Objective
The student will demonstrate knowledge of political, economic, social, and cultural developments during the Interwar Period by
a) Describing the League of Nations and the mandate system.

Essential Understandings
After World War I, international organizations and agreements were established to avoid future conflicts.

Essential Questions
1. What was the League of Nations and why did it fail?

2. Why was the mandate system created?

Essential Knowledge
League of Nations
- International cooperative organization
- Established to prevent future wars
- United States not a member
- Failure of League because it did not have power to enforce its decisions

The Mandate System
During World War I, Great Britain and France agreed to divide large portions of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East between themselves.
- After the war, the “mandate system” gave Great Britain and France control over the lands that became Iraq, Transjordan, and Palestine (British control) and Syria and Lebanon (French control).
- The division of the Ottoman Empire through the mandate system planted the seeds for future conflicts in the Middle East.
The League of Nations

As early as 1828, an American named William Ladd sought to establish a Congress of Nations to settle international disputes and avoid war. Nearly a century later, at the end of World War I, the victorious nations set up a “general association of nations” called the League of Nations.

By 1920, 42 nations had sent delegates to the League’s headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Another 21 nations eventually joined, but conspicuously absent was the United States. Opponents in the United States Senate had argued that membership in the League went against George Washington’s advice against “entangling alliances.”

When the League failed to halt warlike acts in the 1930’s, these same opponents pointed to the failure of collective authority. The League was a peacekeeper without a sword which possessed neither a standing army nor members willing to help nations that used war as a method of diplomacy.

Mandate System

European colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific had looked to the Paris Peace Conference (Treaty of Versailles) with high hopes. Many people from these lands had fought alongside Europeans. Colonial leaders expected that the peace would bring new respect and an end to imperial rule. They took up Wilson’s call for self-determination.

However, the leaders at Paris applied the principle of self-determination only to parts of Europe. Outside Europe, the victorious Allies added to their existing overseas empires. The treaties created a system of mandates, or territories that were administered by western powers. Britain and France gained mandates over German colonies in Africa and Ottoman lands in the Middle East. In theory, mandates were to be held and modernized until they were able to “stand alone.” In practice, they practically became European colonies. From Africa to the Middle East and across Asia, colonized peoples felt betrayed by the peacemakers.
League of Nations (283)

1. Created after World War I, the League of Nations was the first __________________________
_________________________ dedicated to __________________________.

2. The league was first suggested by U.S. President __________________________
_________________________ in an address to Congress, in which he outlined a fourteen-point peace
plan at the end of World War I.

3. The formation of the league was one of the provisions of the __________________________ of
_________________________, and member nations included France, Great Britain, Italy, and Japan,
but not the __________________________ __________________________.

4. The league sought to pressure member nations to settle disputes with diplomacy. Failure would
result in __________________________ __________________________. If sanctions did not work,
theoretically, the league would respond with force – however the league did not have a
________________________ __________________________ under its command.

5. The league experienced a few successes, such as negotiating an agreement between
________________________ and __________________________ in a dispute over the Aaland Islands, but
overall it was unable __________________________ __________________________ again.

6. The league was dissolved after World War II and replaced by the __________________________
________________________.

Mandate System (284)

1. An article in the covenant of the __________________________ of __________________________ stated that
colonies and territories needed assistance as they prepared themselves for self-government and
that more advanced nations would act as guides for the less experienced ones.

2. Influenced by the idea of __________________________ __________________________, a principle
originating in U.S. President Woodrow Wilson’s __________________________
_________________________ at the end of World War I.

3. Mandates were established in the former German colonies and in territories once belonging to
the __________________________ __________________________.

4. France and __________________________ __________________________ took control of the
________________________ __________________________, including Iraq and Palestine;
________________________ gained control of __________________________ and
________________________. Arab nationalists had hoped that the British and French would make
good on promises of __________________________ for the former Ottoman territories.