

# THE SPARTACIST REVOLT 1919

**73BCE**



The Spartacists were a communist group in Germany. They named themselves after the rebel Roman gladiator, Spartacus.

**JAN 1919**



The Spartacists were led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.



100 000 workers went on strike + demonstrated in Berlin - supported by some ex-soldiers and sailors. They wanted a communist Germany led by workers' soviets.

**1919**

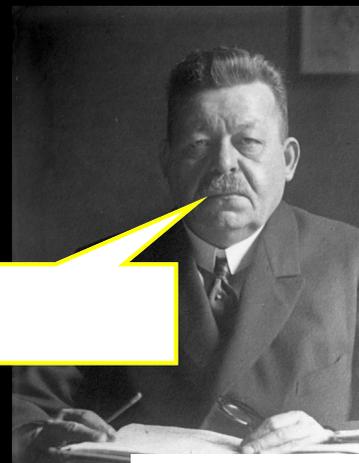


Hey you! Why you take photo?

However, a Left Wing revolt would not be popular all over Germany. They were opposed by Right Wing groups and other civilians - confrontation is inevitable.



... many Germans were afraid of the communist 'Red Plague'. RIGHT Wing opposition was called the Free Corps or 'Freikorps'. They included the German army and ex WW1 soldiers. President Ebert used them against the Spartacists.



Friedrich Ebert.  
First Weimar President.

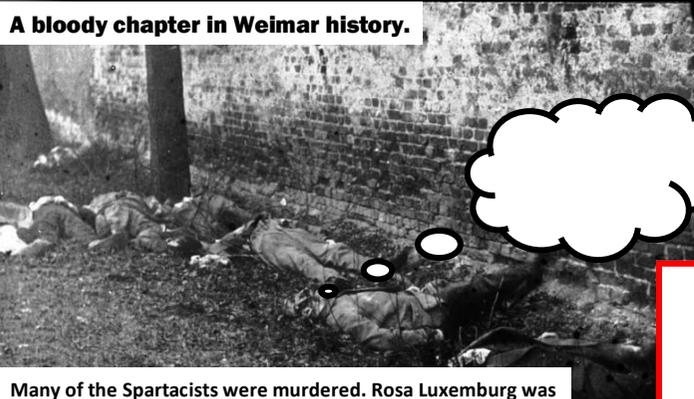


After bloody street fighting, the Freikorps defeated the poorly equipped Spartacists.



Spartacists arrested

**A bloody chapter in Weimar history.**



Many of the Spartacists were murdered. Rosa Luxemburg was beaten, shot in the head and thrown into a canal. Ebert and the Social Democrats were hated by many on the Left

**Rosa's funeral.**



**1919**



The Freikorps were not finished yet ... they were also used to bring the rebellious state of Bavaria under control. But what would they do next?