

THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC



The Weimar Republic - unit key words

Task = colour code or number the following words with images and with definitions.

Republic

Censorship

Emerge

Economic

Doomed

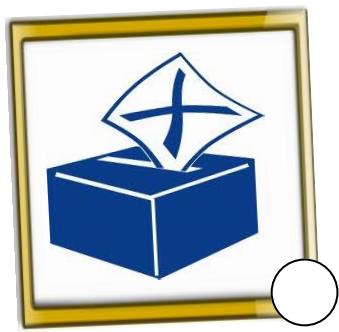
Democratic

Social

Division

Political

Coalition



A country without a King or Queen

Stopping or editing of information

Money and finances

To come out of something

To break apart or have different opinions

People, how they live and interact

To do with votes and elections

Something that is sure to fail, die or cease

Power, control and government

To join together or unite

Understanding The Political Spectrum

Ordered

Discover: 6 ideologies exist within the political spectrum Explore : the nature of these ideologies Skill : organisation and classification.

The term right-wing and left-wing is said to have its origins in the French Revolution of 1789. This revolution saw the overthrow of the existing right-wing monarchy. In the French chamber building the conservatives (the people who wanted to keep the rule of the king) sat to the RIGHT of the speaker whilst the radicals (those who wanted change and handing of power to the people) sat on the LEFT side.

LEFT WING

Power To The People

Communism

Socialism



A classless system where all people equal. Property is owned by everyone. It is seen as a threat to established centre and right wing countries as the leaders, rich and middle classes will be removed. Hammer symbol represents workers in factories and the sickle farm workers



The workers enjoy more control and protection. The working classes organise into powerful trade unions that make sure their members get a fairer, shared amount of profits and better working conditions.

CENTRE

Democratically Elected Governments

Liberalism



The government's main goal is the protection of individual liberty and rights of its people. The government is fairly elected by the people and is expected to serve the people.



A system where the economy is KING! Businesses are more free of government control. Large businesses may influence government policy. Easier for a poor man to move up the class system if he works hard and is successful .

RIGHT WING

High Government Control

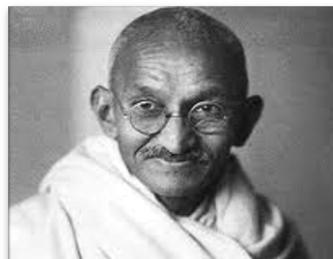
Conservatism

Fascism



A system with high level of government control as government know what's best for the people. Big business and industries e.g. electricity, rail and post are run by the government A strict class structure that is difficult to move out of.

A system in which one person has complete control over laws and the people. Controls the army, media and even religion. Doesn't have to be elected. Rules as a DICTATOR



Attempted to move from democracy to dictatorship

How Did Germany Emerge From Defeat in WW1 ?



Know - how the war changed Germany politically, economically and socially.

B ankrupt (Almost)

The cost of fighting the war was huge.
Germany couldn't afford to lose.

1/3 of the countries income would be
spent on welfare by 1925.



2 million children had lost their
fathers during the war.



Industrial production
fell by 1/3.

What is welfare....?

P E S

A nger Leads to Revolutions

When Germans realised they had lost,
the Kaiser was forced to abdicate.

Different groups looked to take control.
Bavaria declared a Socialist Republic.



Many in the military felt Ebert and the
SDP had betrayed them.



The German navy had mutinied in places
eg: the port of Kiel.

What is the SDP....?

P E S

D ivided People

The war had changed how many Germans
felt about each other.

The war increased the gap
between rich and poor.



'Fat Cat' factory owners made money
while the workers were paid little.



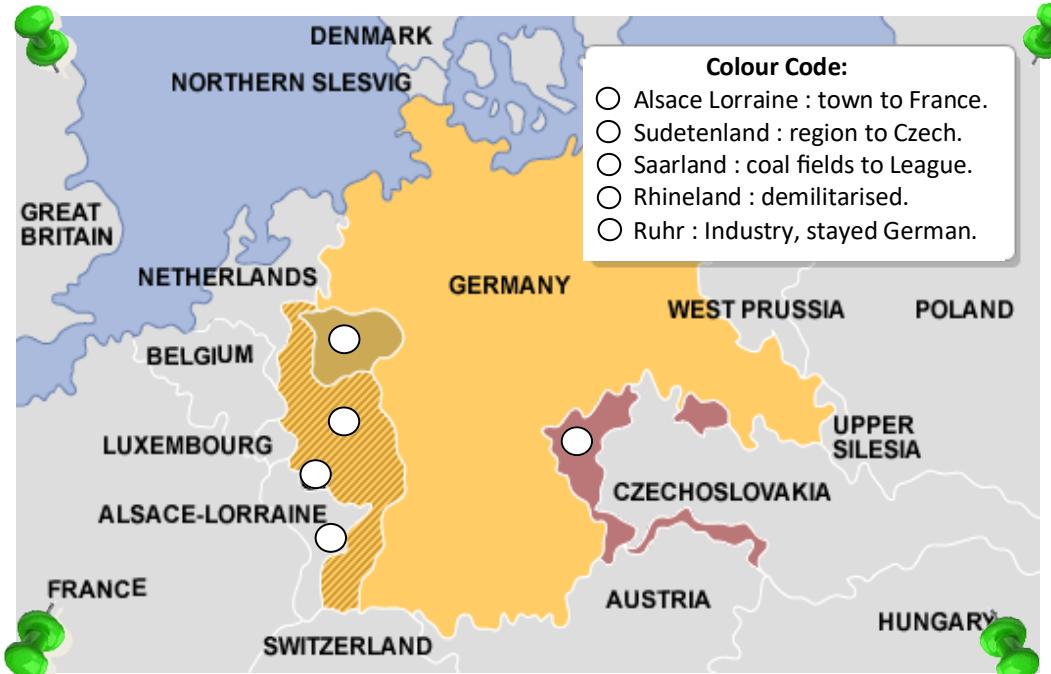
German women worked in factories
during the war. Disliked by many.



Why would some not like the idea of
women working in factories?

P E S

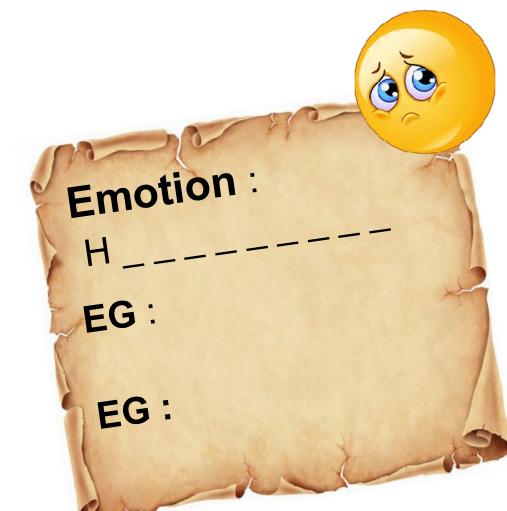
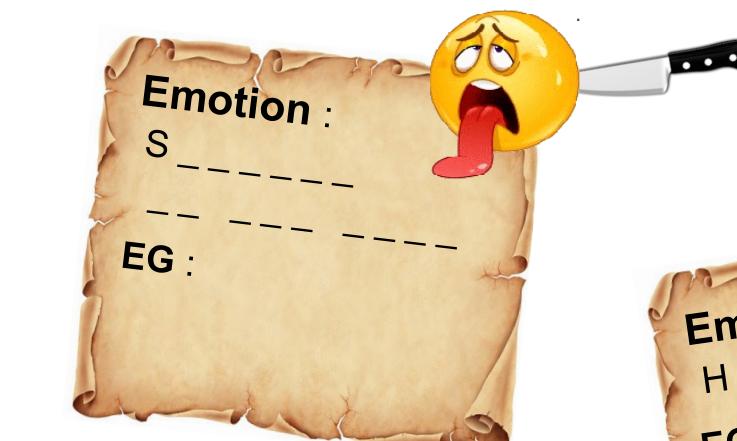
The Treaty of Versailles Summary



Terms		Examples Ordered	Examples
Land Losses			Sudetenland to Czech No Planes War Guilt Clause Only 100 000 Men 132 Billion Marks Rhineland Demilitarised No Conscription Alsace-Lorraine to France Saarland to League
Military Restrictions			Rhineland Demilitarised No Conscription
Economic Punishment			Polish Corridor Created Only 6 Warships
Other Terms			

German Reaction to Versailles.

Review - the terms of Versailles and consider how Germans felt about it.



The Spartacists Revolt, 1919.

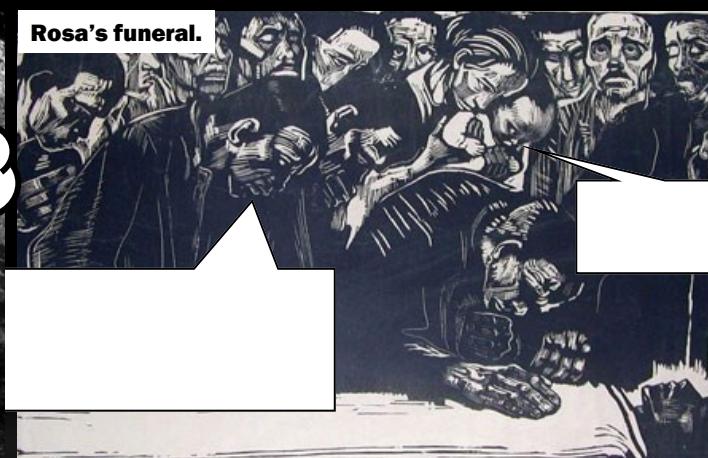
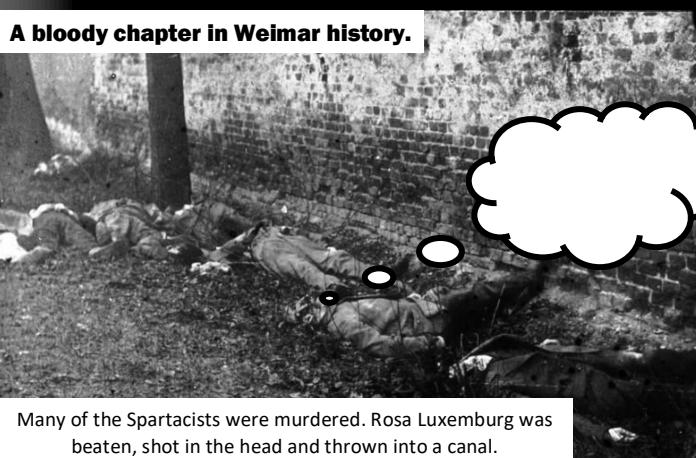
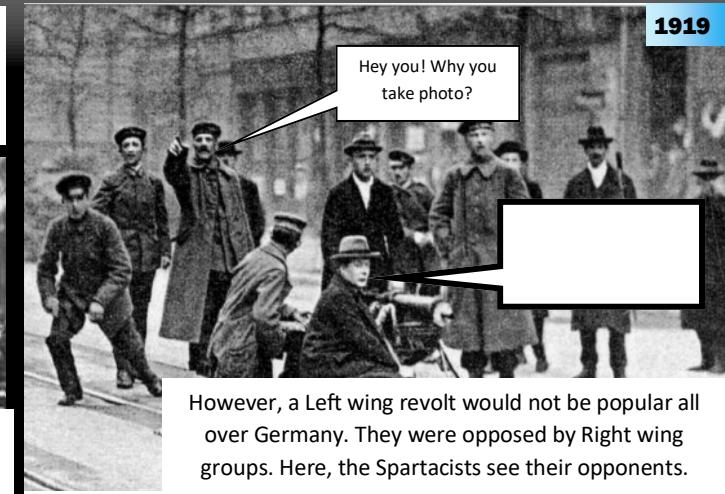
1919



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



The Spartacists were led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.



The Attack From the Right - The Kapp Putsch



Mission: what the Kapp Putsch was and understand the reasons why it failed



Past tense



Punctuation



Guess



Investigate



Choose



Empathy



Unscramble



Meaning



Fix Errors



True of False



Funny



Find Bias



Dr Kapp



Plotting



Freikorps



People Power?

Ebert had survived the attack from the Right when he used the Freikorps to win the Spartacists in January, 1918.

1: _____ 2: _____ 3: _____

In the following year, 1920, the Free Corps or Freikorps tried their own **Putsch** against Ebert and the Weimar Government.

Putsch = _____

They were led by RIGHT wing nationalist, _____

Gangwolf Kapp	Gandalf Krap	Wolfkapp Adolph Ludwig
Cap Wolfgang	Crab Dave	Rudolph

Many Freikorps were ex WW1 soldiers, unhappy with the Versailles terms which limited the army to 100 000 men. **Why would they be unhappy with this?** _____

The Freikorps feared _____ and felt the best way to stop it was a return to a _____ wing government, supported by a powerful _____.

To keep to the ridiculous terms of Versailles, Ebert stupidly tried to break up the Freikorps. When he tried to do this they rebelled.

1: _____ 2: _____

5000 Freikorps march on Berlin. The German army refuses to fire on them. The Weimar Government flees from the city.

1: _____ 2: _____ 3: _____

leader with was declared the of people but he Kapp was unpopular the new Germany.

Ebert called for the workers of Berlin to strike. **Imagine you are a bus driver in Berlin. Which side will you support ?**

the workers protested and went on strike transport electricity and water was cut off in berlin this made it impossible for kapp and the freikorps to run the city

of punctuation errors : _____

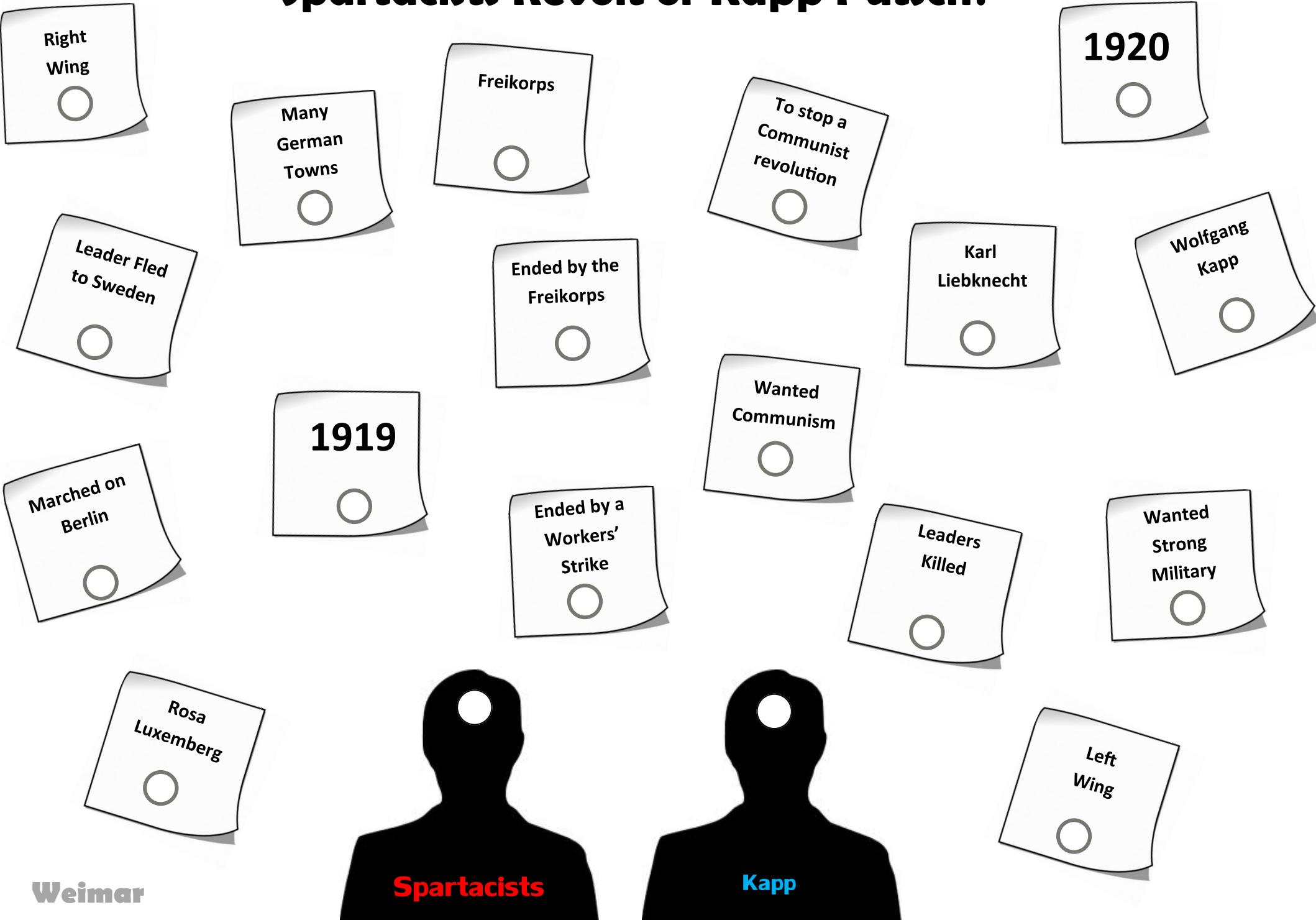
Kapp was forced to flee to Sweden. The Weimar Government returned. Kapp was later arrested : **what happened to Kapp?**

The Kapp Putsch showed that...

Weimar Gov't had some support : _____
 Ebert couldn't trust his own army : _____
 Many Germans liked democracy : _____
 Ebert was very popular : _____



Spartacists Revolt or Kapp Putsch?



The Weimar Constitution - strengths and weaknesses

 **Mission:** to understand the structure of the new Weimar constitution **Explore:** the strengths / weaknesses of it

After the fall of the Kaiser and a move away from a right wing, conservative leadership, the new Weimar Republic had to create a new set of rules by which the country was run. This was called a **constitution**. The new Germany would be democratic for the first time. But would this be a good thing during such an unstable time in German history?

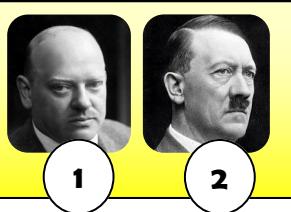


6:00 mins



The Chancellor

Leader of the German Government.
Needed majority support of the **Reichstag** to make important decisions.



The Army

Swore an oath of loyalty to the **President**.



The Reichstag

This was the Government.
Elected politicians got a seat in the Reichstag.
The government was **Proportional Representation (PR)**. This meant many groups had a voice in the Reichstag. The more seats the louder the voice!

Article 48

Gave President **full power** in times of emergency



The German People

They elected the **President**.
German men and women over 20 years of age were allowed to vote.
They voted for the politicians / parties that they wanted represented in the **Reichstag** (National Parliament).

The Weimar Constitution

Strengths	Weaknesses

Hyperinflation in Germany by 1923



Two women were carrying laundry basket full of money. They left it outside a shop. When they returned the money was there but the basket was gone.

Memoirs of a German writer - 1923.

B

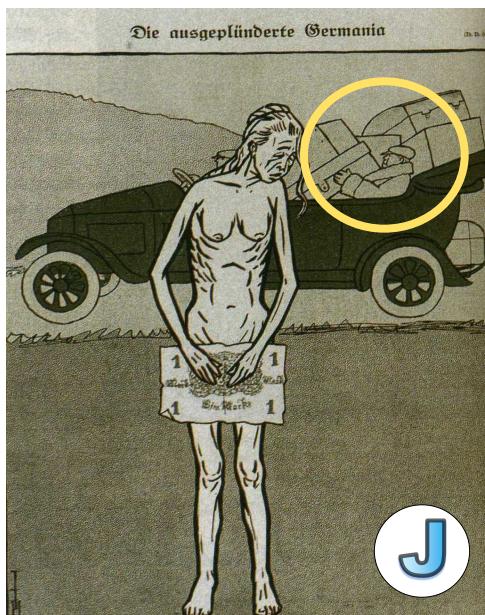
'By 1923 Germany had failed to pay several instalments of its reparations on time. Angered by this, the French sent in troops to the German factories in the Ruhr. The Germans saw this as an invasion and Ebert called on the German workers to strike. Production stopped and the German economy suffered further.' **John A Kerr, Germany - 1918-1939.**

C

'Believe me our misery will increase. The state itself has become the biggest swindler.....horrified people notice they can starve on millions ... we will no longer submit. We want dictatorship'.

Adolph Hitler, during a speech in 1924.

D



J

Germany had no goods to trade to pay reparations so the Weimar Government began to print more money. This set off a chain reaction. With so much money in circulation, prices and wages rocketed. Workers needed wheelbarrows to carry home their wages.

Ben Walsh - Modern World History - Textbook.

G

The causes of Germany's economic problems go back even before the First World War. Germany had hoped that when it had won the war Britain and France would be forced to war reparations but they lost. But most Germans did not see this and blamed all their problems on the Weimar Government. **John A Kerr, Germany : 1918-1939.**

H

The rising cost of A loaf of bread In Germany - 1918-1923. (in marks)

1918 = 0.63

1922 = 163

January 1923 = 250

July 1923 = 3465

September 1923 = 1,512,000

November 1923 = 201,000,000,000

K

What is hyperinflation ?

Use sources A, G, and K to help you

Give two effects of hyperinflation

Use sources D, and J to help you

1 :

2:

Quick Questions

Why was the laundry basket stolen ? (B)

What have the children made a kite with ? (F)

Main message for source J?

How far does source C support H ?

Points of support or corroboration

P1:

P2:

Points not supported or corroborated

P1:

P2:

Mostly supports Does not support

List 3 causes of hyperinflation

List 3 effects of hyperinflation

Hyperinflation - a tragedy for all Germans?



🎯 **Mission:** to analyse, evaluate and compare historical sources to consider if all Germans were equally hurt by hyperinflation.



'The impact of hyperinflation within Germany was uneven. Some profited from it. Smart speculators like the tycoon Hugo Stinnes made fortunes, and industrialists and landowners who owed money were able to pay off their debts in devalued currency. Others were able to escape the worst - those, for example, whose wealth took the form of property or those with goods or skills which could be readily bartered. Initially the working class suffered comparatively little because trade unions ensured that wages kept pace with rising prices, but as 1923 wore on their position deteriorated. The principal losers in 1923, though, were those with cash savings, many but not all of whom were in the middle class (the Mittelstand). Middle-class savers experienced the trauma of seeing the value of their savings completely wiped out'.

Alan White, *The Weimar Republic* - 1997.

A

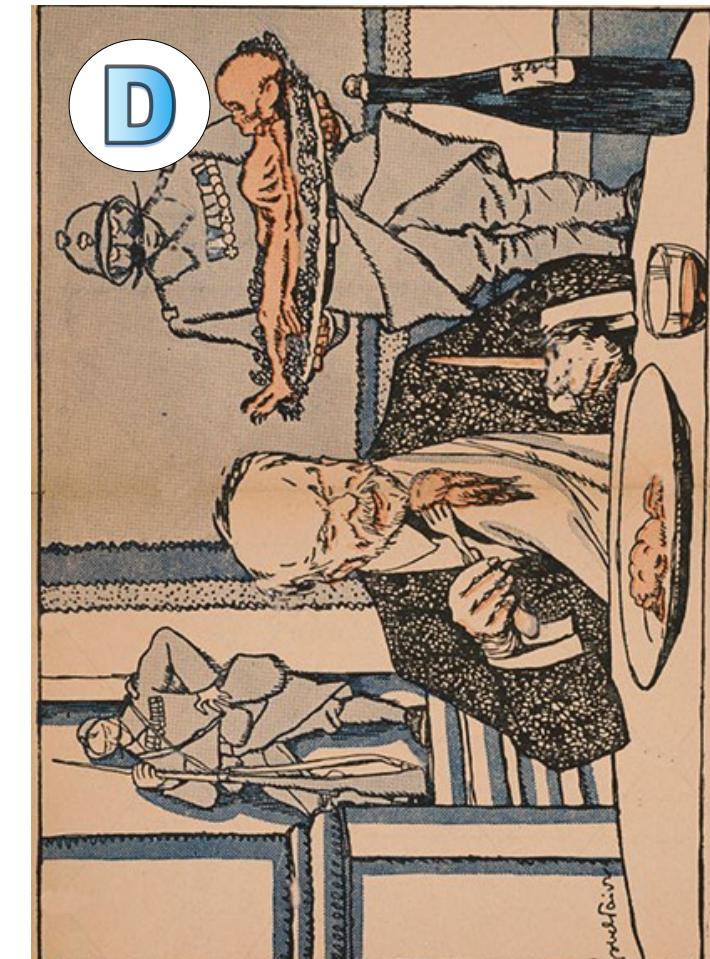
B My father had sold his business during the war, together with all the real-estate property he owned, and retired from business. He was, by middle-class standards, a rich man, and intended to live on the income from his investments. These were mainly life-insurance policies, fixed-value securities and a mortgage on a large agricultural estate, whose yield of 15,000 marks per annum would have provided a very good income. All this depreciated, of course, to zero - my father only managed to keep his head above water by resuming work."

A writer remembering the effects of the inflation on his father.

This financial disaster had *profound effects on German society*: the working classes were badly hit; wages failed to keep pace with inflation and trade union funds were wiped out. The middle classes and small capitalists lost their savings and many began to look towards the Nazis for improvement. On the other hand landowners and industrialists came out of the crisis well, because they still owned their material wealth - rich farming land, mines and factories. This strengthened the control of *big business* over the German economy. Some historians have even suggested that the inflation was deliberately engineered by wealthy industrialists with this aim in mind. However, this accusation is impossible to prove one way or the other, though the currency and the economy recovered remarkably quickly.

Norman Lowe, *Mastering Modern World History* - 1982.

C



Source skills = I can ... analyse, compare, interpret and evaluate.



Q1

What is the main point or message of source A?

Q2

Provide a sub-point or message from source A

Q3

How similar are the MAIN messages from sources B and C? Not similar: somewhat similar: very similar (Explain answer)

Q4

How similar are the sub-messages from sources B and C? Not similar: somewhat similar: very similar (Explain answer)

Q5

What is the main message of source D?

Q6

Give an example from source B, C or D that corroborates (supports) source A.

Q7

Give an example from source B, C or D that does NOT corroborate (support) source A.

Q8

How reliable is source A? Circle a score then explain your reason

(Not Reliable 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Reliable)

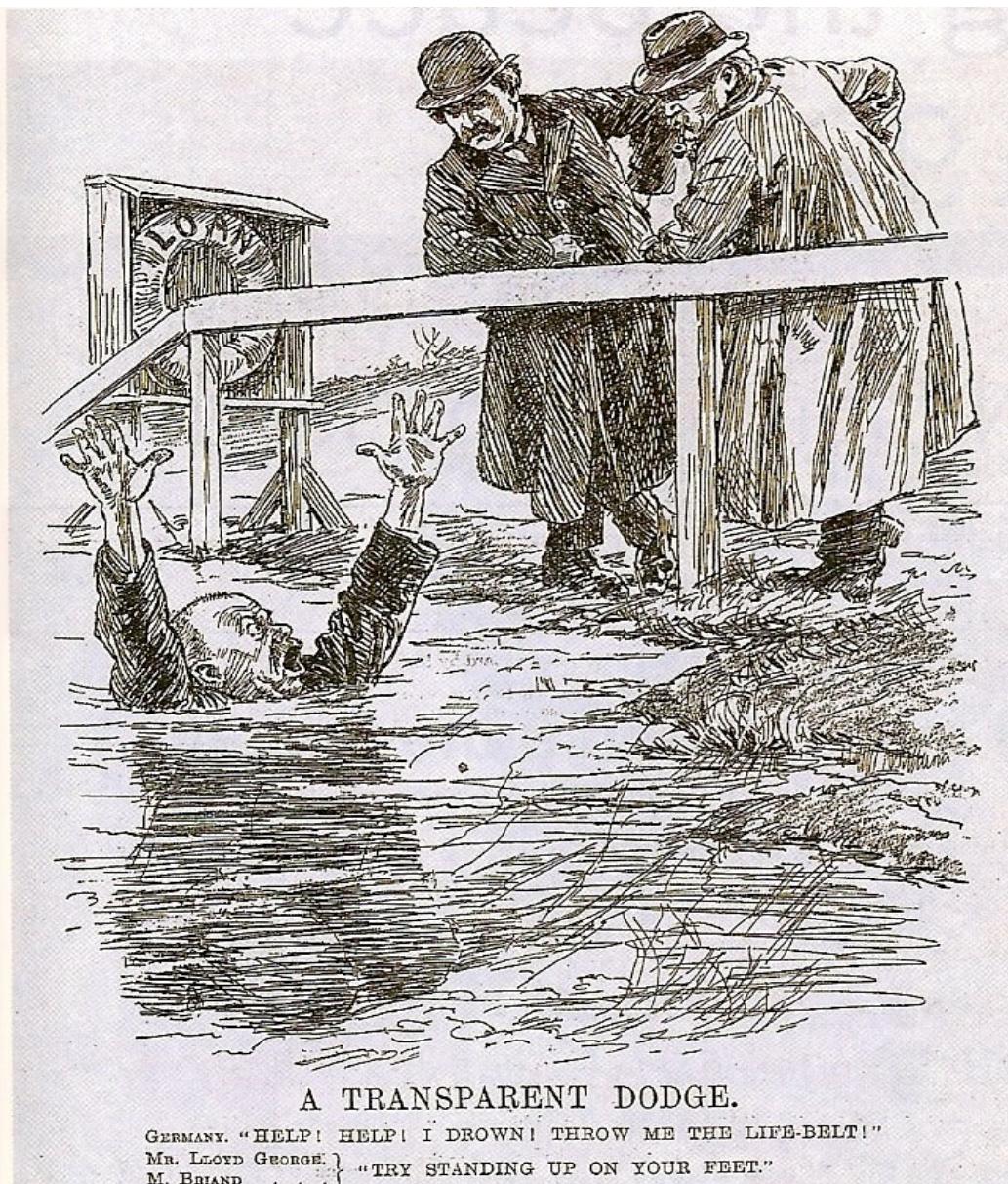
Q9

The most important thing you learned from all of these sources combined?

The Cartoon About A Drowning Man

i C H

🎯 Mission: to interpret the meaning of this painting using MDEC.



A British cartoon published in 1920

Message of the cartoon (write this AFTER completing DEC process)

Describe the main features of the cartoon.

-
-
-
-
-
-

Explain what each of these features means / represents

-
-
-
-
-
-

Context: what historical event is this cartoon about?

Reliable or Not? (Circle a score below)

Unreliable 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Reliable

The Weimar Government In Crisis: 1918 - 1923



3:00 mins

Threats From The Left, 1919



Name of Group

Leaders

Political Ideology

Aim/s

Method

Ended by

Other threats:

State of Bavaria

- Review - the political, social and economic problems faced by the Weimar government during its early years.

4:00 mins

Describe the French Occupation of the Ruhr in 1923

Why:

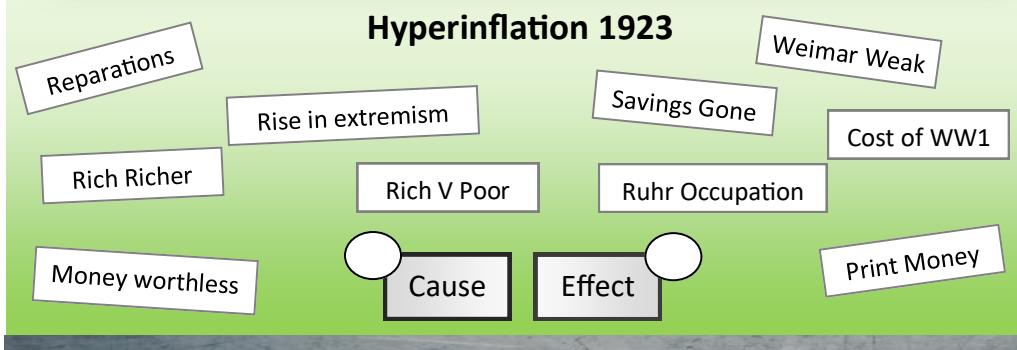
What:

What:

Consequences :



Hyperinflation 1923



Threats From The Right, 1920



Name of Group

Leaders

Political Ideology

Aim/s

Method

Ended by

Other threats

Adolf Hitler (Munich Putsch—1923)

Weimar Germany: 1918 - 29

Part 1 of 3 - free member resource.

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