, France and Belgium signed bilateral treaties confirming the ..... border of .....
- Britain and Italy guaranteed the treaties, supposed to act if the border was violated
- .....border should be solved by arbitration in case of need

**TASK 7:** *Why did Poland and Czechoslovakia feel betrayed by the Locarno treaties?*

**The Kellog-Briand Pact 1928**

- 65 countries signed, promised not to go to war x sanctions not mentioned

**The Young Plan 1929**

- German reparations reduced from £6,600 mil to £2,000 mil
- installments to be paid in 59 years

**The World Disarmament Conference in Geneva 1932-1933**

- no success, France refused to disarm, Germany left the League of Nations

**The leading world powers**

**TASK 8:** *Which countries were the leading powers of the 1920s? Explain the role of:*

**USA –**

**Britain –**

**France –**

**Germany –**

**Japan –**

**China -**



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

## The Age of Prosperity and Jazz

### Industry:

liberalism, free market economy, new technologies, new inventions

- **telecommunication:** telephone, radio, gramophones, film – **Hollywood**
- **transport:** the fastest growing industry was ..... with a wide range of support industries including .....  
airplanes, civil transport, 1927 **Charles Lindbergh** .....
- **electrification,** engines, lighting, gadgets (fridges, vacuum cleaners, food processors ....)
- **assembly lines** (Ford)
- **new inventions** (petrol, synthetic materials, electron microscope, color film, TV, first computers...)

### Lifestyle:

growing incomes, better living and working conditions, people buying more - **consumer society**, the basis of economic growth, people have more free time – **entertainment** (cinemas, theatres, variety shows, clubs, sport, travelling ...)

### Culture:

Film – Hollywood, silent, comedies (Chaplin) sound, cartoons (Walt Disney)

Music – jazz, cabarets

Art – classical and avantgard style

Architecture – functionalism (Le Corbusier, F.L. Wright)

## The Great Depression

### Wall Street Crash

In the period of prosperity the **stock market** grew incredibly fast. To set up a **joint-stock company** was one of the most popular ways how to gather the capital needed to start a new business. Buying and selling **shares** was a very lucrative business while industry was booming. The **share index** grew rapidly and the share dealers were making fortunes. This led to widespread **speculation**. The **speculators** were not interested in the companies but in their own quick profits. To make matters worse the **banks** saw the speculation as a safe way of investing money (\$9,000 mil). The confidence in the stock market was so high that the banks were lending **on margin** (you could buy \$1000 worth shares for \$100 only). This could work as long as the price of the shares was rising.

**TASK 9:** *Which factors could make the price of the shares fall?*



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

**Black Friday, Oct, 1929** – the banks refused to intervene any longer, speculators trying to sell for whatever cost, prices fall dramatically, in few hours many men ruined

### **The Vicious Circle of the Depression**

- Many speculators were ruined within a few hours
- Banks lost their loans to speculators
- Banks tried to get money from their loans to companies
- Companies were unable to repay their loans due to the crisis
- Companies went bankrupt, banks went bankrupt
- People lost their jobs and money saved in the banks
- US government refused to intervene – millions of people unemployed, no money, lost their houses, no help

The situation was so bad due to the bank failure (1929 - 659 banks went bankrupt, 1930 - 1352 banks, 1931 - 2294 banks)  
The industrial output decreased by 40%, wages by 60%, 30% of workforce unemployed.

### **Ways out**

Unsuccessful: high duties on imported goods x paralyzed the trade even more

Successful: state initiative, investments, support, control of industry

### **USA, F.D. Roosevelt 1932 New Deal**

- To get the people back to work
- To protect savings and property
- Benefits for unemployed and ill
- Recovery of industry and agriculture

How to achieve this goal:

- State control of the banking sector
- State investments, public works – dams, motorways, airports ...
- Temporary state control of industry

**The Great Depression helped Hitler to rise to power in Germany!** Hitler used as a means of recovery state control of economy, public works (autobahns), rearmament. This helped him to employ people and make the German economy flourish. Nevertheless, the cost was too high – totalitarian regime, concentration camps...