

Germany The stab in the back myth was used to criticise and accuse the Weimar Republic as being unpatriotic and was used by Ludendorff as a justification to blame anything else but himself. Also, President Ebert blames the government for the loss of the war⁴ and 'the armistice which disarmed us'. He also blames the economic system in Germany at the time and the fact that Germany were over confident. The President blaming the Government highlights the fact that although the events of the stab in the back myth came before the depression, it fuelled the distrust for the Government and gave the Weimar Republic less support after the war defeat and shows that dissatisfaction with the Weimar was already happening before the depression began. In addition to the Weimar Republic being blamed for the losses of the war, they were also blamed for the problems that stemmed from the Treaty of Versailles and humiliation of the German public⁵. This source could also agree that this was a reason that the Nazi party gained support and the Weimar republic fell. The Treaty of Versailles affected the Weimar directly because they lost a large army, industries, weaponry and citizens and lost what could have been a large income from the Ruhr. The things the Treaty of Versailles caused Germany to lose suggests that economic problems played a part

Another political factor I believe led to the fall of the Weimar Republic is Proportional representation being used in Reichstag elections. Proportional Representation allowed radical parties such as the Nazis to get off the ground and it could be debated that if Germany's voting system at the time was First Past the Post the Nazis would not have lifted.

The great depression was an economic slump in North America, Europe and other industrialised areas of the world that began in 1929 and lasted until 1939. It was the most severe depression and Germany was indeed hit by it, it encouraged a spectacular worldwide economic decline. After Germany received loans from America to rebuild its economy the depression began and these loans stopped.

There is still the argument that considers the depression to be the direct and clear cause of the Weimar Republic's fall and the collapse of democracy. Firstly, discontent of Weimar Republic government caused by the depression led to more support of other parties..

⁴ President Ebert's address to the Weimar constituent Assembly 1919

⁵ Hitler and Nazism By Dick Geary