

Atherton High School



AQA GCSE History Study Booklet

Name-

Teacher-



Germany 1890 - 1945 Democracy and Dictatorship

Booklet One - Germany and the Growth of Democracy

The exam board expect you to have knowledge and understanding of the following: -

Kaiser Wilhelm and the difficulties of ruling Germany:

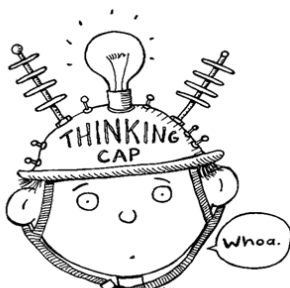
- The growth of parliamentary government • the influence of Prussian militarism • Industrialisation • Social reform and the growth of socialism • The domestic importance of the Navy Laws

Impact of the First World War

- War weariness, economic problems • Defeat and the end of the monarchy;

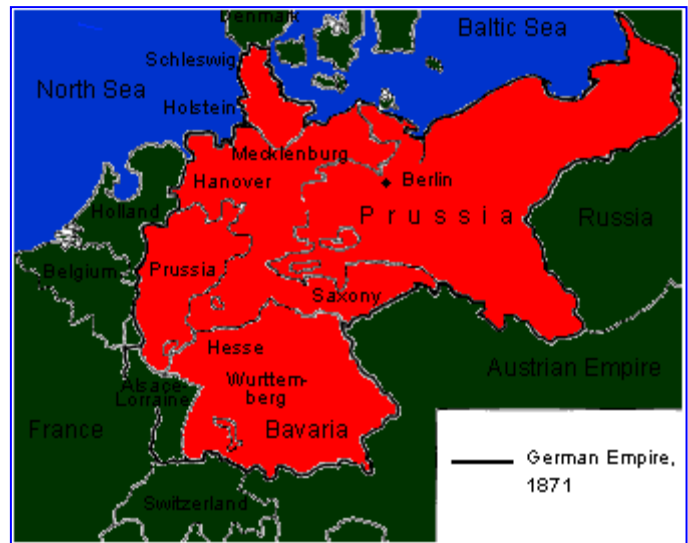
Weimar democracy

- Political change and unrest. 1919-1923, including Spartacists, Kapp Putsch and the Munich Putsch
- Post-war problems including reparations, the occupation of the Ruhr and hyperinflation.
- The extent of recovery during the Stresemann era (1924 - 1929);
- Economic developments including the new currency, Dawes Plan and the Young Plan;
- The impact of the international agreements on recovery • Weimar culture.



What was Germany like before the First World War?

Germany had only become a united country in 1871. Before that it had been made up of several independent states. The most powerful of these states was Prussia. After wars against Austria and France, a new German empire was declared in 1871. Berlin, which had previously been the capital of the state of Prussia, now became the capital of the new empire. The King of Prussia became the **Kaiser**



(emperor) of Germany. The Kaiser appointed (chose) a **Chancellor**, Germany's chief minister. There was an elected parliament - the **Reichstag** -but it did not have much power, as the Chancellor made decisions, and reported only to the Kaiser. He could ignore the Reichstag if he wished.

The influence of Prussian militarism

The new empire was built on a tradition of **militarism** - the belief that a country should have strong armed forces. The powerful state of Prussia had a mighty army with advanced weapons. As Prussia had become powerful by winning wars, the new empire of Germany expected to carry on showing its military strength. The army was at the centre of political and social affairs. Sometimes the strength of the army made it harder for democracy to develop.

Kaiser Wilhelm II

Wilhelm II became Kaiser in 1888 when his father, Wilhelm I, died. Unlike his father, he was determined to control German affairs himself, and was slow to listen to his Chancellors. Wilhelm II had spent his youth in the army. He had high ambitions for Germany, and wanted to maintain a powerful army in the Prussian tradition, and build a powerful navy in order to extend the German empire. He was impressed by Britain's powerful navy, which had the foundation for building and maintaining the vast British Empire. The Kaiser wanted a world policy (**Weltpolitik**), which would bring power across the world so that Germany could build an empire in Africa and elsewhere. As the grandson of Queen Victoria, and the cousin of Britain's future King, George V, he dreamed of making Germany as great as Britain, and began by building up German industry.

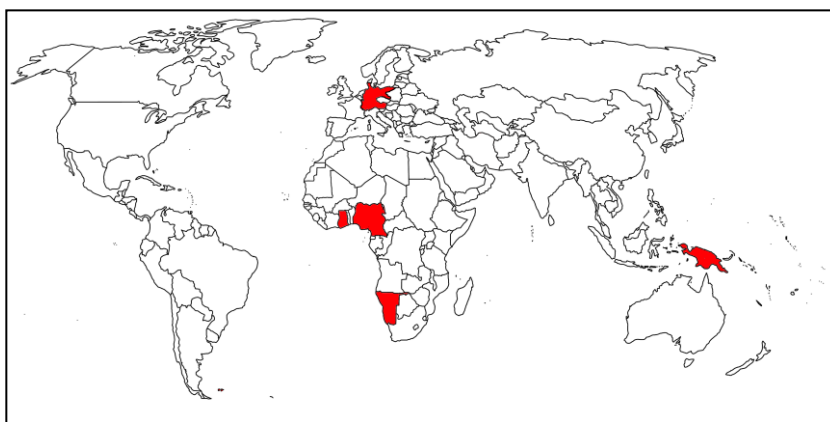


Task -

Describe two ambitions of Kaiser Wilhelm II for Germany before 1914 - (describe in detail in your own words)

Wilhelm's personality and leadership

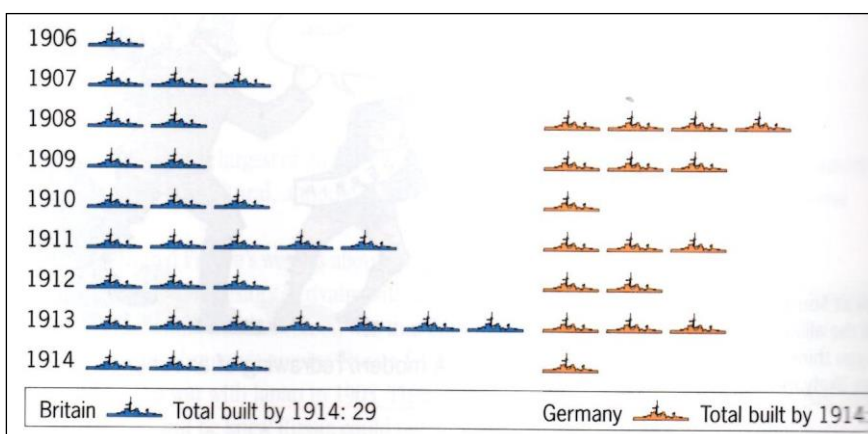
Historians agree that Wilhelm did not have the ability to rule Germany effectively or to command the army. He was intelligent and could be charming. However, he had a strong sense of self-importance. He believed that his authority came from God and wanted to be a warrior king: he enjoyed the status of an emperor, but did not have a strong understanding of politics, and did not want to spend time on governing. He had frequent mood swings and a violent temper. Born with a disability, he



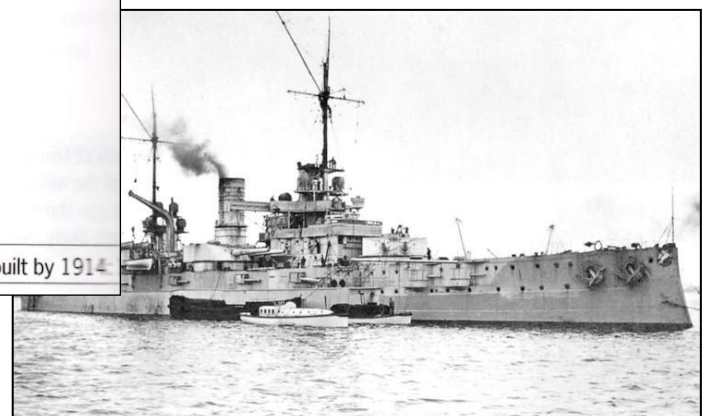
German colonies
In 1914

was very aware of the weakness of his left hand, and his sense of imbalance. These may have been seen as weaknesses, especially in his role as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. Some historians believe he was a repressed (secret) homosexual. They believe he wanted to make up for any suspected weaknesses by proving himself at war.

The Navy Laws



Kaiser Wilhelm wanted a navy to match the British



navy. In 1897, he appointed **Admiral von Tirpitz** as State Secretary of the Navy. In a series of Navy Laws passed between 1898 and 1912, Tirpitz began a large shipbuilding programme. Massive amounts of money were spent. In 1898, Germany had 12 battleships. The first law of 1898 allowed for the addition of 7 battleships to be built over 3 years. The second Navy Law was passed in 1900 during the Boer War conflict in South Africa, when Germany expressed sympathy with the Boers, who were fighting the British. This law doubled the size of the German fleet (navy) to 38 battleships.

It was now clear that the intention was to show German strength in competition with Britain. The later Navy Laws increased the navy further. In 1906, Britain launched a new battleship called the Dreadnought. This was a state of the art warship. Germany began to improve its own ships in response. The German press supported the growth of the navy. A popular slogan, referring to the Dreadnoughts, was "We want eight and we won't wait!" At this time, crises in Europe and in Morocco suggested that war might be approaching. German actions suggested they could be preparing for war. Germany became involved in an **arms race** with Britain.

At the same time, the Kaiser increased the size of the German army. Taxes were raised and money was borrowed to pay for this expansion.

Industrialisation

The speed and spread of **Industrialisation** before the war was impressive: by 1913 Germany was producing more iron and steel, and as much coal as Britain. Germany led Europe in the production of electrical and chemical goods. By 1914 Germany was producing 1/3 of the world's electrical goods. The engineering firms of Bosch and Siemens were known across the world. Britain was no longer the leading industrial power in Europe.

Tasks:

1. Match the words and meanings

Kaiser	The largest of the <i>German states</i>
Chancellor	The <i>German emperor</i>
Prussia	The belief that the armed forces should be strong
Militarism	The lead person in the <i>German government</i>
Industrialisation	The growth of factory industry and move to towns and cities.

2. What did the Kaiser want for *Germany*?

3. What changes did the Navy Laws make?

4. Which country was Europe's leading industrial nation in the 1800s?

5. Which country had taken this position by 1914? _____

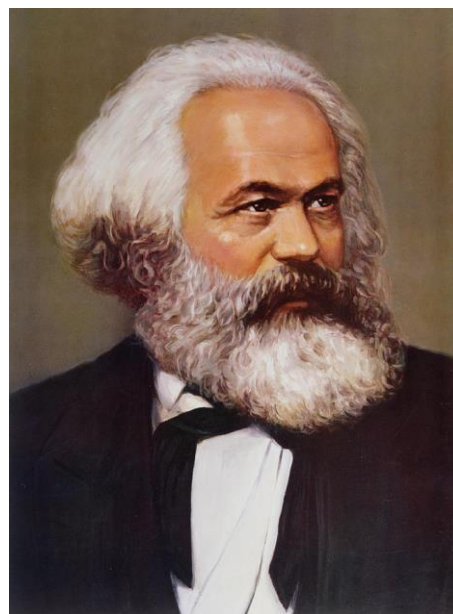
The growth of Parliamentary government

The Kaiser was very powerful. The Chancellor and government ministers were responsible only to him: they needed his permission to make any decisions. The Reichstag could discuss, amend and vote on any new laws but it could not introduce new laws.

However, despite the strong power of the Kaiser, all adult men could vote, and political parties did develop at this time. No party ever gained a majority in the Reichstag. The right-wing conservative parties usually joined to pass government laws. They were nationalists. These parties were supported by the German middle class who were afraid of the growing political strength of the industrial workers, who were now represented by the socialists. However, these conservative parties began to lose support at this time. In 1887, they gained 48% of the vote, but in 1912 they gained only 26% of the vote.

Social reform and the growth of socialism

Some people in Germany had become very rich because of the growth of industry. At the same time, many workers in the new factories, mines and workshops were unhappy about low wages and poor working conditions. More and more joined **trade unions** (workers' groups) and organised strikes to try to improve conditions. They began to follow socialist ideas. Socialism is the belief that wealth and power should be shared equally among the people. Many workers joined the new **Social Democratic Party (SPD)**. This was formed in 1890. It was a Marxist party, which followed the communist ideology of Karl Marx. Communists wanted to



go further than socialists by ensuring equal wages for everyone. They planned to start a revolution to overthrow the existing authoritarian governments and put workers' councils in their place. Communist ideas were gaining popularity across Europe, and were threatening for governments and for the ruling classes. Governments in Germany tried to reduce this threat and keep the workers happy by introducing social reforms such as old age pensions in 1889. However, in Germany the SPD continued to grow. In 1912, it gained one third of the seats in the

Task: Fill in the gaps

The most powerful man in Germany was the _____ The _____ could discuss and vote on new laws, but could not make them. The most powerful parties were the conservative parties, who usually joined together to pass the laws through the Reichstag. However, the new _____ was growing. It believed in _____ ideas and had the support of many German _____. By 1912 it gained _____ of the votes.

Reichstag with over one-third of Germans voting for it.



2. The Impact of the First World War

When the war began in 1914 Germany was a powerful country. There was a strong feeling of pride in the German armed forces and industrial might. The people were supportive of the Kaiser and

the German war aims: even the Social Democratic Party supported the government's war plans at the start of the war. The German people expected victory in war. However, four years later by November 1918, Germany was close to collapse: its army was beaten, its navy destroyed, with the people living on bread and turnips. In fear for his safety, the Kaiser fled from Germany.

During the war, Germany struggled to cope with a two-front war (a war on two sides). By the end of 1914, it became clear that there would be no quick victories: trench warfare had set in. German armies fought against the Allies in the West against France, Britain and Belgium; and in the East against Russia. German submarines were active in trying to destroy Allied shipping throughout the war years, while its battleships were involved in only one battle, at Jutland in 1916, when they were forced back to their base, never to come out again. The war against Russia ended in 1918 with the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. This gave Germany massive gains of land. However, in the West the German forces suffered a setback with the arrival of American troops in early 1918. They were unable to defeat an Allied offensive in spring 1918, and by the autumn as their allies (Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey) were also collapsing, Germany was forced to surrender.

War weariness and economic problems



At home, there were terrible shortages of food, medicines and clothing as the British were using their navy to stop supply ships getting to Germany. The longer that the war dragged on, the lower the morale of the German people dropped. In 1915, 500 German women gathered in front of the

Reichstag to say that they wanted their men back from the trenches.

In 1916, 10,000 workers gathered in Berlin to shout, "Down with war, down with the government!" The police moved in quickly to make arrests and restore order. The winter of 1916 -1917, when some Germans were facing starvation, became known as the "turnip winter". In 1918 a deadly flu epidemic swept across Germany, killing more people than the war itself. At the same time, divisions between rich and poor had grown as some factory owners profited from war.

Defeat and the End of the Monarchy

In October, the respected German general Ludendorff advised the Kaiser that as Germany was losing the war, they might get a fairer peace deal from the Allies if the country became more democratic.

Unwillingly, the Kaiser therefore handed over some of his powers to the Reichstag and allowed the main political parties to form a new government. However, these changes came too late for the German people. There

were more demonstrations against the war and against the Kaiser.



By 1917, both the people at home and the armed forces were demanding an end to the war. In autumn 1918, when it became clear that Germany had lost the war, the people took to the streets in protest against their government.

On 28th October 1918, sailors mutinied (armed protest), in Kiel, a port in northern Germany. - On November 9th **the Kaiser abdicated** and fled to Holland. In Berlin, **the Social Democrats, SDP, (a socialist party)** took

control of the government. Their leader, **Freidrich Ebert**, temporarily became Chancellor, the leader of Germany.

On November 11th, one of the first actions Ebert and his government took was to sign an **armistice**, ending the First World War. Most people were glad to see an end to the war, but many were angry and unable to believe that Germany had been beaten. The men who signed the armistice became known as the **"November criminals"**. Nationalists (people with a very strong love of their country) spread the **"stab in the back" theory**. This theory blamed the politicians for surrendering and betraying their people.

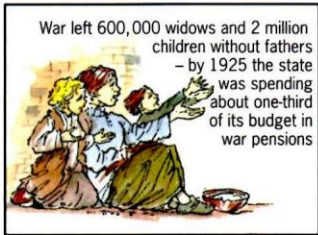
Task:

1. Why did Germany lose the war? (Give a brief explanation).

2. How did the war affect the German people?

3. Why do you think the Kaiser abdicated (stepped down) at the end of the war?

War weariness, economic problems and defeat in 1918.



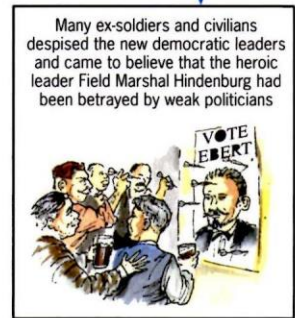
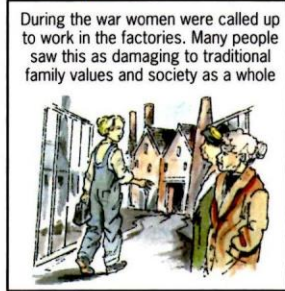
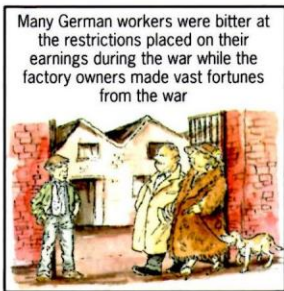
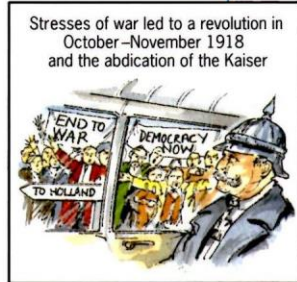
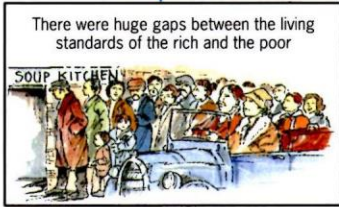
Germany was virtually bankrupt



War weariness, economic problems and defeat in 1918

The war had deepened divisions in German society

Germany had a revolution and became a democratic republic - the Weimar Republic



Weimar Democracy

Political change and unrest

Ebert ordered improvements to the Germans

social conditions and a declaration that Germany would be governed as a democratic republic. This republic was created at a time of national defeat and disaster. It had many enemies on both the left wing and the right wing.



Friedrich Ebert

In early January 1919, there was **The Spartacist Revolt** (a left wing attempt to take power). The Spartacists were the German Communist party. They believed that the new government was not doing enough for the workers. They wanted a **workers' state to look after the people, an end to private business, and the sharing out of all profits.**

Chancellor Ebert had to use the army and the **Frei Korps** (or **Free Corps** - a group of ex-soldiers who hated communism) to fight them. After 3 days of street fighting, the Spartacists were beaten. **Their leaders, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg,** were beaten to death. Their revolt failed because the Frei Korps were better trained and had better weapons, but it did make many Germans afraid of the Communist threat.

In late January 1919, an election confirmed the SPD as the most popular party, so Ebert remained Chancellor. With the rest of the newly elected politicians, Ebert held a meeting in **Weimar** (as there was too much violence in Berlin), to discuss how Germany would be run. This was the beginning of the **Weimar Republic**.

TASK - Answer the following questions

1. Who were the Spartacists? _____

2. What did the Spartacists want? _____

3. Who were the Spartacist leaders? _____

4. Why did the revolt fail?

5. Why do you think Ebert won the election?


The Constitution of the Weimar Republic

Germany's politicians drew up the **Weimar Constitution** - a formal set of rules for how Germany would be governed.

The President, who was head of state, was elected every 7 years by all the German people. Normally, he had little power,

▼ **C** *The Constitution of the Weimar Republic*

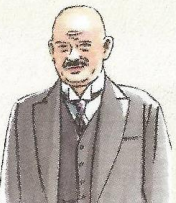
The President (Head of State)



- Elected every seven years
- Controlled army, navy and air force
- Stayed out of day-to-day running of the country; however, in a crisis, he could rule on his own without getting the support of the Reichstag by issuing special emergency decrees (laws) known as **Article 48**

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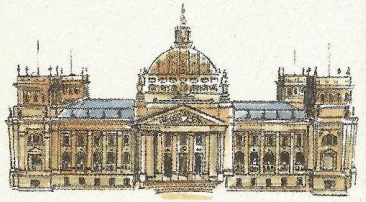
The Chancellor (Prime Minister)



- Chosen by the President (usually from the political party with most votes at an election)
- Responsible for day-to-day running of the country, such as law and order, taxation, schooling, health care
- Must have the support of at least half the MPs/politicians in the Reichstag to introduce new laws

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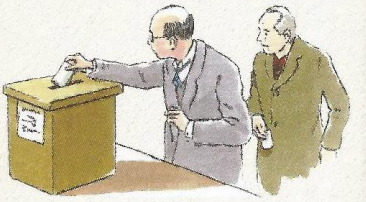
The Reichstag



- Discussed and introduced laws
- Members of the Reichstag (MPs) were elected every four years
- The voting system used was called proportional representation. This meant that the number of MPs each political party had in the Reichstag was based on the number of votes they had. For example, if a party won ten per cent of the votes, it was given ten per cent of the seats

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The German people (the electorate)

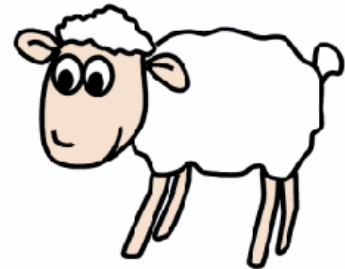


- All men and women over the age of 20 could vote
- They elected the President and the politicians in the Reichstag
- The constitution guaranteed them basic freedoms, such as free speech

but **at a time of emergency**, he could rule by **decree** (make laws without the agreement of Parliament). **The Chancellor** (Prime Minister) was appointed because he was leader of the main party in Parliament. He was the most powerful person in Germany. **The Parliament** had 2 houses. The one that made the laws was called the **Reichstag**.

The **voting system** was very democratic. Everyone over 20 could vote by secret ballot.

There was **proportional representation**. This system allowed small parties to get their representatives into Parliament. For example, if a political party won ten per cent of the votes, it was given ten per cent of the seats. This made it difficult for any party to gain a **majority**, making it harder to make decisions and leading to more arguments.



However, this new Weimar Republic could do little in respect of the punishments and orders listed in the **Treaty of Versailles**.

REMEMBER =

L.A.M.B.

L = Land - Germany had a lot of land taken away. It lost all its colonies and over 70,000 square kilometres of land. (13% of its total land)

A = Army - Germany's army was cut to 100,000 men. Its navy was cut back (6 battleships) and its air force scrapped. It was not allowed to send any troops into the Rhineland, on the border with France. Allied troops occupied the Rhineland to make sure of this.

M = Money - the Allies could make Germany pay a huge amount of war damages, called **Reparations**. In 1921, the amount of reparations was fixed at **£6.6 billion**, to be paid in yearly installments.

B = Blame - Hardest of all, in many ways was **Article 231, The War Guilt Clause**, (Germany was forced to accept responsibility for the war).

Most Germans were shocked by the harshness of the Treaty of Versailles and felt humiliated and angry with the way that their country had been treated. They called it a '**diktat**' - a dictated peace.

The German press ignored the fact that the government had had very little choice but to sign the treaty. They said it was shameful and that Germans should remember this and get revenge. People took to the streets in angry mass demonstrations against the treaty. People blamed the government for giving in and the bad feeling did not go away. The



government could never be popular while it was connected with humiliation and defeat.

TASK - Study Source A. What is the cartoonist's opinion about the Treaty of Versailles?

How do you know? (Look at the writing and the content of the cartoon and use your own knowledge)

Task - Fill in the gaps

Many of Germany's problems were caused by the war and the Treaty of V_____. The Treaty was signed in _____. Because of the Treaty Germany lost a lot of land. The land lost included _____, _____ and _____.

This land made up about _____ % of German territory. Much of this land contained valuable _____.

The German army was limited to _____ men, and the navy was also _____. Germany was forced accept _____ for causing the war.

As a result of this Germany had to pay _____ to the Allies. The amount was fixed at _____.

The Treaty led to further problems for Germany. Many people blamed the German _____ for signing it. They said that their leaders had "stabbed the nation in the _____".

back , Alsace-Lorraine, government, 13, reparations Memel, Versailles, 100,000, West Prussia, natural resources, £6.6 billion, reduced, 1919,

The Political unrest continues...

In March 1920, **The Kapp Putsch** was a **right wing** attempt to take power.

Many **nationalists** supported the right wing "**stab in the back**" theory.

They believed that the government had betrayed Germany at the peace talks, and became suspicious of the new Weimar democracy. **Dr. Kapp**

and the **Frei Korps** tried to take power in Berlin. The government was so afraid that it actually left Berlin for Dresden, and called on all workers to join in a general strike. The left wing unions organised a strike, which stopped all gas, transport, electricity and water supplies and took over several towns. Without these essential services, **Kapp** and his supporters were forced to give up and ran away.

Left wing workers in the Ruhr continued to strike and took over several towns. This became known as the **Red Rising**. The government, now back in Berlin sent in the **Frei Korps**, who successfully put down the rebellion after killing over 1000 workers.

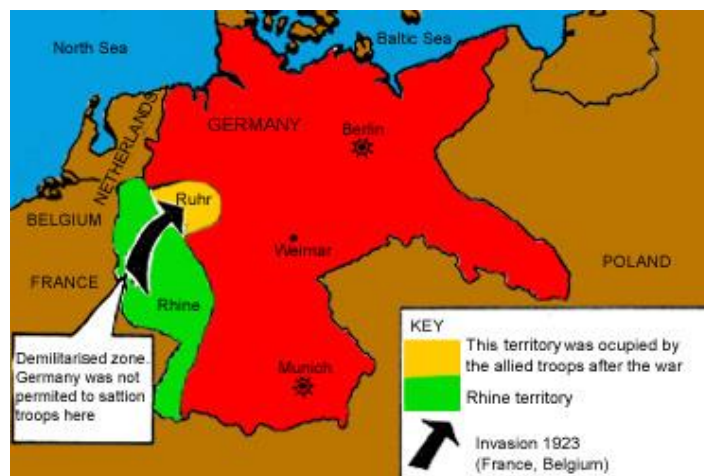
There were many **assassinations** in the early years of the Republic, reflecting the unhappiness of many people with their government.

Examples of victims were **Matthias Erzberger**, who had signed the armistice, and **Walther Rathenau**, the Foreign Minister.

Reparations and Occupation of the Ruhr

The **Treaty of Versailles** stated that **Germany had to pay £6.6 billion** to the Allies, including France and Belgium who had been the most damaged by the fighting. In **1921**, **Germany** scraped together their **first payment** made up mostly of goods like iron, coal and wood. **However, in 1922**, when the next payment was due, **Germany said they could not afford to pay.**

Early in 1923, French and Belgian troops were therefore sent into the Ruhr to take control of the coal mines, factories, steel works and



railways. The aim was to send in workers to take all the profits from Germany's most industrialised area, **and to teach the Germans a lesson.**

It was not so easy, because the German government called for **passive resistance**. This meant that German people of the Ruhr refused to co-operate with the French workers. Transport came to a standstill and German railways refused to transport the coal and other goods to France. The French retaliated by killing 132 Germans, who refused to co-operate. Over the next 8 months, 150,000 people were forced out of their homes.

The German government had to look after these people, but it had no money to do so.

Hyperinflation

This occupation of the Ruhr led to crisis. **The richest part of Germany was not producing goods.** Investors lost confidence. The government was in desperate need of money, so it began to print more and more notes. The value of the **German mark** (currency in Germany at the time) fell quickly. German marks could buy very little in Germany and were worthless compared to other currencies. This was called **hyperinflation**. There were many effects of hyperinflation on Germany.

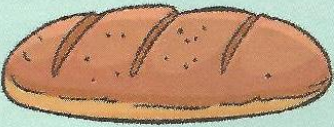

- Wages and prices kept rising every day.
- Everyone struggled to buy food and clothes and heat their homes.
- People used to barter goods (exchange goods)
- People (whose wages did not go up), such as pensioners and savers found their money was worthless.
- People who had borrowed money (took loans) could pay it back easily because wages rose quickly and loans were a fixed amount. This meant many banks went bust.

- The government was blamed for the situation. Printing more money had been its solution to the problem and had caused hyperinflation.
- There were outbreaks of violence against the government.

TASK - answer the following questions

1. Why was the government so desperate for money?

2. What did the government do to try to solve this problem? _____

Year	Price of a loaf of bread 	Price of one egg 
1914		0.9 marks
1918	0.6 marks	
1921	4 marks	0.6 marks
1922	163 marks	7 marks
1923: Jan	250 marks	
1923: Jul	3456 marks	5000 marks
1923: Sept	1,512,000 marks	4,000,000 marks
1923: Nov	201,000,000,000 marks	320,000,000,000 marks

3. This resulted in Hyperinflation. What is Hyperinflation? _____

4. List the effects on loans, savings and pensions

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

Political Rest continued... Hitler and the Munich Putsch

The foundation of the Nazi Party

The **German Workers' Party**, led by Anton Drexler, was formed in **1919**. Hitler joined it as a spy for the government. He had stayed in the army after the war ended and the government was using the army to spy on suspect political groups. Hitler found that he agreed with many of the party's ideas. **Hitler soon became its leader and set out to win more**

support. He also changed the party name to the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP) or **Nazi Party for short.**

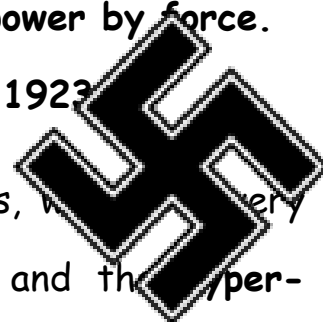
In 1921, he set up a Nazi Army, the SA (Stormtroopers): they were also called the Brown shirts because of their uniforms. They were supposed to protect Nazi speakers at rallies. In fact, they often beat up opponents.

- **He designed a symbol for the Nazis- the Swastika.**
- **He set up a Nazi newspaper to spread their ideas.**

Hitler and the Nazis soon became well known in Bavaria. Even though they were not well known in the rest of Germany, Hitler thought their ideas would win them support. **As the economic crisis of 1923 swept Germany, Hitler decided the time was right to seize power by force.**

This became known as the **Munich Putsch, in November 1923.**

This was led by Adolf Hitler, and his party, the Nazis, who were very angry at the embarrassing **occupation of the Ruhr** and the **hyper-inflation.** **On the night of 8th November 1923,** Gustav Kahr the leader of the Bavarian right wing government was speaking at a meeting in the Beer Hall. Hitler and General Ludendorff interrupted **with 600 Stormtroopers.** They forced Kahr to help the putsch. The next day the Nazis took control of key buildings in Bavaria, but Kahr had alerted the army and police, who blocked their route. Firing broke out, killing 16 Nazis and 3 policemen. Hitler's shoulder was dislocated as he ran off **The Nazi were defeated**



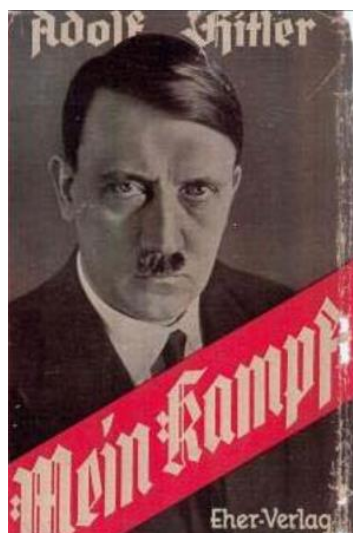
in the fight. Hitler and other Nazis were arrested. He was put on trial in 1924, but was given only 5 years in prison and was let out after less than 9 months. His putsch failed because he over-estimated his support, and did not have the support of the army and police.

The results of the putsch

- Hitler used his trial to get publicity.
- In prison he wrote his book, "Mein Kampf" and planned how to make his party stronger. He decided to try to take power by legal methods in future.

TASK 1 - How does Interpretation A differ from

Interpretation B about what happened at the Munich Putsch?



Interpretation A - adapted from an official biography of Adolf Hitler, published by the Nazi Party in 1934 -

Interpretation B - adapted from Hitler by the historian Joachim Fest (1973). Fest

Hitler shouted, 'Close the ranks!' and linked arms with his neighbours. **The body of the man with whom Hitler was linked shot up into the air like a ball, tearing Hitler's arm with him, so that it sprang from the joint and fell back limp and dead. Hitler approached the man and stooped over him. Blood was pouring from his mouth. Hitler picked him up and carried him on his shoulders.** 'if I can only get him to the car, 'Hitler thought, 'then the boy is saved.'

grew up in an ordinary German family who resisted the Nazi regime. This extract covers what happened to Hitler the day after the Munich Putsch.

Task 1 Writing Frame

[During the short gun battle] Hitler [was pulled] down, wrenching his arm out of joint amidst the hail of bullets while all were dropping to the ground. Ludendorff stalked upright, trembling with rage, through the police cordon. The day might possibly have ended differently had a small band of determined men followed him; but none wanted. **Hitler scrambled up from the pavement and took [off], leaving behind the dead and the wounded.** In the midst of the general chaos he managed to escape. **A few years later he concocted the story that he had carried a child out of the firing line to safety**

A and B suggest different versions of what happened at the Munich Putsch. Interpretation A suggests that

This is different from Interpretation B because it suggests that

Task 2 - Bullet point the main events of the Munich Putsch

The first point has been done for you as an example.

1. Nazis and other Germans angry about occupation of Ruhr.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

How far did the Weimar Republic recover under Stresemann? Was it a Golden Age? The Role of Stresemann (A summary)

In November 1923, the **Weimar Republic** faced its worst crisis with the **Ruhr** and hyperinflation. **Gustav Stresemann**, leader of the **German People's Party (DVP)** helped to save it:

In **1923**, **Stresemann** was elected **Chancellor**. He replaced the worthless German mark with a new currency, the **Rentenmark**.

Stresemann saw that the strikes were making things worse. He ordered the workers back to work.

He got the French to leave by promising to begin reparations payments.

These moves made him so unpopular **he lost his job as Chancellor**.

However, **Stresemann** did a lot as **Foreign Minister** to improve Germany's reputation in Europe, so much so that **Germany** was allowed to **join the League of Nations** and trade in Europe again. Stresemann won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1929. Unfortunately, he died four months later.

Economic Recovery Under Stresemann

Introduced the **Rentenmark**, then followed by the **Reichsmark**, which helped to stabilise the German economy and stopped hyper-inflation

- **In 1924, the Dawes Plan**, agreed by Stresemann with the USA, Britain and France, agreed that the **USA would lend money to Germany** to build its economy. It also set a new repayment plan for reparations, tying them to the economy, while making sure they were paid.

- **Germany rebuilt its industry**, which encouraged other countries to invest in it and trade with it. Exports rose, unemployment fell.

- In 1929, Stresemann fixed another extension of the time set for the payment of reparations and reduced them under a plan called **the Young Plan**.

International Relations Under Stresemann

Stresemann's work as foreign minister led to Germany becoming more accepted by other countries.

- In 1925, Germany and France signed the **Locarno Pact**, agreeing the borders between them agreed at the Treaty of Versailles.

- In 1926, Germany was allowed to join **the League of Nations**. This was a huge step forward as Germany had not been allowed to join previously.

- In 1928, Germany was one of 60 countries to sign the **Kellogg- Briand Pact**. The Pact said that these countries would not go to war with each other.

How far did Germany recover?

Germany experienced recovery under Stresemann.

- Germany was more prosperous (richer) and more welcome in Europe. There was more investment because of confidence in the currency.

- The government gained more support. However, there were still many political parties in Germany, and no party could get enough votes to rule on their own. This led to falling out between the parties, making it difficult to make any decisions.

- extreme political parties like the Communists and Nazis were still finding it difficult to get support.

- The huge US loans made Germany dependent on aid from the USA and also on foreign investment. Even Stresemann feared that Germany relied too much on American loans.

- The economy needed more time to recover fully. It also needed a period of steady growth. However, as early as 1927 both industry and farming were in trouble again. Farmers still had low wages and the middle classes had not made up for the loss of savings suffered because of hyperinflation.

Also what would happen if America wanted her loans back? This was to prove disastrous in 1929.

Weimar Culture - Part of Germany's 'Golden Age'?

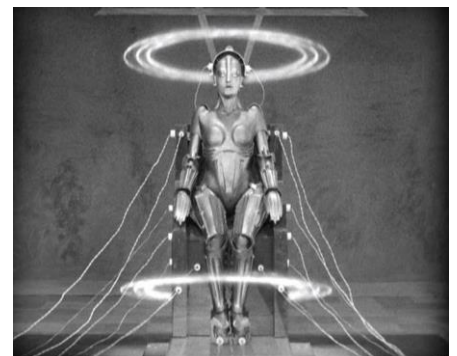
Before the First World War, the Kaiser had kept a tight control on all forms of entertainment. These controls were removed under Weimar Germany and there were cultural changes along with economic and political ones.

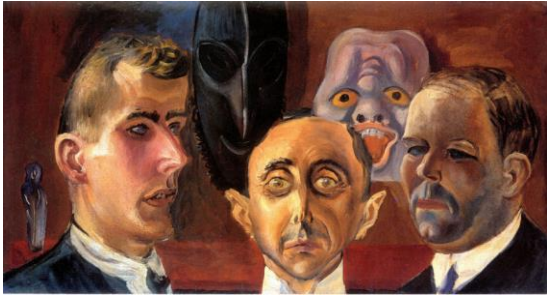
People had more money to spend and Berlin became the pleasure capital of Europe. The lack of censorship also attracted writers and artists to Berlin, so German culture boomed.

Cinema became very popular, producing world famous film makers and actors, such as Fritz Lang and Marlene Dietrich.

Still from Fritz Lang's film *Metropolis*

Nightlife; Germany became a centre of culture with new plays, operas and theatre shows.





Musicians were able to perform songs that would have been banned under the Kaiser. Berlin became famous for its nightclubs, with live bands that played

American jazz music.

Literature, Art and Design - Writing became big business, with over **120 newspapers and magazines** to choose from.

Avant-Garde artists, such as **Otto Dix**, were able to show the reality of German life, especially the differences between people such as social class.



The **Bauhaus** movement designed anything from coffee pots to buildings and believed in modern, simple and practical designs, for example, designing the first fitted kitchens.

German reactions

Some Germans hated these cultural changes and thought that they were leading Germany into a moral decline. They wanted art, music, theatre, film and literature to reflect the traditional culture of Germany. The Nazis openly criticised the nightclubs and art of this time. When Hitler came to power in 1933 (which you will look at later on), many artists, including Fritz Lang, had to flee Germany.

TASK - Using information from the previous sections, answer the following question: - Did Germany experience a Golden Age under Stresemann between the years 1924 to 1929?

Germany experienced many positives under the leadership of Gustav Stresemann, such as _____

However, there were still some problems in Germany. For example

In my opinion I think that Germany did/did not experience a Golden Age under Stresemann because

New currency, Dawes Plan, Young Plan, League of Nations, American Loans, Farming, Nazis, moral decline, culture, traditional, pacts, savings, arguing

How many points can you get? (All answers are 1 point, unless stated otherwise)

Questions for the Points Test

1. Which was the most powerful state in Germany? _____
2. Why did the Kaiser want to build a strong navy? (2 points)

3. What name is given to the Kaiser's policy of making Germany strong in the world? _____
4. In which two industries did Germany lead in Europe by 1914?

5. Who was the State Secretary for the Navy? _____
6. Which new battleship did Britain launch in 1906? _____
7. Which new German party followed communist ideas? _____
8. When did WW1 begin? _____
9. What name was given to the winter of 1916 - 1917 and why? (2 points)

10. Give four effects of the war on Germany (4 points)

11. Which general advised the Kaiser to make peace with the Allies in autumn 1918? _____

12. When did the Kaiser abdicate? _____

13. Who became the next ruler of Germany? _____

14. Why was the republic called the Weimar?

15. What is a constitution? _____

16. Write down 2 problems with the new Weimar Constitution in times of emergency.(2 points)

17. When and what was the Kapp Putsch? (2 points)

18. What is a Putsch? _____

19. Write down the names of those that were murdered by extremists? (2 points)_____

20. Why did the Treaty of Versailles cause problems for the Weimar Republic? (4 point)

21. Why did the French invade the Ruhr area? (2 points)

22. What was passive resistance?

23. How did the French react to passive resistance?

24. What was hyperinflation?

25. Write down two effects of hyperinflation. (2 points)

26. When was the Munich Putsch? _____

27. What happened to Hitler after the Putsch?

28. What was the name of the book he wrote?

29. Which man helped Germany to recover between 1924 and 1929?

30. Write down two economic plans that he introduced to help the German Economy.
(2 points)

31. Write down three international treaties, pacts or organisations that he signed or joined. (3 points)

Marks ____ /out of 44

Key words

Article 48 - allowed the President of Germany to act alone in an emergency

Article 231 - War Guilt Clause - part of the Treaty of Versailles which stated that Germany and her allies had to take the blame for starting World War One

Assassination - to kill someone, usually for political reasons

Chancellor - the leader of the German government

Communism - the belief that power and wealth should be shared equally - this should be achieved by violent revolution.

Conservatism - the belief that taxes and laws should help people to better themselves. The existing social structure should stay as it is.

Constitution - laws about how the country is governed.

Dawes Plan - agreement for the USA to lend money to Germany so they could pay debts to allies as agreed under Treaty of Versailles.

Democracy - a political which allows all citizens to vote

'diktat' - dictated peace.

Domestic - relating to the home (or home country)

Industrialisation - the process by which a country moves from farming as the main occupation, to industry in factories and towns.

The Kaiser - the Emperor of Germany

League of Nations = an organisation set up so countries could settle disputes without going to war.

Majority - the largest number

Militarism - the belief that the country should have strong armed forces

Monarchy - a political system which has a monarch (king, queen or emperor).

Proportional representation = percentage of votes equals percentage of MPs

Putsch - attempt to seize power.

Red Rising - red is normally associated with the left wing of politics such as communism. This rising was a communist rebellion.

Rentenmark - German currency which replaced the German mark

Reich mark - German currency which replace the Rentenmark

The Reichstag - the German parliament

Stormtroopers - Also known as the SA, the Nazi Army.

Socialism - the belief that wealth should be shared through fair taxes, laws, rights (The government must help people in need.)

Trade union - an organisation that exists to protect workers' rights in a particular trade or job.

Treaty of Versailles - one of the peace agreements signed at the end of the First World War

Weltpolitik - German for world policy

Young Plan - 1929, agreement for Germany to reduce reparations and repay over a longer time.