

# Teachers' Notes

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## **THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC**

### **TEACHERS' NOTES**

## **The Weimar Republic 1918-1933**

### **Chapters**

The End of World War I  
Two Revolutions  
Democratic Government and Constitution  
Treaty of Versailles  
Instability and Kapp-Putsch  
Reparations/Plebiscites/Rapallo Treaty  
Ruhr-Invasion and Political Instability  
Beer Hall Putsch  
Dawes Plan/Locarno treaty/Young Plan  
Technology, Art and Culture  
Great Depression and Political Polarisation  
The End of Democracy/Hitler becomes Chancellor

### **Internet Research**

Google.com searches will provide you with more information. Begin at these sites:

Weimar Republic <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/GERweimar.htm>

Hindenburg...<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0823750.html>

Kurt Eisner...<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0816910.html>

Von Seeckt...<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/GERseeckt.html>

Von Papen...<http://www.worldatwar.net/biography/p/papen/>

Von Schleicher...<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0843956.html>

Locarno Pact...<http://www.encyclopedia.com/html/L/LocarnoP1.asp>

Rapallo...<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0841146.html>

Stresemann...<http://www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/1926/stresemann-bio.html>

Adolf Hitler...[www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0823832.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0823832.html)

### **Communicating**

- Write a report on the Weimar Republic.
- Recount the steps by which Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany.
- Debate the proposition that “The Weimar Republic was doomed by the actions of the international community that demanded its creation.”
- Essay Writing:  
Assess the role of the Army in the downfall of ‘democracy’ in Weimar Germany.  
Assess the importance of economic factors in the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany 1919 – 1933.

### **Data Collection**

Answer these questions as you view the video.

Previewing may suit some students.

The video can be stopped after each ‘part’ to allow discussion and sharing of data.

Students may work in teams or groups for this activity.

## Part 1

1. What is the symbolism of opening with the Somme River?
2. What were the main elements in the German defeat in World War 1?
3. Why did the Allies blockade Germany during World War 1? Result?
4. What role did Paul von Hindenberg assume in 1916?
5. Note events in Russia in 1917. What role did Lenin play? Result?
6. What did USA President Wilson offer Germany in January 1918? Result?
7. Note the events of August 1918? Result? What advice did Hindenberg and Ludendorff give?
8. Why might the Reichstag 'peace resolution' of 1916 be considered a 'democratic' step?
9. What was the role of Prince Max of Baden in October 1918? Result?
10. Note events at Kiel in October / November 1918? Result? What was the reaction in Berlin?
11. Who led the 'communist' revolution of November 1918? Who led the 'democratic' revolution?
12. When was the 'Republic' proclaimed? By whom? How did the Kaiser react?
13. Who was in 'power' in Germany after 9 November 1918? Who signed the Armistice on 11 November 1918?
14. What involvement did the German Army have in the signing of the Armistice?
15. What was the "stab in the back"? Who were the "November Criminals"?
16. Who were the Freikorps? Note their activities.
17. How was 'order' restored? For what purpose?
18. Why did the new 'government' meet in Weimar?
19. When was the new constitution 'passed'? Result?

## Part 2

1. Note how Germany was treated by the Allies at Versailles.
2. Why did Germany sign the Treaty of Versailles?
3. Note the territorial losses suffered by Germany. What were the 'plebiscites'? Which areas were affected?
4. What had happened in Bavaria? Result?
5. What opposition did the new government experience? Why?
6. Note the details of the "Kapp Putsch" of 1920. Who supported the putsch? Who opposed it? How was the putsch stopped? What role did the Army play?
7. Note the details of the Allied announcement of January 1921? How did Germans react? Result?
8. What were the results of the plebiscites in Schleswig? In Eupen / Malmedy? In Silesia? What impact did this have on Germany?
9. Note details of the Rapallo Treaty of 1922. Significance? What was the Allied reaction?
10. Why did France occupy the Ruhr Valley in 1923? German reaction? Result?
11. Why did Germany and Russia cooperate?

### Part 3

1. How is the political instability of the Weimar Republic 1918 – 1923 illustrated?
2. Who became Chancellor in August 1923? What problems did he face? Did he have solutions?
3. Note details of the “Beer Hall Putsch” of November 1923? Who? Where? How? Leaders? Result?
4. What is “Mein Kampf”? Meaning? When was it written? Where? How?
5. Why were reparation payments reviewed in 1924? Result?
6. Why was president Ebert a target for opponents? Result?
7. Who became President in 1925?
8. Note details of the Locarno Treaty? What was its significance?
9. How was Germany’s isolation finally ended?
10. Why did Briand and Stresemann win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1926?

### Part 4

1. Note details of the Young plan of 1929? Why was there need for a review?
2. What was the reaction to Stresemann’s death in 1929?
3. In what areas did Germany excel at this time?
4. Note the ‘fads’ referred to during the “Stresemann Years”.
5. Note the names and areas of expertise of the famous ‘faces’ of the late Weimar Republic.
6. Why was no-one interested in ‘democracy’?
7. Note the images used to represent artistic response to the political scene at this time.
8. What was the impact of the October 1929 “Wall Street Crash”? How was Germany affected?
9. Who led the Reichstag at this time? What was the impact of the economic situation?
10. Why were the ‘emergency powers’ of the President necessary? Result?
11. Who were the “Red Front”? Who were the “SA”? What impact did they have in Germany?

### Part 5

1. Why was the 14 September 1930 election a “break through” for the Nazis?
2. How was Germany being governed under Chancellor Brüning?
3. Who joined the Nazis in October 1931? Why? Result? How did the ‘democrats’ respond?
4. What were the indicators of economic health in 1931?
5. Who contested the Presidential elections of 1932? Result?
6. By whom was the SA ‘banned’? Why? Result?
7. Why was Brüning replaced? By whom? How?
8. What was von Papen’s ‘policy’? What ‘luck’ came his way?
9. Why did von Papen attack the Prussian state government? Result?

## Part 6

1. How stable was the political 'scene' in Germany in 1932?
2. Who defended 'democracy'? How? Result?
3. Note the graph of election results 1919 – 1932. How had the 'democratic' vote changed? How had the Nazi vote changed?
4. Who replaced von Papen? His 'policy'? Result?
5. How did von Papen respond to his sacking? Result?
6. What was von Schleicher's last attempt to stay in power? Result?
7. In what circumstances did Adolf Hitler become Chancellor of Germany on 30 January 1933?

### Notemaking

These activities can be done as individuals or in teams.

1. Know and / or understand the following...  
Write a brief explanatory 'note' for each.  
Locate on a map if appropriate.  
Find a photo of the individuals and do a 'mug sheet'.

Terms	Names	Locations
Blockade	Paul von Hindenberg	Weimar
Communist	Von Ludendorff	Munich
Democratic	Von Seeckt	Bavaria
Republic	Wolfgang Kapp	Berlin
Armistice	Prince Max von Baden	Eupen
Versailles Treaty	Ebert Scheidemann	Malmedy
'Stab in the back'	Briand	Prussia
'November Criminals'	Stresemann	Silesia
Reichstag	Karl Liebknecht	Posen
Reparations	Rosa Luxemburg	Memelland
Plebiscite	Adolf Hitler	Lorraine
Rapallo Treaty	Rudolf Hess	Alsace
Dawes Plan	Bruning	Rhineland
Locarno Treaty	Von Papen	France
League of Nations	Von Schleicher	Czechoslovakia
Mein Kampf		USSR
Red Front		
SA		
Putsch		
Chancellor		
Young Plan		
Great Depression		

2. Construct a set of timelines as shown below. By drawing these on the same page, you should be able to 'cross reference' events on the three timelines.  
Locate what you think are crises of the Weimar Republic.  
How did domestic and international events contribute to these crises?

Major international events of the period 1918 – 1933:

1918-----  
1933

Major domestic events in Germany 1918 – 1933:

1918-----  
1933

Events in the career of Hitler and the Nazi Party:

1918-----  
1933

3. Draw up a list of the problems faced by the Weimar politicians in the period 1919 – 1933. Use this list to construct a ‘concept’ map of the “Fall” of the Weimar Republic.

Draw up a list of factors which encouraged the growth of the Nazi Party in the period 1919 – 1933. Use this list to construct a ‘concept’ map of the “Rise” of the Nazi Party.

Compare the two ‘concept’ maps:

What factors are common?

What are the significant differences?