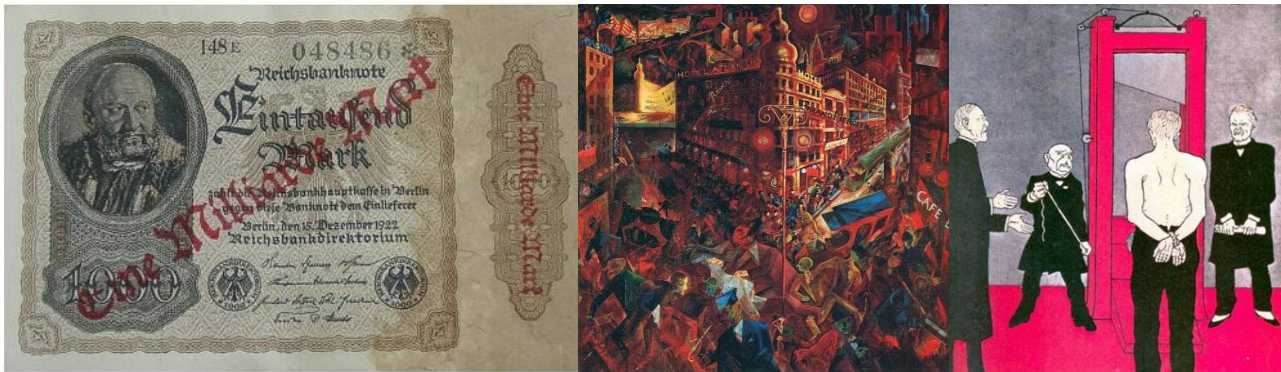


# A Level History

## OCR History A H505

### (AS H105)



### Unit Y251.

### Non-British period study

### Democracy and Dictatorship in

### Germany 1919-1963

## Booklet 1: Crisis in The Weimar

## Republic, 1920-1923





# Journey Through Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany 1919-1963



Topic	Booklet section completed	Assessment marks/ grades	Revision materials created	Confidence? 😊😐😞
<b>The Establishment and Development of the Weimar Republic: 1919- January 1933</b>				
Consequences of the First World War and the impact of the Treaty of Versailles.				
The Weimar Constitution and coalition governments.				
Challenges from Right and Left.				
The Invasion of the Ruhr and Hyperinflation.				
Stresemann and the Dawes and Young Plans				
The Golden Years: economic recovery, foreign loans, political stability improvements to working and living conditions.				
The impact of the Great Depression; elections and governments 1928-1933.				
The rise and appeal of Nazism; propaganda and Hitler.				
Papen, Schleicher and the 'backstairs intrigue'.				
Hitler's appointment as Chancellor.				
<i>AS only: interpretations skills</i>				
<b>The Establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its Domestic Policies February 1933-1939</b>				
Hitler's consolidation of power; Reichstag Fire, March Elections and Enabling Act.				
Gleichschaltung; the creation of the one-party state; Night of the Long Knives, army oath and death of Hindenburg.				
System of government and administration; censorship and propaganda, machinery of terror and the legal system, SS and Gestapo.				
Treatment of Opposition.				
Religious policies.				
Economic policies, Schacht's New Plan, Goering's Four Year Plan, public works, conscription and autarky.				
German Labour Front; Strength Through Joy.				
Policy towards women.				
Education and policy towards youth.				
Racial policies to 1939.				
Benefits of Nazi Rule				

Topic	Booklet section completed	Assessment marks/ grades	Revision materials created	Confidence? ☺☹☹
<b>The impact of war and defeat on Germany, 1939-1949</b>				
The war economy and Total War.				
Impact of bombing.				
War and Racial policies. The Final Solution.				
Morale and rationing.				
Opposition and resistance.				
Consequences of the Second World War.				
The Cold War and Potsdam.				
Division of Germany, Bizonia and developments in the Soviet Zone.				
Currency reform and the Berlin blockade.				
<i>AS only: interpretation skills.</i>				
<b>Divided Germany: The Federal Republic of Germany and the DDR 1949-1963</b>				
Creation of West Germany and the DDR.				
Basic law and Constitution of West Germany. 1949 election, economic miracle, political and social stability.				
Elections in the west, 1953, 1957 and 1961.				
Adenauer's decline and the Der Spiegel Crisis of 1962.				
West Germany in 1963.				
Foreign policy. Rapprochement with France, EEC, rearmament and NATO. Policy towards USA, USSR and DDR.				
The DDR in 1949.				
1953 uprising.				
Economic change, land reform, collectivisation, nationalisation and heavy industry.				
Social change, churches, Trade Unions, education and youth.				

Mock Exams/ Assessments (where a full exam paper is sat).

Topic	Mark and Grade	Marks away from next grade/ target grade	Target.

# The Establishment of the Weimar Republic

## Section 1: The consequences of the First World War and the impact of the Treaty of Versailles.

### Task 1: The collapse of Imperial Germany

There were a number of reasons why Germany lost the First World War but it was wholly unexpected. The German propaganda machine had continued to talk about German victory right up until the very end and therefore it was a huge blow to the people when it ended in defeat.

The reasons for German defeat were:

- The failure of the Schlieffen Plan to result in a quick victory.
- Stalemate turning WWI into a **war of attrition**.
- The Allies’ naval blockade limiting German supplies.
- Strengths of the Allies.
- Limitation of Germany’s war economy.



Raemaeker, 1918: Kaiser Wilhelm II being led by war and starvation.

Using page 2-3 of your textbook, explain what those reasons were and which of these five reasons was the most important for German defeat.

Top important reason.	
2 <sup>nd</sup> important reason.	
3 <sup>rd</sup> important reason.	
4 <sup>th</sup> important reason.	
5 <sup>th</sup> important reason.	

Show your answers to these questions on your table.

Which of these reasons were Germany’s fault?


CHALLENGE: Which of these reasons would continue to cause problems for Germany after their surrender?



**Task 2: The socio-economic effects of the First World War**

There were five main factors leading to social discontent. Use page 2-3 of your textbook to explain what they were.


**The Turnip Winter**



**Civilian Deaths**




**Influenza Epidemic**




**Inflation**



**War Casualties**



Why did these five things cause social discontent?

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CHALLENGE: which of these problems would be most difficult to solve and why?


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CHALLENGE: Was the new post-war Germany doomed from the very beginning?

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**Task 3: The October Reform**

General Ludendorff was Chief of Staff in the German army and essentially became a military dictator in the last few months of the war. He knew that Germany would need political change from its government as an **autocracy** under a **Kaiser** if the Allies invaded Germany- and as a military leader was increasingly aware of the likelihood of that. Ludendorff was therefore proposing turning Germany into a **constitutional monarchy**.



Ludendorff: Clearly a proud military man.

**Why would Ludendorff do this?** (page 2-3 of your textbook)

a) Link the explanation to the reason.

REASON: To get better peace terms from the Allies.

REASON: To prevent the outbreak of political revolutions.


REASON: To move the blame for defeat in WWI away from the military.

EXPLANATION: The poor conditions people were living in during the war and the shock that would come with defeat was causing many to blame the Kaiser for the war and to look towards the example set by Russia of a communist revolution where the people would rule.

EXPLANATION: If a new leadership took over, it would then take the blame for Germany's defeat and subsequent peace treaties.

EXPLANATION: The Allies were all democratic nations, Woodrow Wilson of the USA was offering a fair deal for defeated nations under his Fourteen Points- Germany would have to show it was moving towards **democracy** if Allied leaders were to treat it sympathetically following WWI.

b) How did this cause problems for the new democratic government? (you must use the phrase "stab in the back" myth within your answer).

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c) How did the German government change?

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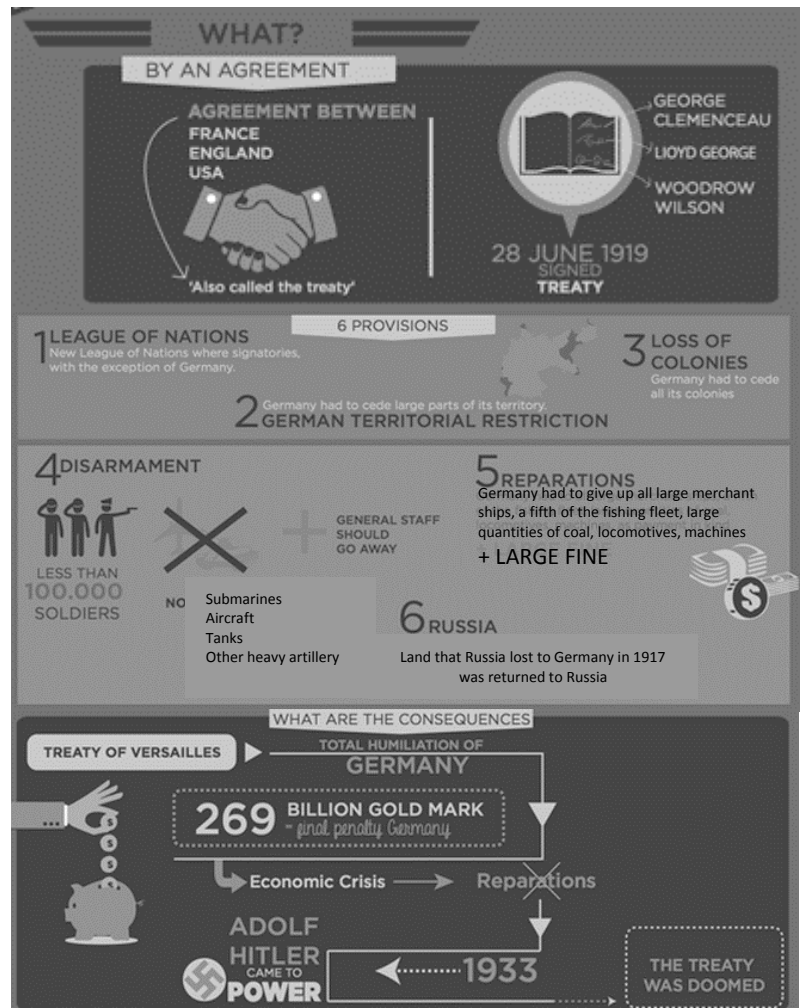


## Task 4: The impact of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany

You can find more information out about the Treaty of Versailles on pages 21-29 of your textbook. For a colour version of this infographic plus more detailed knowledge on a lovely website about the Treaty of Versailles, scan here:



These questions will be done independently in order to prepare you for discussion that we will have in class. You therefore need to ensure that you have it done for the deadline set by your teacher.



The Terms of the Treaty of Versailles (answer these questions on lined paper, using page 21-29 of your textbook).

- Summarise the main terms of the Treaty of Versailles and highlight the terms to satisfy the French need for security/ to punish Germany/ to maintain peace.
- How did the Big Three disagree?
- Why did the Germans refer to the treaty as an unbearable 'Diktat'?
- Do you think that the treaty was an unbearable 'Diktat'?
- How much did the Treaty of Versailles weaken the Germany?

SUMMARY OF SECTION QUESTIONS (make sure that you have read pages 2-4)

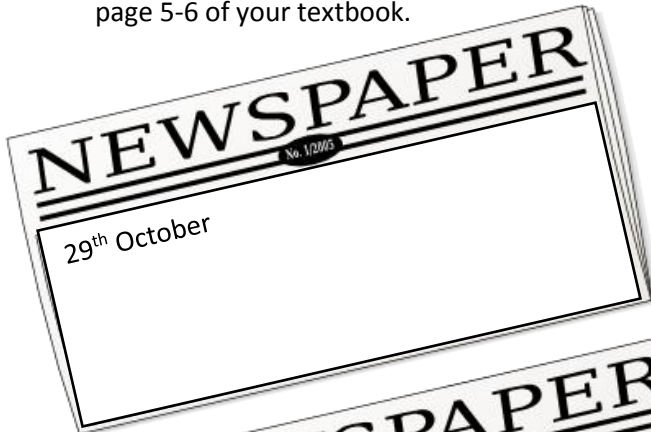
- Why did Imperial Germany collapse?
- Explain why Germany was still in such a state after the creation of a parliamentary democracy.

# The Establishment of the Weimar Republic

## Section 2: The German Revolution

### Task 1: The Kiel Mutiny and the end of the Kaiser's government

a) This task involves you thinking of how newspapers might report the end of the Kaiser's government. Create a sensationalist newspaper headline and a brief report of the issue below, using page 5-6 of your textbook.



**EDITORIAL: The Reaction of the German People to the October Reforms**  
Why is popular discontent turning into a revolutionary movement?

What does Prince Max want?





b) How could you describe the nature of Friedrich Ebert's provisional coalition government?

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**Task 2: The Left Wing Movement**

One of the key problems for the Left-Wing Movement during this period was that they were not a united front. This makes it difficult for a truly left-wing society/ government to form as they disagree on how that society/government should function.

At this stage, we have three main parties to look at. Use page 6 and page 10 of your textbook to complete the table below.

Party	The SPD (German Social Democratic Party)	The Spartacists	The USPD (Independent German Social Democratic Party)
Leaders			
Membership			
Aims			
Any issues?			

**Task 3: The Coalition Government's problems**

"If you havin' government problems, I feel bad for you son. I got 99 problems but a growing number of right wing nationalist soldiers forming paramilitary units ain't one."


*If David Lloyd George had a rap battle with Ebert, perhaps that would be his rap...*



a) Using page 8 of your textbook, list Ebert's problems:

1.
2.
3.
4.
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6.
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9.
10.
11.
12.

b) According to page 8 of your textbook, what was Ebert's main worries?

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c) Do you think that Ebert was right to list them as the main worries?

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#### Task 4: Solutions to those Problems



**The Ebert-Groener Agreement**  
What was it?


What problem did it solve?

**The Stinnes-Legien agreement**  
What was it?

What problem did it solve?



a) Which problems has Ebert left unsolved?

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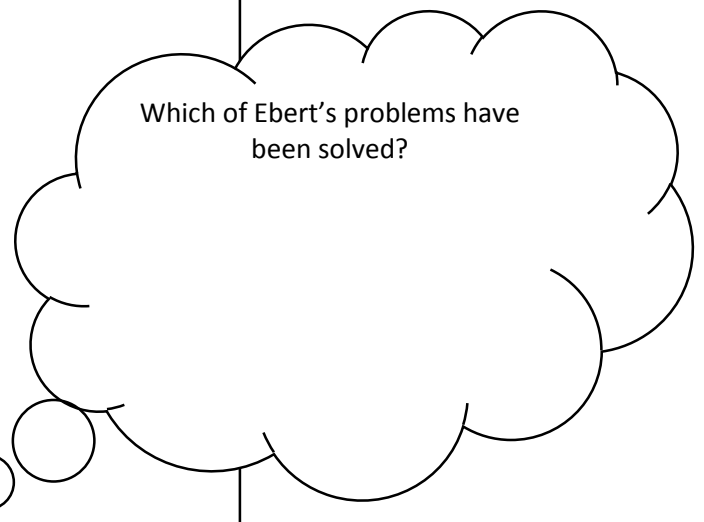
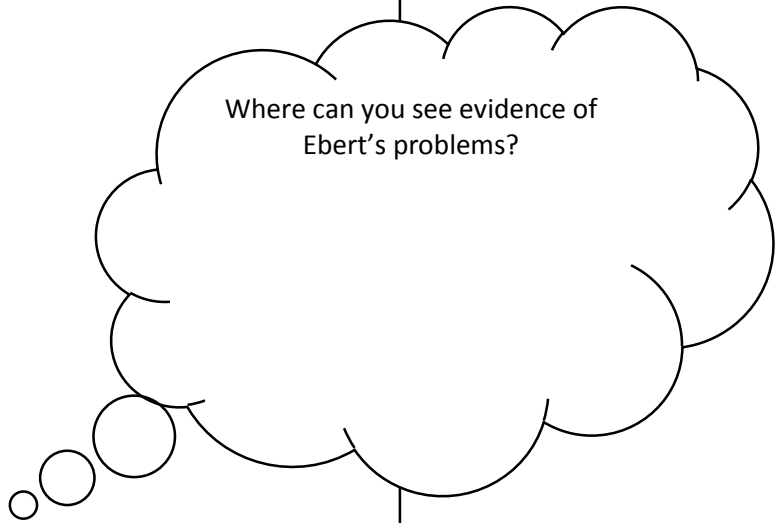
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**Task 5: A Case Study in Weimar Problems/ the Spartacist Revolt**

a) On page 11, you will find the story of the Spartacist Revolt. Create a bullet point list of the story below in the box below.



b) How successfully has Ebert solved Weimar's problems?


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c) What other problems has he still got to solve- as a matter of urgency?

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# The Establishment of the Weimar Republic

## Section 3: The National Assembly and the Weimar Constitution



**Task 1: Left wing and right wing**

a) What is your understanding of what it means to be left wing?

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b) What is your understanding of what it means to be right wing?

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To discuss where you fit on the left wing- right wing scale, visit <https://www.politicalcompass.org/test> or scan the QR code at the top of the page.




**Task 2: Understanding key left wing, centre and right wing policies**

a) Use the table below to pick our left wing, centre and right wing policies and ideas. It will help you understand the parties.

The individual is more important than the group.	Collective farms to supply food for the people.	No choice of political parties/ government	High taxation to pay for support and help for the group.	Choice of political parties/ government.
Everyone has access to education, and are welcome to buy a superior one/ different levels.	Some key industries etc. may be nationalised or supported by the state.	People are criminals/ homeless through their own choices and shouldn't be helped.	Everyone has access to the healthcare provided by the group.	All contribute to the group but their rights as individuals are respected.
Low taxation to allow for an increase in private enterprise.	Government regulations control economic markets to make them fairer.	Laissez Faire attitudes- individuals to help themselves out of difficulties.	Nationalisation of housing/ industry/ agriculture/ transport.	The most skilled and best educated people will rise to the top.
State institutions exist to help individuals- e.g. a welfare state.	Private ownership of property; housing/ industry/ agriculture/ transport.	Everyone has access to a free education at all levels.	"From each according to their ability, to each according to their needs".	Free economic markets- who can make the most money in whatever way WINS!
Religion banned or forced.	"Equality for all, special privileges for none!"	Private and individual farms to sell food for profit.	Choice of religion.	System of universal healthcare paid for by the state.
Criminals and homeless people are victims of society and should be helped.	What social class you are in is important.	The group is more important than the individual.	Prison should act as a deterrent but should also offer rehabilitation.	"Our" group/ nationality is superior to all others.

- b) Use this page to develop your own left wing/ right wing spectrum. Remember that it doesn't necessarily need to be a line.
- c) Using page 13 of the textbook, add the political parties with where they would fit on your spectrum.

d) Why do you think that the right wing are so afraid of the left wing?

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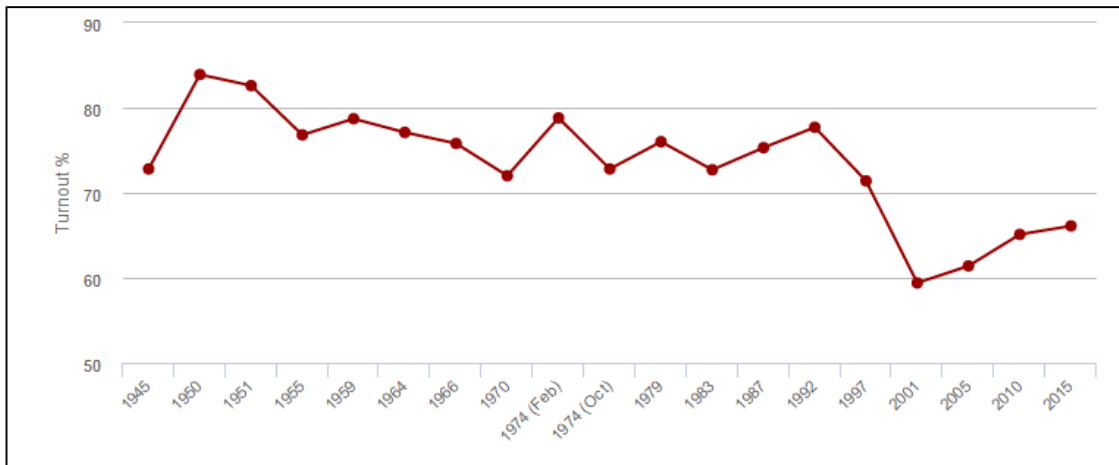
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**Task 3: The Reichstag Elections January 1919.**

a) A brief diversion- General Elections in the UK since 1945.

This graph shows you the percentage of voters from all those able to vote in the UK's general elections. For example, in 1945, 72.8% of the electorate voted Clement Atlee as Labour Prime Minister.




a) What do you think the voter turnout reveals about attitudes to politics in these elections?

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b) Compare the voter turnout to the January 1919 Reichstag Election turnout of 83%. What does that indicate about the attitude of the Weimar people to politics?

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c) 76% of the electorate voted for pro-democratic parties. What does that indicate about the attitude of the Weimar people to democracy?

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d) Can you see anything disturbing for these pro-democracy parties about these election results?

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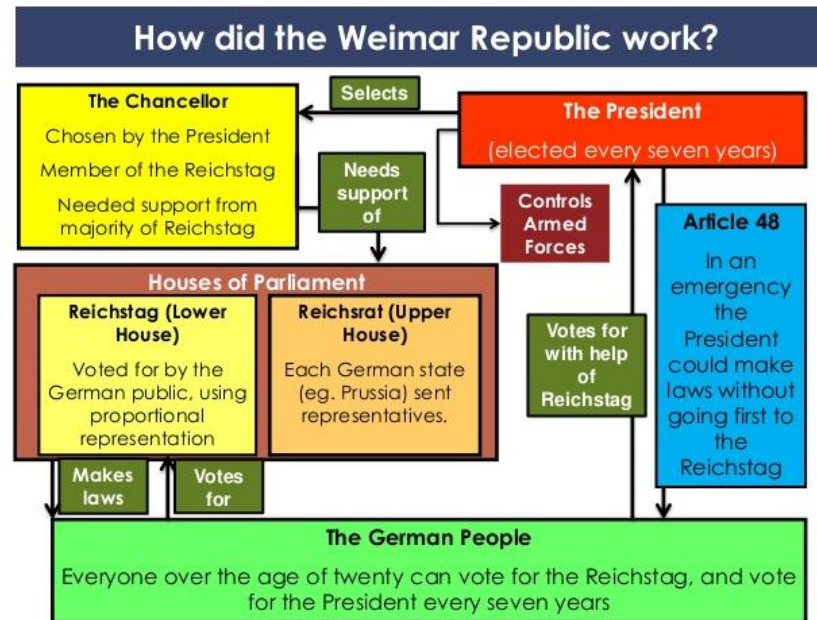
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#### Task 4: The Weimar Constitution

a) The next two pages (page 15 and 16) contains some reading on the Weimar Constitution. Can you add in any missing points and add more explanation for what each role includes.



Identify any strengths or weaknesses of the Weimar republic's constitution on your diagram.

## Reading on the Weimar Constitution

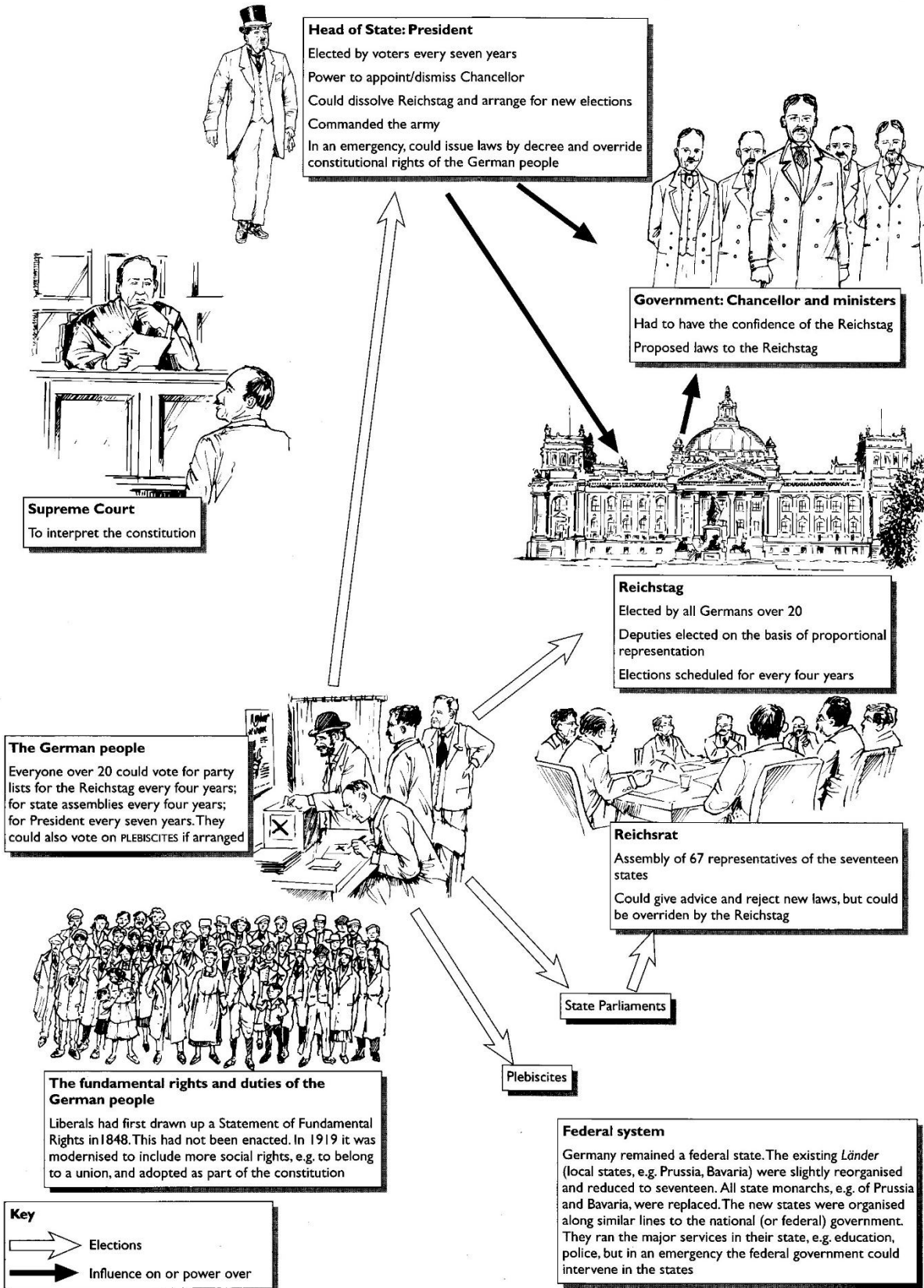
### Source 1: Essential articles from the constitution of the Weimar Republic

<b>Preamble</b>
The German people, united in all their branches, and inspired by determination to renew and strengthen the Commonwealth in liberty and justice, to preserve peace at home and abroad, and to foster social progress, have adopted the following Constitution.
<b>Section One. Federation and States</b>
<p><b>Article 1:</b> The German Federation is a republic. Political authority is derived from the people.</p> <p><b>Article 5:</b> Political authority is exercised in national affairs by the national government in accordance with the constitution of the Reich, and in state affairs by the state government in accordance with state constitutions.</p> <p><b>Article 13:</b> Federal law overrides state law.</p>
<b>Section Two. The National Assembly (basically the Reichstag)</b>
<p><b>Article 22:</b> The delegates are elected by universal, equal, direct and secret suffrage by all men and women over twenty years of age, in accordance with the principles of proportional representation.</p> <p><b>Article 23:</b> The National Assembly is elected for four years.</p> <p><b>Article 25:</b> The President of the Federation may dissolve the Reichstag, but only once for any one reason. The general election shall take place not less than 60 days after the dissolution.</p>
<b>Section Three: The National Presidency and the National Cabinet</b>
<p><b>Article 41:</b> The National President is chosen by the whole German people.</p> <p><b>Article 43:</b> The term of office of the Reich [National] President in seven years.</p> <p><b>Article 47:</b> The National President has supreme command over all the armed forces of the Federation.</p> <p><b>Article 48:</b> If any state does not perform the duties imposed on it by the Constitution or the national laws, the National President may hold it to the performance thereof by force of arms. If public safety and order in the Federation is materially disturbed or endangered, the National President may take the necessary measures to restore public safety and order. The Reich President is obliged to inform the Reichstag immediately of all measures taken under this article. If the Reichstag demands it, these measures are to be revoked [cancelled].</p> <p><b>Article 53:</b> The National Chancellor and, on his proposals, the National Ministers are appointed and dismissed by the National President.</p> <p><b>Article 54:</b> The National Chancellor and the National Ministers require for the administration of their offices the confidence of the National Assembly. Each of them must resign if the National Assembly by formal resolution withdraws its confidence.</p> <p><b>Article 56:</b> The Chancellor... determines the main lines of policy, for which he is responsible to the Reichstag.</p> <p><b>Article 60:</b> A Reichsrat is formed to give the German states representation in the law making and administration of the Reich.</p> <p><b>Article 73:</b> A referendum shall take place if one-tenth of those entitled to the franchise petition for the submission of a proposed law.</p> <p><b>Article 76:</b> The Constitution may be altered by legislation. But decisions of the Reichstag as to such alterations come into effect only if two-thirds of the legal total of members be present, and if at least two thirds of those present have given their consent.</p>
<b>Part Two. Fundamental Rights and Duties of Germans</b>
<p><b>Article 109:</b> All Germans are equal before the law. Men and women have fundamentally the same rights and duties.</p> <p><b>Article 114:</b> Personal liberty is inviolable [cannot be taken away].</p> <p><b>Article 117:</b> Every German has the right, within the limit of the general laws, to express his opinions freely, be word, printed matter or picture, or in any other manner... Censorship is forbidden.</p> <p><b>Article 124:</b> All Germans have the right to form unions and societies.</p> <p><b>Article 135:</b> All inhabitants of the Reich enjoy full religious freedom and freedom and conscience.</p> <p><b>Article 137:</b> There is no state church.</p> <p><b>Article 142:</b> Art, science and the teaching thereof are free.</p> <p><b>Article 151:</b> The organisation of economic life must conform to the principles of justice, with the object of assuring humane conditions for all. Within these limits, the economic freedom of the individual must be guaranteed.</p> <p><b>Article 161:</b> The Reich shall organise a comprehensive system of social insurance.</p> <p><b>Article 163:</b> Every German shall be given the opportunity to earn his living through productive work. If no suitable opportunity can be found, the means necessary for his livelihood will be provided.</p>

Source 2: A diagram of the political structure of the Weimar Republic.

II The political structure of the Weimar Republic

WAS THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC DOOMED FROM ITS VERY BEGINNINGS?



**Task 5: The problems of Proportional Representation.**

The best way to explain the problems of Proportional Representation is to, for a moment, look at the UK voting system.

a) Read the following and answer the questions.

**First Past the Post, how MPs get to Parliament** The job of a government is to make and pass legislation- for which they need to know they can command a majority. If they cannot get laws through Parliament, they won't be able to do their job. Voting takes place in 650 single-member constituencies. These are areas that the country is divided into in order to send a single member from that constituency to Parliament. In order for a party to be able to form a majority government they must have at least 326 seats. Otherwise, they need to form a coalition government made up of more than one party.


In this (massively simplified) example, the UK has been divided into ten constituencies.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
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In a general election, each constituency has to vote for the candidate they wish to represent them in Parliament. Political parties themselves decide which candidate they wish to stand in each area, or candidates can be independent. In a First Past the Post system, the candidate with the most votes wins a seat in Parliament. The party with the most seats wins the election and runs the country and the leader becomes Prime Minister. In this case, the Conservatives (represented by the black boxes) have won the election.


A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Lab: 6	Lab: 3	Lab: 4	Lab: 4	Lab: 5	Lab: 5	Lab: 3	Lab: 4	Lab: 5	Lab: 3
Con: 3	Con: 5	Con: 6	Con: 5	Con: 4	Con: 3	Con: 5	Con: 5	Con: 4	Con: 6
Other: 1	Other: 2	Other: 0	Other: 1	Other: 1	Other: 2	Other: 2	Other: 1	Other: 1	Other: 1

i. How many seats have the Conservatives actually won? What % is that?

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ii. Calculate the votes of the Conservative and Labour party? What do you notice about the figures for both parties?

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iii. Bearing those things in mind- is First Past the Post a fair system for government?

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iv. What advantages do you think First Past the Post has?

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b) Read the following and answer the questions.


**Proportional Representation**

Proportional representation at its simplest, is when a party receives the same proportion of seats within government as the percentage gained of the popular vote.

So, if we take our example for Britain above: how many seats would each party have received in the House of Commons (remember, you have to work out the percentage of seats they'd get out of 650 seats).

Conservative:..... Labour:..... Other:.....

i. Does proportional representation seem like a fairer system than First Past the Post?

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A proportional representation system does generally encourage smaller parties to run for government, as they are much more likely to be represented. In Weimar, Germany was divided up into 35 equal electoral districts. There were 29 million voters (just under a million in each area). Parties drew up a list of candidates, and voters voted for the party list as a whole. Voters thus, chose parties, not candidates. For every 60,000 votes in each district the party gained one deputy (Party officials then chose their allocated number of deputies from their party's list of candidates). If a party didn't gain 60,000 votes in any district, but won over 30,000 votes in some districts, these votes would be added up and translated into deputies. The number of deputies in the Reichstag was not fixed and depended upon the total number of votes cast.

There are a lot of similarities with the British system here. The Weimar government was a parliamentary government because the Chancellor and his government had to have the support of parliament. However, proportional representation added to Germany's multi-party tradition, meant that no party ever had a majority in parliament, because no party ever gained a majority of votes in elections during the Weimar Republic. This meant the President, who appointed and could dismiss the Chancellor, had a vital role, since there was often no obvious Chancellor; it was a matter of who might be most able to win majority support in the Reichstag by forming a coalition government. This caused instability. There were frequent changes of Chancellor and of government, not just after elections but between elections.

ii. What disadvantages does proportional representation have over first past the post?

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BE THE POLITICIAN: Write an impassioned defence of the voting system that you think is best!




# The Establishment of the Weimar Republic

## Section 4: Threats from the Left and the Right

### Task 1: Threats to Weimar from the Extreme Left

Having already disposed of the Spartacists, this means we are mainly dealing with KPD. The USPD disbanded and its members joined either the SPD or the KPD meaning that there were **two main left wing parties**.

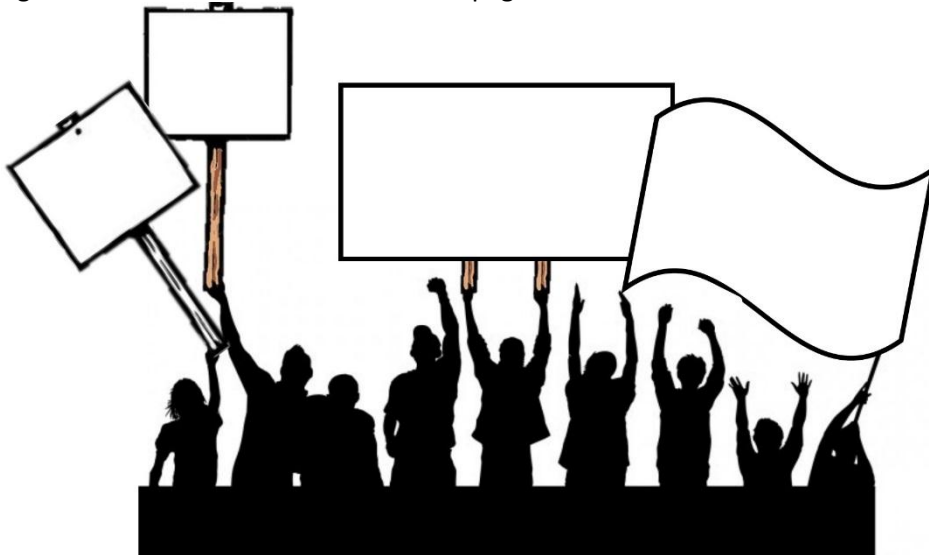
- a) Remind yourself of the aims of each party (look at page 29 if you are struggling to remember).  
What was the main difference between the SPD and the KPD?

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- b) The aims of the KPD  
Use the pickets of the protestors to rewrite the aims of the KPD and their attitudes towards the SPD as catchy slogans. You can find the information on page 30.



- c) The revolutionary disturbances of the KPD.  
How could you describe the KPD as a “reasonable political force”? (use page 30).

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Look at the table of Revolutionary Disturbances on page 30. What do you notice about how the KPD’s disturbances are put down?

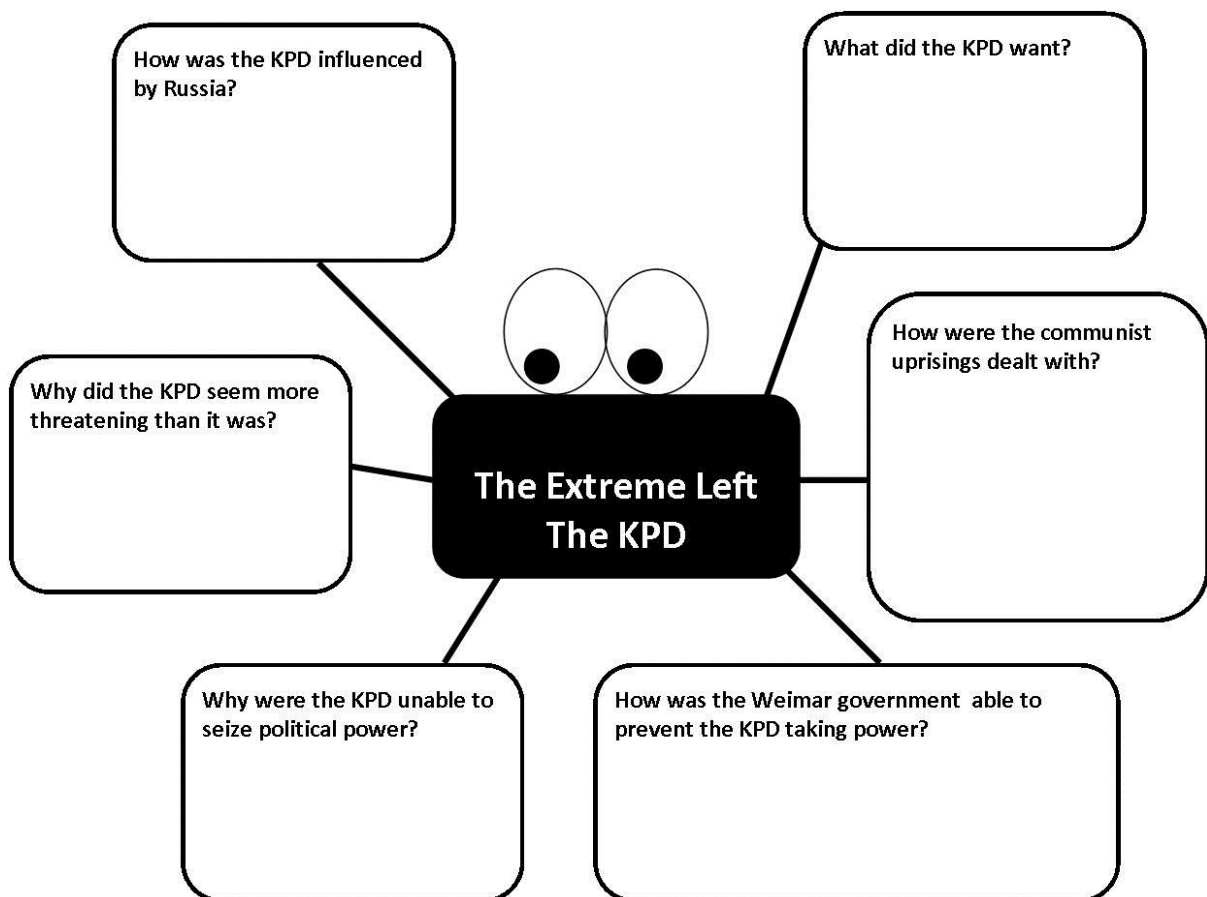
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d) Use the box below to make notes on the two main disturbances of the KPD: Red Bavaria and the 'German October'. Ensure that your notes include the key terms 'white terror' and 'red threat'. Page 31- 32 contains the information that you need.

d) Summary: The overall threat level of the KPD.  
Use page 32-33 to complete the spider diagram, plus your own knowledge from the work done above.

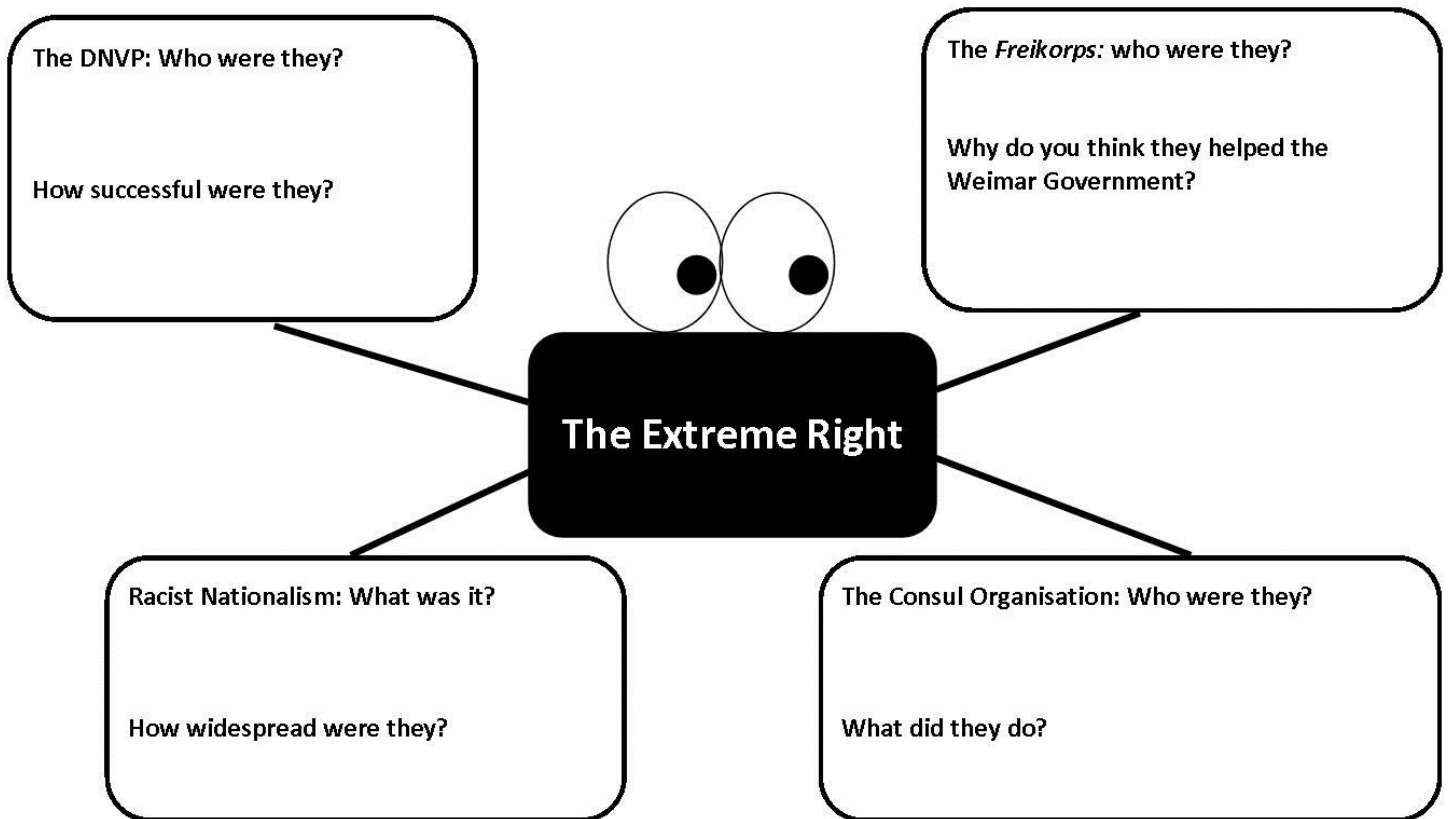


**Task 3: The Extreme Right**

a) What did they stand for? Use pages 33-34 of your textbook to explain what the following beliefs held by the Extreme Right were.

Anti-Democracy	
Anti-Marxism	
Authoritarianism	
Nationalism	

b) Complete the extreme right spider diagram using pages 34-35 of your textbook. It will help you understand the different groups.




c) The Uprisings of the Extreme Right

**The Kapp Putsch: March 1920.** In the boxes below, create a storyboard of the events of the Kapp Putsch. It should include i) the reasons for the *putsch*, ii) the events of the *putsch*, iii) the response to the *putsch*, and iv) why the *putsch* collapsed. Use pages 34-37 of your textbook.


Answer these questions about the aftermath of the Kapp Putsch

i) How could the Kapp Putsch be seen as a success for the Weimar Republic?

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ii) How could it be viewed as a failure?

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iii) Why were the actions of the army such a concern for the Weimar government?

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iv) How did they fail to solve the problem of the army? (include the phrase 'state within a state' and what that means).

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v) How did the judiciary show that they were against the Weimar Republic during this period of uprisings?

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**d) The Munich *Putsch* 8-9 November 1923**

You are going to watch a section of a DVD (from a film called *Hitler: The Rise of Evil*) which shows the events of the Munich Beer Hall *Putsch*. Make any notes that show similar issues to those of the Kapp *Putsch* in this box.

Bullet point the events of the *Putsch* in the box below. Use pages 37-39 to create them.

Read the section on the aftermath of the Munich *Putsch* in your handout (page 37-39)

How was the Munich *Putsch* resolved?

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How is it similar or different to the aftermath of the Kapp *Putsch*?

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**e) Conclusion on the Threats from Right and Left**

Read pages 41-42 and complete the following questions.

i. Of the right and the left which side was the most threatening to Weimar democracy? Why?

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ii. Why do you think that Weimar survived these threats from both sides?

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iii. What do you think the long term effects were to Weimar's stability?

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# The Establishment of the Weimar Republic

## Section 5: The Invasion of the Ruhr and Hyperinflation.

### Supplementary Information: What is inflation? And what is hyperinflation?

Inflation is the rate of increase in prices for goods and services. It is usually expressed as a percentage. For example, a Cadbury's Freddo used to cost 10p and in five years went up 100% to cost 20p. It can now cost up to 65p for a Freddo!

**Cadbury's Freddo: 100% inflation in 5 years. No wonder there is an angry Facebook group campaigning for a reduction.**



Understandably, this has made a lot of people very unhappy.



Hyperinflation is extremely rapid or out of control increase in prices. Prices rise exceptionally high and more and more money is printed, devaluing the currency- effectively watering down the currency (like adding too much water to orange squash).

### Task 1: What happened in Weimar Germany?

These sources below show you some of the things that happened in Weimar Germany.

Date	Marks	U.S. Dollars
1919	4.2	1
1921	75	1
1922	400	1
Jan. 1923	7,000	1
Jul. 1923	160,000	1
Aug. 1923	1,000,000	1
Nov. 1, 1923	1,300,000,000	1
Nov. 15, 1923	1,300,000,000,000	1
Nov. 16, 1923	4,200,000,000,000	1



A woman, burning money instead of buying fuel. 1923.



a) How do you think this made people feel about the Weimar Republic?

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b) What about when this happened?

Two women were carrying a laundry basket filled to the brim with banknotes. Seeing a crowd standing round a shop window, they put down the basket. Seeing a crowd standing round a shop window, they put down the basket, for a moment to see if there was anything they could buy. When they turned around a few moments later, they found the money there untouched. But the basket was gone.  
The memories of a German writer

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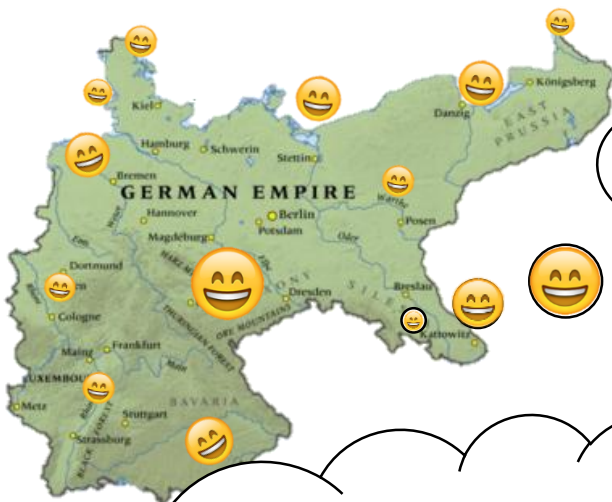
c) What do the banknotes below indicate about hyperinflation?



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**Task 2: Germany's economic position in 1919**

Look at page 43 of your textbook and indicate in the speech bubble why Germany is so happy about its financial situation in 1914 but so miserable in 1919?



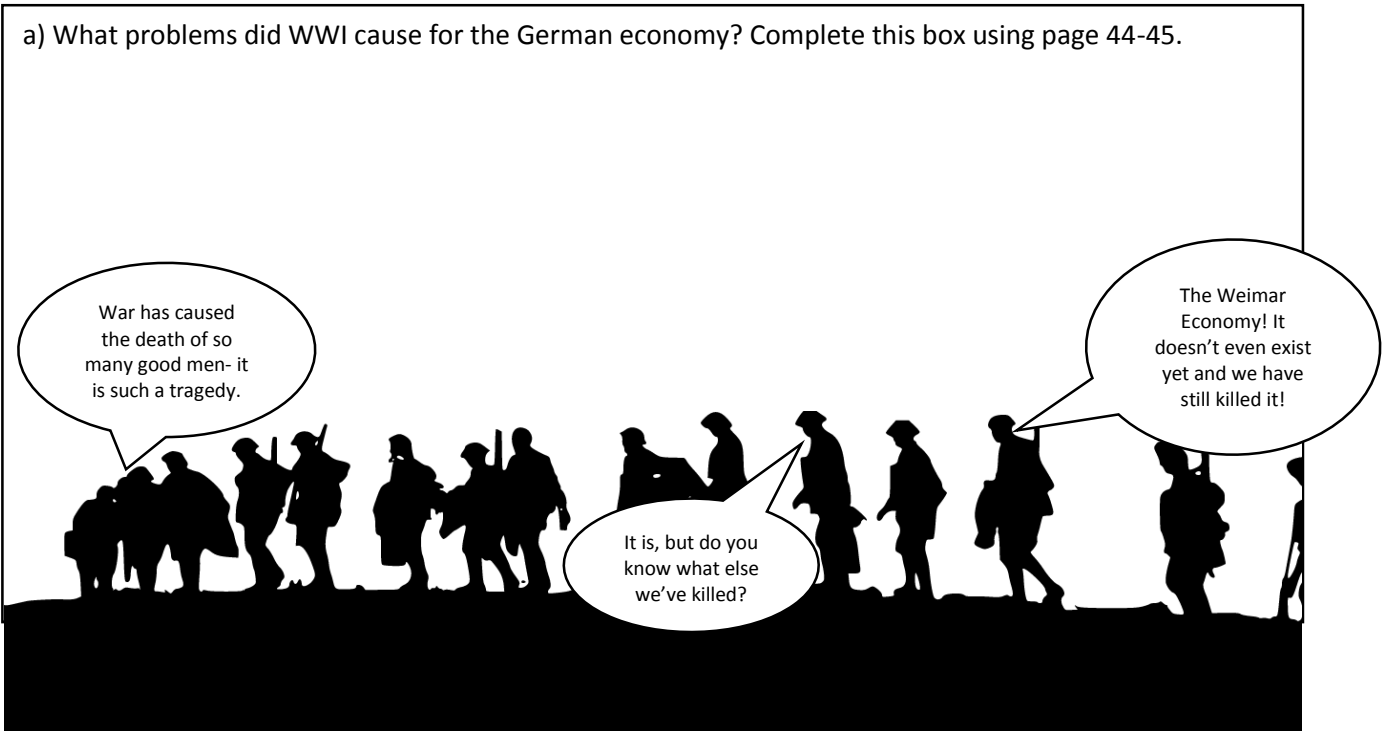
I am 1914 Germany and I am so happy about my financial situation because...

I am Germany in 1919 and I am unhappy about my financial situation because...




**Task 3: Long Term Causes of the Great Inflation (as hyperinflation is sometimes known).**

a) What problems did WWI cause for the German economy? Complete this box using page 44-45.



b) What is the impact of these issues on Weimar government itself?

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**Task 4: Medium Term Causes of Hyperinflation**

Read page 45 to complete the following.


a) What two methods can be used to control inflation?

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b) Why would the Weimar government not want to use either of these methods?

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c) Create a diagram explaining what the Weimar government intended to do about inflation with the intended effect and the actual effect.

d) Was this the real cause of hyperinflation in Weimar Germany?

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**Task 5: The Short Term Causes of Hyperinflation**

Read page 46 to complete the following tasks.

a) What did the Weimar Government attempt to do, to solve the reparations crisis?

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b) How did the French government respond to Germany's actions?

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c) What did Chancellor Cuno's government do in response?

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d) What impact did that have on Weimar's economy?

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**Task 6: Conclusions about hyperinflation**

Match these sentences, plus an explanation of they are there, on the truthometer.

The Weimar government handled the inflation well.



The Weimar Republic's actions were completely to blame for the hyperinflation.

The Weimar government had an impossible task controlling inflation and keeping the support of the Weimar people.

### Task 6: The Consequences of Hyperinflation

Use page 48-51 to complete the table of winners and losers of hyperinflation. Ensure that you include all the people and groups in the box on the right hand side of this page as well as other people mentioned in your textbook and explain why they were winners or losers.



December 1918	0.5
December 1921	4
December 1922	163
January 1923	250
March 1923	463
June 1923	1.465
July 1923	3.465
August 1923	69,000
September 1923	1,512,000
October 1923	1,743,000,000
November 1923	201,000,000,000

The price of bread in Berlin

The Winners

The Losers



- The peasants
- The *Mittelstand*
- Industrial workers
- Civil servants
- Retired
- Businessmen
- Mortgage holders
- Savers
- Exporters
- Those on fixed incomes
- Recipient of welfare
- Long term renters/ landlords
- The German State
- The German people as a whole

One fine day I dropped into a cafe to have a coffee. As I went in I noticed the price was 5000 marks - just about what I had in my pocket. I sat down, read my paper, drank my coffee, and spent altogether about one hour in the cafe, and then asked for the bill. The waiter duly presented me with a bill for 8000 marks. "Why 8000 marks?" I asked. The mark had dropped in the meantime, I was told. So I gave the waiter all the money I had, and he was generous enough to leave it at that.

The memories of a German writer



## REVISION POINT

### The Beginning of the Weimar State

This is a good point to stop and think about some key questions and begin to put together revision notes on the establishment of the Weimar system.

**Task 1. Question: Assess the view that the Weimar Republic was doomed from the start by its own actions.**

Create a mind map with as much evidence as you can to support and challenge that statement.

Some things to think about that may help you:

- How did Weimar handle the Left Wing? Could they have handled them better?
- How did Weimar handle the Right Wing? Could they have handled them better?
- Was it Weimar's fault that they had to sign the Treaty of Versailles?
- How far were the different groups in Weimar under the control of the politicians: the army; the civil service; the Freikorps; the judiciary? Was it Weimar's fault that they couldn't control them?
- How successfully did they handle hyperinflation? Was there any solution to the financial crisis other than printing money? What about Holtfrerich's views on the subject (page 51)?
- Was Weimar 'a republic without republicans'? Think about the level of support that Weimar had in elections, and what happens to the vote for different political parties, particularly those who are pro-democracy. Page 41 of the textbook will help you there. Was it Weimar's fault that they weren't supported?
- Was there an alternative to Weimar?



**Task 2. CHALLENGE: Different interpretations of the German Revolution.**

a) Page 55-56 contains different views of the nature of the German Revolution which resulted in the formation of the Weimar Republic. Using your textbook to help;

- Explain what the liberal democratic view of the German Revolution is.
- Explain what the Marxist view of the German Revolution is.
- Explain what the revised view of social historians is.

b) How far do you agree with each of those views. Explain your answer with full reference to what you have studied about the Weimar Republic so far. Feel free to refer to the extracts on page 55-57 to help you.

**Task 3: Create revision cards on each of the aspects of German History we have looked at so far.**