Sample Introduction for On Demand Essays in IB History

**Instructions:**

The goal of an essay introduction is to set the stage for your analysis. To accomplish this goal it needs to:

1. Engage the question to show you have a full understanding of the demands

2. Establish the parameters (chronological scope, SPICE elements considered, geographical area, etc…) that you are going to use focus your discussion.

3. A clear thesis statement that answers the question and orders your body paragraphs.

Writing strong introductions is a skill that once mastered will greatly enhance the quality of your writing in History (or any subject). Unfortunately, however, like any skill it must be practiced in order to be mastered. Below is a sample introduction for the question:

***Analyze the impact of the absence of major powers on the League of Nations***

While very little of the idealism of Wilson’s 14 points made it into the punitive Treaty of Versailles, his last point, the creation of a League of Nations came into being in January 1920. The League was established to be forum for all nations of the world to discuss their disputes but the absence of a few major powers significantly hampered the effectiveness of the League and eventually led to war in 1939. The initial exclusion of Germany and the Soviet Union and the failure of the United States to ratify the Treaty of Versailles played a significant role in limiting the League as a force for collective security during the 1920’s and 1930’s. While the League of Nations had initial bureaucratic structural flaws that severely limited its abilities to respond to international conflicts in a timely manner, it was the exclusion of major powers and the absence of the United States that doomed it to fail.

***Attempt to identify each of the three elements of a quality introduction in the sample above and share your thoughts at your tables.***