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II MA History
World History

The League of Nations

M Cliffe
St Thomas More

The League of Nations

Encourage
co-operation

Stop aggression

AIMS

Disarmament

Improve
social conditions

Membership

- 42 members - by 1930's 59
- Defeated countries could not join e.g. Germany
- Russia excluded because communist
- USA did not join - isolation from world affairs
- A club for the victorious?

Structure

The Assembly

Each country one vote

Permanent court of International Justice

Based at The Hague
Settle disputes peacefully
No power of enforcement

The Council

Met several times a year
and in emergencies
5 permanent members
Each had right to veto any idea

The Secretariat

Kept records - civil service

Powers of the League

- If a country ignored the ruling of the League it could:
- Put pressure on
- Refuse to trade - sanctions
- Send in troops - member countries join together

Strengths of the League

- Many countries supported it in early days - they wanted peace
- Had some early successes:
- Settled some land disputes in 1920's
- helped refugees, dealt with spread of disease, fought for better conditions for people

Weaknesses of League

- USA didn't join
- No real power - relied on goodwill and persuasion
- No permanent army
- Disarmament not realistic
- Structure a disaster - everyone had to agree before any action taken