

Timeline of Key Events

Pre-1929	League Membership: France, Britain, Italy and Japan are the four permanent members of the League's council and co-operate closely together. Germany is not allowed to join till 1926; the USSR will not join until 1934.
1929	USA: Wall Street Crash sees stock market values plummet, sparking off the World Depression. Germany, heavily dependent on American loans since the Dawes Plan, is particularly severely affected
1932	Japan, eager to gain resources to haul her out of the Depression, invades Manchuria. The League does nothing to stop them, thereby giving a green light to other aggressors such as Mussolini in Italy and Hitler in Germany
1933	Japan withdraws from League of Nations following their condemnation of her invasion of Manchuria
1933	Germany: Hitler becomes Chancellor of the Weimar Republic at the height of the Depression. In an extreme situation, the Germans turn to extreme solutions
1934	Last of the League's <u>World Disarmament Conferences</u> ; no conclusions reached, Germany withdraws from League in disgust.
1934	USSR joins the League
1934	Italy and USSR sign a friendship treaty
1935	Hitler reintroduces conscription in Germany, his first public rejection of a key term of the Versailles treaty
1935	France and USSR sign a friendship treaty
1935	Stresa Pact – firm alliance between Italy, France and Britain in response to growing evidence of Nazi aggression
1935	Anglo-German Naval Agreement – Germany allowed navy 35% the strength of Britain's. Undermines the Stresa Pact by making no reference to Italy and France
1935	Italy, keen for fresh resources and prestige, launch invasion of Abyssinia : France and Britain try to offer him 2/3 of Abyssinia (the <u>Hoare-Laval Pact</u>) but the League condemns this and so they then condemn his actions. This merely annoys Mussolini, who turns towards Germany
1935	Hitler takes advantage of the distraction caused by the Italian invasion of Abyssinia to <u>remilitarise the Rhineland</u>
1936	Rome-Berlin Axis: Germany and Italy finally come together in an alliance
1936	Anti-Comintern Pact: Japan joins the Rome-Berlin Axis
1936	Spanish Civil War: Germany and Italy try out their new weapons and tactics by offering their support to General Franco (fascist). The democracies do little to help the other side, and Franco wins in 1939
1937	<u>Italy leaves the League</u>
1938	Anschluss: Germany declares a "Union" with Austria after Italy drops her opposition to the plan.
1938	Munich Conference: British PM, Chamberlain, flies to Munich and agrees that Hitler should have the Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia. The Russians and the Czechs are not even consulted
1939	<u>USSR leaves the League</u>
1939	Pact of Steel: Formal military alliance between Germany and Italy
1939	Nazi-Soviet Pact: The USSR signs a non-aggression agreement with Germany. They also agree that they will share Poland between them. Hitler invades Poland the same month and World War Two begins.

Task:

Your task is to produce a diagram showing the changing pattern of international alliances, focusing on the key situations outlined above.

- The countries which you **MUST** represent are
Britain, France, Italy, Germany, the USSR, Japan
- The countries you **MAY** choose to represent are:
Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Baltic States.
- Produce a different diagram for each of the main events listed above from 1934 onwards. It should aim to illustrate tension, friendship and strong alliances between countries.
- Aim to make the diagrams as simple to follow as possible. Your teacher will give you a few ideas of how you might approach the task.

Situation (with details)	Allies, Friends and Enemies		
1	USSR	Italy	Germany
	France	Britain	Japan
2	USSR	Italy	Germany
	France	Britain	Japan
3	USSR	Italy	Germany
	France	Britain	Japan
4	USSR	Italy	Germany
	France	Britain	Japan
5	USSR	Italy	Germany
	France	Britain	Japan

Situation (with details)	Allies, Friends and Enemies		
6	USSR	Italy	Germany
	France	Britain	Japan
7	USSR	Italy	Germany
	France	Britain	Japan
8	USSR	Italy	Germany
	France	Britain	Japan
9	USSR	Italy	Germany
	France	Britain	Japan
10	USSR	Italy	Germany
	France	Britain	Japan