B) Brüning’s fall from power
   i. Banking crisis
      - Collapse of Danat bank revived fears of financial crisis
      • Right-wing forces who demanded Brüning’s resignation & new Reichstag election
   ii. Land reform
      - Aim to issue an emergency decree to turn some Junker estates in east Prussia into 600,000 allotments for unemployed workers
      • Seen as threat to landowners’ property interest and dubbed it “agrarian bolshevism”
   iii. Intrigue
      - Kurt von Schleicher persuaded Hindenburg to force resignation and create right-wing government

C) Assessment of Brüning
   - Succeeded in ending reparation payments
   - Sympathized with reduction of democratic powers of Reichstag
   - Not clever enough to appreciate how unstable economic crisis became in Germany by 1932
   - Didn’t realize how insecure his position was

4. From Brüning to Papen
   - New chancellor: Franz von Papen recommended by Schleicher
   - Cabinet of Baron: President government by aristocratic landowners & industrialists
   - Papen & Schleicher wanted to secure support from the Nazis—> Hitler only agree if:
     • Dissolution of the Reichstag and the calling of fresh elections
     • Ending og a government ban on the SA and SS

A) Reichstag election: July 1932
   - Bloodshed excuses to abolish Prussia, most powerful regional state government
   • 20 July 1932: Papen appointed himself as Reich Commissioner of Prussia
     i. Arbitrary and unconstitutional act
     ii. Replaced parliamentary system with presidential authoritarian government
     iii. Democrats gave in without any real opposition —> Lost the initiative
   - Key results:
     • Nazis: Largest political party in Germany
     • Nationalists: DNVP fell to 5.9%
     • Middle-class democratic parties: DDP & DVP collapsed to 2.2%
     • Left-wing parties: SPD declined & KPD increased
   - Factors explaining gain of Nazis:
     • Collapse of the DDP and DVP vote
     • Decline of the DNVP
     • Disgruntled workers changing from SPD to Nazis
     • “Other parties” loyalty transferred to the Nazis
     • Turnout increased to 84%
     • Only 39.5% voted for pro-democratic parties
     • KPD & NSDAP vote = 56.1% of votes

5. The Death of the Weimar Republic
   i. The hostility of Germany’s vested interests
      - Rejected idea of a democratic republic
      - Worked against the interests of Weimar and hoped for a return to the pre-war situation
   ii. Ongoing economic problems
   iii. Weimar democracy never enjoyed widespread political support