

Problems that Germany Faced After WW1

Main Problems

- Food shortages from 1917 onwards – famine was severe that riots broke out. Started eating dead animals and there were reports of cannibalism.
- Malnutrition resulted in a disease epidemic – higher amount of people died due to the Spanish flu in 1918/19 than any other nation.
- Soldiers were angry with the result of WW1 – troops marched on Berlin in 1918, causing the Kaiser to abdicate.
- Kaiser abdicated, he had become unpopular – Ebert made the republic and became president
- Law and Order broke down – extreme groups tried to seize powers in certain cities.

How the Weimar Republic worked?

- A democratic system
- Article 48 allows the president to rule on their own
- Proportional representation voting system allowed lots of different parties to get into the Reichstag.

The Weimar Republic

1918 - 1923

The Treaty of Versailles

Terms

- Article 231 – Germany had to take full blame for WW1 (War Guilt Clause).
- Compensation of 6'000 million, paid annually.
- Not allowed military aircrafts or submarines, navy was reduced to 6 battleships and 15'000 sailors, army reduced to 100,000 and Rhineland was demilitarised.
- Alsace-Lorraine returned to France, Poland's lands were given back to Prussia, Eupen malmady lost to Belgium, Germany lost all over sea colonies to the allies, Poland and Chezo-Slovakia weren't countries before ww1.

Reaction

- The Germans believed that other countries caused it and they went to war in self-defence. They were humiliated.
- Money couldn't be used for Germany and repairing things within the country.

The Spartacists

Leader: Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht

Extreme Communists

Took place in January 1919 and was a revolt on the Weimar

They highlighted the instability of the Weimar Government.

The uprising left the Reichstag dependant on the Freikorps.

Luxemburg and Liebknecht were murdered and the party was put into temporary disarray then gained strength in 1920s.

Kapp Putsch

Leader: Wolfgang Kapp

Extreme Nationalist

Took place in 1920 and 12000 marched on to Berlin.

They took over the new government and Kapp named himself the new chancellor.

Ebert wanted to reduce dependence on the Freikorps and tried to disband it.

4 days after the coup, Kapp fled and Ebert became chancellor again.

The Nazi Party

Early 20s	How Hitler became the leader	Main features of the Nazi Party
• Anton Drexler founded the German Workers' Party or the DAP. • Their main views were rally against the: communists and socialists for bringing down the Kaiser, the Weimar republic for accepting the Treaty of Versailles, the Jews who they blamed for undermining the German economy.	• He became Drexler's right hand man. • He helped to create the parties 25-point programme. • He was a very passionate and energetic speaker who helped the party attract many more supporters. • He suggested that they change the name and make a flag (the swastika).	• They created the SA to act as an army for the party. • They had a passionate speaker that attracted large crowds with his speeches. • The party program was made to appeal to as many people as possible, nationalist and socialist. • The party allowed people to put the blame on a certain people as it made the citizens better.

Economic Crisis

Invasion of the Ruhr/ Passive resistance	Hyperinflation
The allies occupied the Ruhr because France believed that they couldn't pay reparations. The Ruhr was the Germans main industrial area so when this was taken over, it reduced the amount of money that the Germans made. The workers weren't happy with this and the government ordered them to stop working so the French couldn't get any resources from it. The government printed more money to pay the workers, this added to the Hyperinflation that happened in Germany.	Because the Government needed to pay for things like reparations and weaponry for WW1, they began to print money. Over time this meant that the prices began to spin out of control. For example, in 1914 – 9 marks = 1 USD and in 1923 – 4.2 Billion marks to 1 USD. Who lost out? - Pensioners: pensions were worthless - People with savings - People on fixed incomes Who Gained? - Farmers - People with loans - Businessmen and workers