There was continuous violence and unrest:

- In March 1920, there was a rebellion - the **Kapp Putsch** - that aimed to set up a new government as the rebels were angry at them for signing the Treaty of Versailles.
- Nationalist terror groups **assassinated 356 government politicians**.
- Many of the people in Germany were communists, who wanted to bring in a Russian-style communist government. There were a number of **communist uprisings**. For instance, in 1919 the Spartacists rebelled in Berlin.

The Weimar government's main crisis occurred in 1923, when the Germans failed to make a reparations payment on time, which set off a train of events that included:

- a French invasion of the Ruhr
- a general strike
- runaway inflation - hyperinflation
- a number of communist rebellions
- an attempted Nazi putsch in Munich

### Violence in the Weimar Republic

- In Jan 1919, 50,000 **Spartacists** rebelled in Berlin, led by the Communists Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Leibknecht.
- In 1919, **communist workers' councils seized power all over Germany**, and a Communist People's Government took power in Bavaria.
- March 1920, the right-wing nationalist Dr Wolfgang **Kapp** took over Berlin. The army refused to attack him; he was only defeated when the workers of Berlin went on strike.
- In 1920, after the failure of the Kapp Putsch, a Communist paramilitary group called the **Red Army rebelled in the Ruhr**.
- Nationalist terrorists **assassinated 356 government politicians**, including Walter Rathenau, the foreign minister, and Matthias Erzberger who had been finance minister. The judges, many of whom preferred the Kaiser's government, consistently gave these terrorists light sentences, or let them go free.

### CRISIS OF 1923

The 1923 crisis began when Germany missed a reparations payment. This situation spiralled out of control and once again the German people were unhappy and in financial difficulty, so uprisings occurred throughout the country.

In 1923 the **Weimar Republic nearly collapsed**. Put the events in the correct order to see how the situation escalated out of control.

### Hyperinflation

The sudden flood of **paper money** into the economy, on top of the **general strike** - which meant that no goods were manufactured, so there was more money, chasing fewer goods - combined with a weak economy ruined by the war, all resulted in **hyperinflation**.

Prices ran out of control - eg a loaf of bread, which cost 250 marks in January 1923 had risen to 200,000 million marks in November 1923. **German's currency became worthless**.

There are lots of almost amusing stories about people's wages and examples of just how fast inflation pushed prices up during the crisis:

- People collected their wages in suitcases.
- One person, who left their suitcase unattended, found that a thief had stolen the suitcase but not the money.
- One boy, who was sent to buy two bread buns, stopped to play football and by the time he got to the shop, the price had gone up, so he could only afford to buy one.