

League of Nations Photo Archive

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Chronology 1920

Date	Event	Historical Background
January 1920	Soviet Russian Evacuation of Latvia	The Latvians expelled the last Red Army troops from the country, which ensured the survival of the new republic.
January 1920	Senate Compromise Failure on Versailles Treaty	Senator Henry Cabot Lodge's failure to support a bipartisan approach to ratification of the Treaty of Versailles effectively killed the treaty. Senator Lodge yielded to threats from the Irreconcilables and refused to modify his original reservations.
January 10, 1920	Official Opening of the League of Nations	The League of Nations formally began operations and addressed a number of territorial issues left over from the peace treaties, as well as other issues. Under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, the peace treaty officially took effect on this date, as well as the League of Nations Covenant. The original members of the League included Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, the British Empire, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, France, Guatemala, India Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Paraguay, Persia (Iran), Peru, Poland, Siam (Thailand), South Africa, Spain, and Uruguay.
January 10, 1920	British Mandate over Tanganyika Began	The British government officially began their administration over the German East African mandate and changed the name of the territory to Tanganyika. The British sent the German settlers home and sold off their estates and property.
January 10, 1920	German-Japanese Peace Treaty	The German and Japanese governments concluded a formal peace agreement with the exchange of ratifications. Although the Japanese were initially satisfied with the peace agreement, animosities arose when they realized that they did not secure recognition of Japan's special position in the Far East.
January 16, 1920	First League Council Session	The League of Nations Council met for its first session in Paris.
January 16, 1920	Senate Rejection of the League	The U.S. Senate voted against American participation in the League of Nations.
January 16, 1920	Argentine Admission to the League	The League of Nations admitted the Argentine Republic as a member state of the organization.
January 17, 1920	French Presidential Elections	Paul Deschanel defeated Georges Clemenceau in the French presidential elections. Premier Clemenceau's defeat reflected political and public opinion in France that the Treaty of Versailles was too lenient. Premier Clemenceau resigned from office the next day.
January 23, 1920	Dutch Refusal to Turn over Wilhelm II	The Dutch government refused to turn over the former German emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II, to Allied authorities for war crime trials. The Dutch did agree to intern the Kaiser later, at Amerongen and eventually at Doorn, and he remained in the Netherlands until his death in 1941.
January 28, 1920	Turkish Parliament Adoption of the	The Turkish parliament in Constantinople adopted the National Pact, an announcement of six principles drafted by the Turkish nationalists. The National Pact called for self-determination for Turkish provinces, the

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