

The League of Nations

LEAGUE OF NATIONS



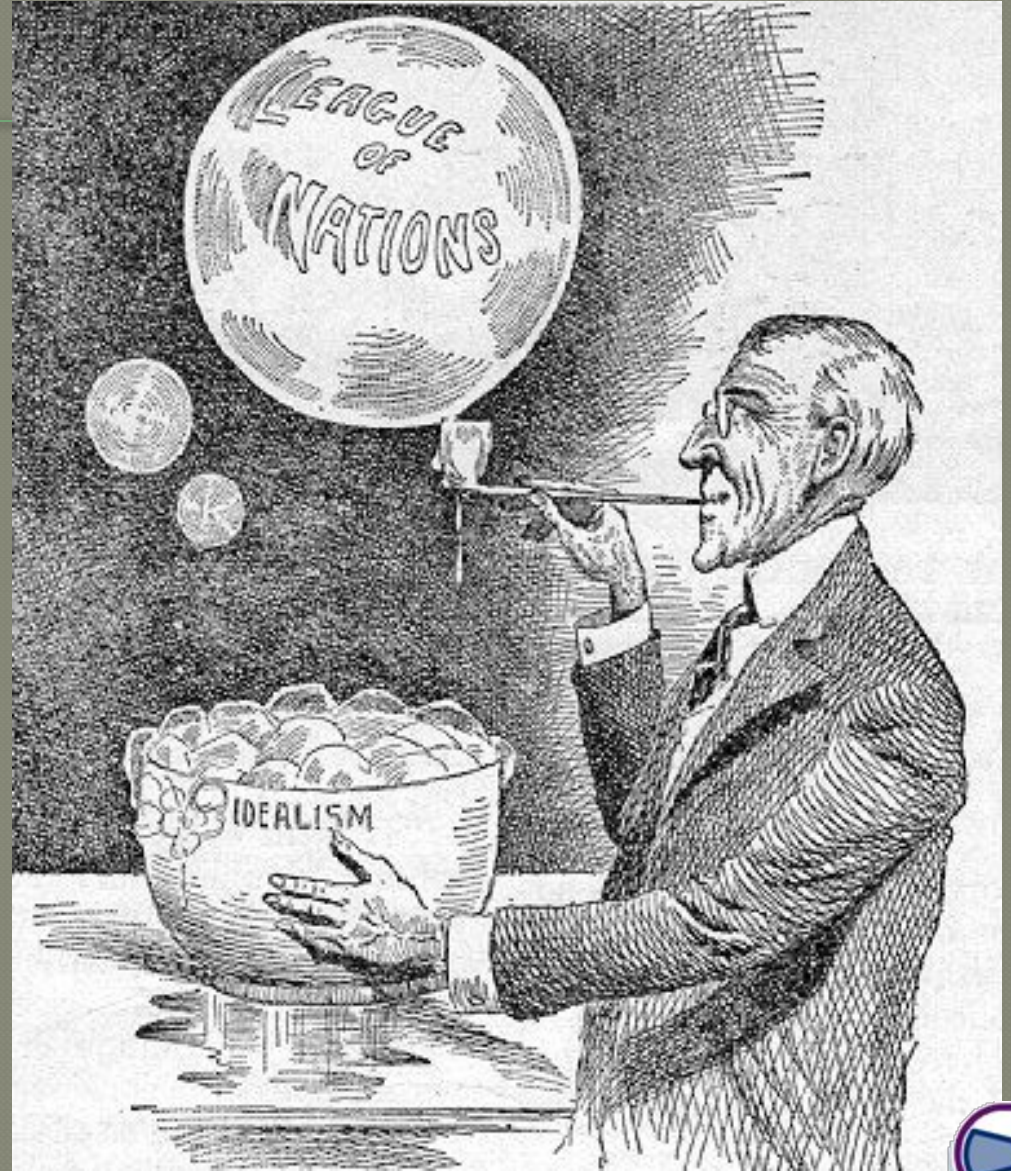
SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS

Origins of the League of Nations



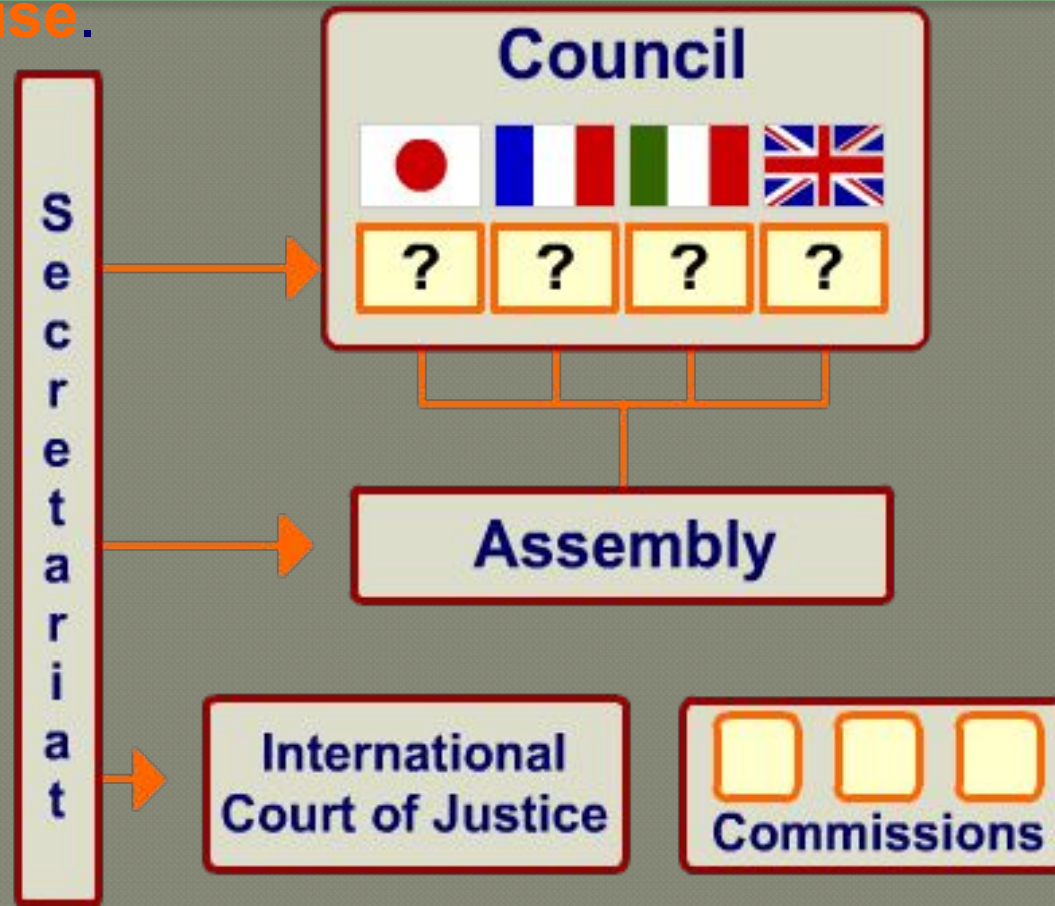


“war to end all wars.”



Organization of the League

the structure of the League was a **compromise**.



York Times.

Senators Oppose the League of Nations

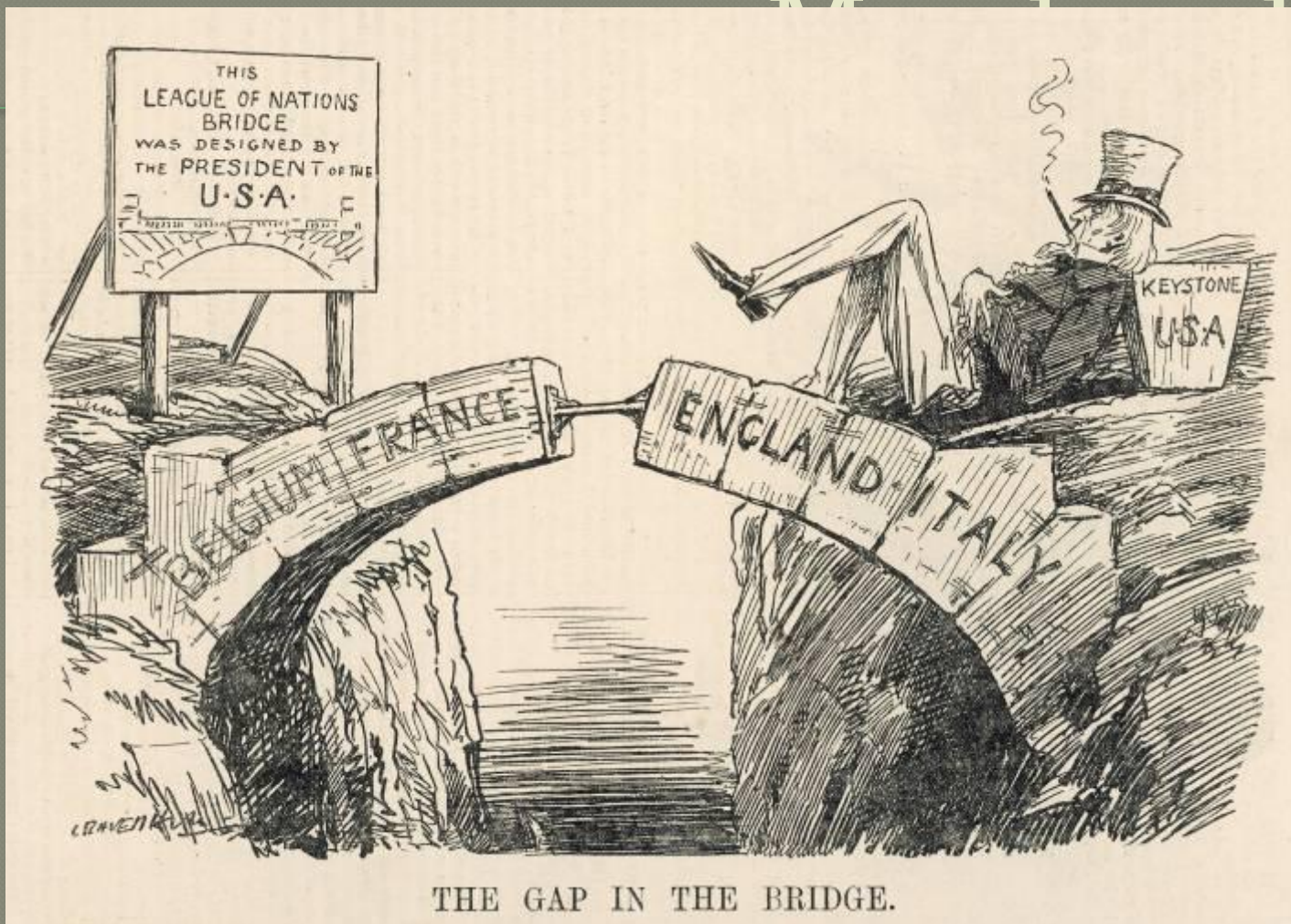
LATE NEWS BULLETINS

Disposition in Administration Circles to Keep International Affairs in Background

OUR SPEED PRAISED IN CHILD LABOR BAN

Women's Congress Told That England Has Tried 100 Years for the Same Result.





What do you think the cartoonist is trying to say about the League of Nations?



the League as a “**winners’ club**”.

Membership

As part of the League’s job was to uphold the peace treaties, it often appeared to be acting against Germany and the defeated nations.



A league for all nations?

As you can see, the League of Nations was quite fluid in terms of who joined and who left (or was removed!).

The effect of this was to make the League seem **less binding**. If a nation was at odds with what the League did or said, they could simply leave and face few, or no, consequences.

If the League was going to bring effective pressure to bear on offending nations through warnings and economic sanctions, then membership of the League needed to be as **wide** as possible.

If membership was too **limited**, 'outcast' nations could simply trade or deal with each other and ignore the League.



The treaties

The **Covenant of the League** had formed part of all of the treaties that were signed with the defeated powers. This meant that the League was, to some extent, bound to defend these treaties.



The problem was that as time went on, the treaties came under more and more **criticism**. Many people began to think that they were **too harsh**.



good points

The League of Nations had some good points! It had a clear structure and set procedures for dealing with aggressive nations. It had an initial membership of 42 nations. The League provided a forum in which both large and small nations could discuss international problems.

The League was a step away from the old system of secret treaties and alliances.

The League also undertook useful humanitarian work.



Historian

