**Were the aims of the League of Nations realistic?**

The formation of the League of Nations was one of the most significant outcomes of the treaties that ended the First World War. When considering the purpose of its existence, it might be helpful to reflect on why people form gangs. Gangs are groups of people who pledge loyalty to one another to create a sense of purpose. But they are also meant to provide security. This is more of what the League was meant to achieve in the wake of the most destructive war in history. Woodrow Wilson considered point XIV (14) of his 14 Points to be the most important to forming a peaceful postwar world. It called for:

***XIV. A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.***

In simple terms, the League's existence was meant to keep peace through:

* disarmament
* improving social conditions
* enforcing the Treaty of Versailles
* instituting a system of collective security

**Collective Security** is where the League most resembles a gang. Look at the source below and identify the major aspects of collective security from Article XVI of the League's Covenant. What powers/rsponsibilities did the League have in the face of aggression, according to the source below:

***"Article 16 - Should any member of the League resort to war in disregard of its covenants under Articles 12, 13 or 15, it shall be deemed to have committed an act of war against all other members of the League, which hereby undertake immediately to subject it to the severance [cutting off] of all trade or financial relations, the prohibition of all exchange between their nationals and the nationals of the covenant-breaking state,​ and the prevention of all financial, commercial or personal business between the nationals of the covenant-breaking state and the nationals of any other state, whether a member of the League or not.
It shall be the duty of the Council in such cases to recommend to the several govemments concemed what effective military, naval or air force the members of the League shall contribute to the armed forces to be used to protect the covenants of the League."***