

Negative Application

Application: League of Nations

In April of 1919, the League of Nations was developed in the aftermath of WWII. In 26 articles, the goal was to maintain peace, security, and cooperation through diplomacy. Ultimately, it was to prevent another war like WWI. Disarmament was a key principle of the league, along with other forms of negotiations, arbitration, and dispute resolution. At its height, the league contained 58 member countries.

No Author Provided. "The Covenant." Encyclopedia Britannica. July 26, 2025.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/League-of-Nations/The-Covenant> Accessed August 4, 2025.

In 1931, Japan invaded China and established a puppet state. While the league was aware, no meaningful action was taken and Japan withdrew from the league, continuing its aggression. Diplomacy lacked enforcement.

No Author Provided. "Resolution Adopted by the Assembly of the League of Nations on March 11, 1932."

U.S. Office of the Historian. March 11, 1932. <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1931-41v01/d158> Accessed August 4, 2025.

In 1935, Italy began an invasion of Ethiopia. While the League of Nations condemned and sanctioned Italy, the World History Encyclopedia finds that this was entirely ineffective. The same source states that the British navy in the Mediterranean could have easily stopped the attack, yet, because of the focus on diplomacy, their soon to be deadly strategy of appeasement was continued.

Sappino, Fabio. "Italo-Ethiopian Wars." World History Encyclopedia. June 18, 2025.

https://www.worldhistory.org/Italo-Ethiopian_Wars/ Accessed August 4, 2025.

Finally, in violation of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany began rearming itself. When Hitler occupied Rhineland, annexed Austria, and pursued Czechoslovakia, the league offered little resistance. In fact, the Munich Agreement only served to strengthen and appease Hitler. This strategy failed once and for all on September 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland.

No Author Provided. "Munich Agreement." Encyclopedia Britannica. No Date Provided.

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Munich-Agreement> Accessed August 2, 2025.