

The postwar Europe was in a complicated position. It was necessary to create a system of a collective security to prevent events similar to the previous war after a period of terror. After a rejection of the United States of America to join the League of Nations, which would provide a functioning of a new order, Great Britain took over a role of the most important subject in creating of a new security system.

The Stanley Baldwin Conservative government held a decisive role during negotiations about two essential concepts of the system of collective security (the Geneva Protocol, the Rhineland Pact) in the first half of the 1920s. The Cabinet primarily refused to ratify a document, on which participated a previous Labour government. It had several reasons: unlimited obligations, compulsory arbitration or automatic sanctions.

The Rhineland Pact from October 1925 meant a victory of the so-called moderates within the Conservative Party. It refused both a return to the policy of the splendid isolation and an idea of an exclusion of Germany from international relations. The agreement also embodied an idea, which meant the only possible solution on a field of the collective security for Conservatives – an idea of separate treaties that would include limited obligations of Western Europe only.

The result of the Locarno Conference was the clear success for Great Britain in a short term. London became a mediator between France and Germany as a guarantee of European security in a case of possible conflicts and retained the role of an arbiter in questions concerning the continental Europe as well. On the other hand, the Locarno Treaty caused optimism, although quite exaggerated. London otherwise guaranteed western borders of Germany, but it could seem that some parts of Europe did not exist for Britain's statesmen.