

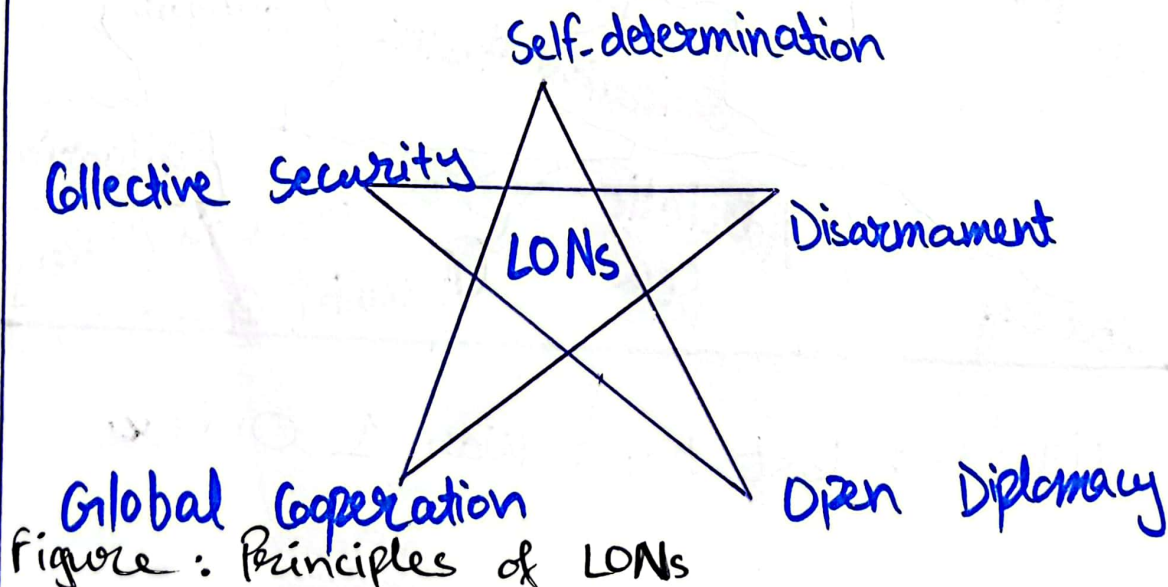
Q: How League of Nations led toward rise of Hitler in Europe. Discuss with your arguments to show whether you agree or not.

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# League Of Nations And Rise of Hitler

League of Nations was established in January 1920 to preserve the Versailles settlements and the post-world war 1 order established through Treaty of Versailles of 1919. Woodrow Wilson's fourteen principles laid the foundation of League of Nations. The key principles of this organization were self-determination, open diplomacy, global cooperation, disarmament and collective security. However, the LONs lacked legitimacy which led toward rise of Hitler in Europe.



# 1- League of Nations and Post World War 1 Order

The world war 1 ended up by casting dark shadows of horrors on most of the world. Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919 for setting post world war 1 order and it established the LONs for preserving this order and preventing future conflicts.



Figure : Post World War 1 Order

## 2. Explicating how League of Nations led toward Rise of Hitler in Europe

Following are the factors which show that League of Nations led toward rise of Hitler in Europe.

### i- US Withdrawal from League of Nations:

When the US, whose president was the key driving force behind creation of the LONs, withdrew from LONs after the US senate did not ratify Treaty of Versailles and refused to join LONs the organization ~~lacked its legitimacy~~ and failed to present a strong bulwark against the rise of dictator in Germany. In this way, LONs led toward rise of Hitler.

### ii- lack of Cooperation between Britain and France:

After the world war 1, France emerged as a dominant military power but it lacked resources to implement the peace treaties through LONs. Great Britain decided not to intervene in the continent's policies. So, France also could not take any decisive action under LONs

to prevent German revanchism. Thus, lack of cooperation among great powers made LONs significantly weak to counter the rising threat of Hitler's dictatorship.

### iii- <sup>Right of</sup> lack of a Self Determination for Germany:

France used the treaty of Versailles and LONs to weaken Germany by prohibiting the right of self determination for Germany. Germany was not allowed to unite with Austria. Moreover, the right of self determination for a <sup>German</sup> ethnic population in Czechoslovakia and Danzig was ignored by LONs. This fuelled German nationalism which led toward rise of Hitler.

### iv- Mandate System of LONs:

The mandate system of LONs was another factor which led toward rise of Hitler. Because this system served the interests of great powers only. Using this system, German African colonies became the mandates of Britain and France. The collapse of German empire <sup>by LONs</sup> for weakening Germany and gaining territories for Great Britain and France sowed tensions in Germany which led toward rise of Hitler in Europe.

## v. Control on German Territories:

Using LONs the large German empire was collapsed. Danzig was placed under this organization and the Saar region was also given under the control of LONs. East Prussia was separated from rest of Germany through Polish corridor. The loss of German territories by LONs fueled German nationalism which led toward rise of Hitler in Europe.

## vi. France Hunt for Security:

France hunt for security was another factor which weakened the LONs. France was solely focussed on fortifying itself through Maginot line, which weakened French cooperation with Great Britain and reduced the collective resolve of LONs that could counter rise of Hitler. France obsession with security also violated the principle of "collective security" of LONs. This lack of legitimacy of LONs due to France hunt for security led toward Hitler's rise.

## vii. Diplomatic Isolation of Germany:

LONs was established to promote global cooperation and open diplomacy. However, diplomatic isolation of ~~France~~ Germany by France from the international negotiations

violated the principles of 'global cooperation' and 'open diplomacy' of LONs. France had established Little Entente to consolidate the power of Germany and contain Germany.

This diplomatic isolation of Germany weakened the legitimacy of LONs and led toward rise of Hitler because diplomatic isolation of Germany was perceived as national humiliation.

### viii. Germany's demand for Equality of Armaments:

LONs led toward rise of Hitler as a dictator in Europe because of political deadlock created at World Disarmament Conference of 1933 due to Germany's demand for equality of armaments. Britain's support for Germany violated the principle of 'disarmament' of LONs and led toward Germany's withdrawal from LONs. In this way, lack of legitimacy of LONs led toward more aggressive policies of Germany and rise of Hitler as a dictator in Europe.

### ix. Britain's Appeasement Policy:

Britain's appeasement policy reduced the legitimacy of LONs because this policy allowed Hitler to breach treaty of Versailles in January 1933, due to which Germany

1 ~~Reintroduction of~~ gained the Saar region and announced the conscription. The appeasement policy led toward violation of principle of 'disarmament' of LONs as Hitler signed Anglo-German naval agreement. In this way, lack of legitimacy of LONs <sup>caused by appeasement policy</sup> contributed to rise of Hitler's dictatorship.

## Conclusion

LONs was established through Treaty of Versailles for preserving post world war 1 order. However, various factors contributed to weakness of this organization which led toward rise of German revanchism and extreme nationalism that was exploited by Adolf Hitler. France's hunt for security and Britain's appeasement policy weakened the legitimacy of LONs that led toward rise of Hitler as a dictator.