



Your teacher will tell you which topic you should revise. Read and learn all the information in the topic, ready for a Quiz in lesson.

Topic 1: The Weimar Government

On 9th November 1918, Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated the German throne and fled to Holland. Germany became a republic and 2 days later, the Armistice was signed bringing an end to fighting in the First World War.

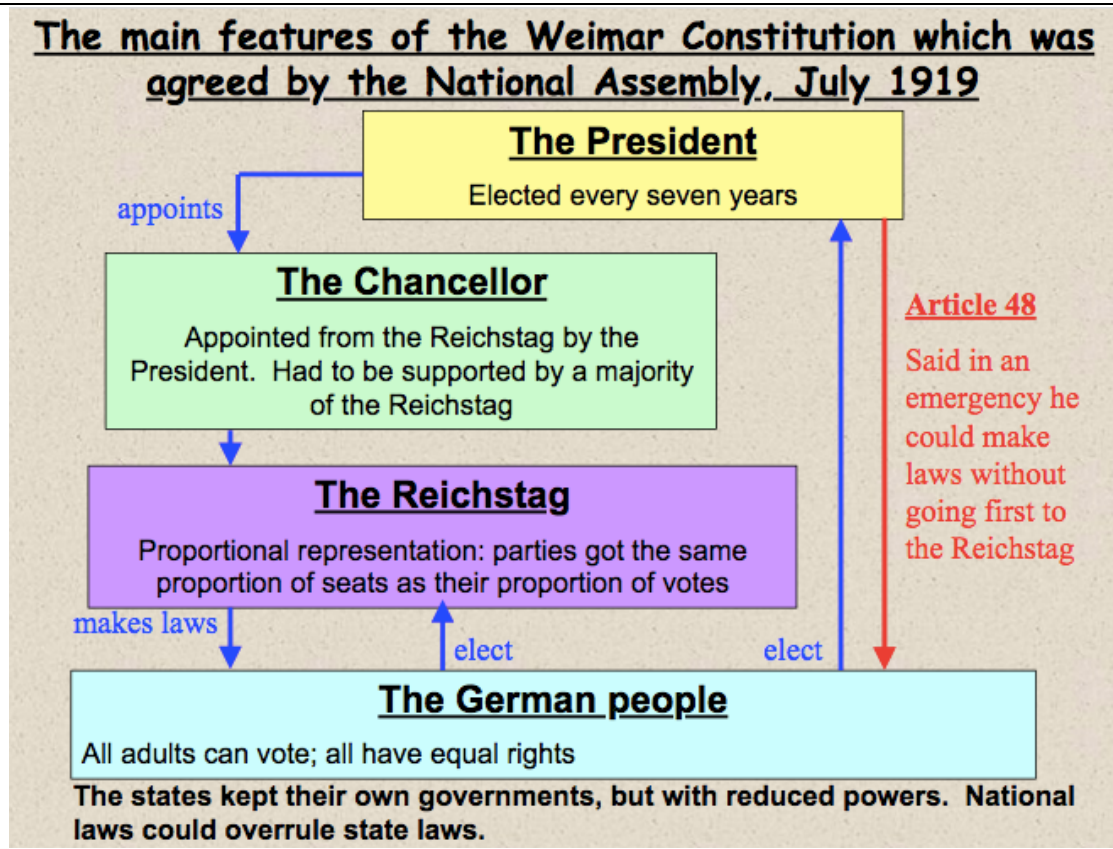
Within a few months the new republic with a new constitution was set up. The new constitution was in many respects one of the most democratic in the world with a president as the head of state. However, it also included several features which were to contribute to the instability, weakness and eventual downfall of the Weimar Republic.

Strengths

- A genuine democracy** - Elections for parliament and president took place every four years and all Germans over 20 could vote.
- The power of the Reichstag** - The Reichstag appointed the government and made all laws. This was very different from its powers before the war under the Kaiser.
- A Bill of Rights** - This guaranteed every German citizen freedom of speech and religion, and equality under the law.

Weaknesses

- Proportional representation** - Each party got the same percentage of seats in parliament as the percentage of votes it received in an election. This meant there were lots of small parties in Parliament making it difficult to pass laws and led to weak and often short-lived governments.
- Article 48** - This gave the president the power to act without parliament's approval in an emergency. However, it did not clearly define what an 'emergency' was, so the power was overused, which weakened Germans' confidence in democracy.





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Topic 2: Problems for the Weimar Government

The setting up of the Weimar Republic did not signal peace for Germany and its citizens, it merely ushered in a period of chaos and violence. The 5 years after WW1 saw an attempted Communist revolution, political assassinations, armed uprisings and massive inflation.

Above all Germans had to accept what they felt was a vindictive peace settlement – the Treaty of Versailles. Many Germans said that all the problems of the post-war years were the result of the decisions that had been made by the politicians of the new Weimar Republic. These politicians were given the name ‘November Criminals’. However, by the end of 1923, political and economic stability were being restored to Germany.

The Treaty of Versailles 1919 (hint – you can remember the key terms of the treaty using the word **LAMB)**

LAND Germany lost land on all sides of its borders as well as its overseas colonies. In Europe Alsace-Lorraine went back to France, Eupen-Malmedy was recognised as Belgian and France took coal from the Saar Region.

ARMY AND **N**AVY Germany’s army and navy were significantly reduced in size and its air force was abolished. Maximum of 100,000 troops were allowed in the army and conscription and tanks were banned. German navy was reduced to only 6 battleships and no submarines.

MONEY – Germany had to pay back reparations to Britain and France to cover damages caused by the war. In 1922 the amount to be paid was set at £6.6 billion.

BLAME – Germany had to accept the blame for starting the war under article 231 of the treaty known as the ‘War Guilt Clause’.

Challenges to the government of the Weimar Republic

From the left ‘Spartacist Uprising’ 1919

- 5-12 January 1919
- 50,000 members of Spartacists rebelled in Berlin led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht

From the right ‘The Kapp Putsch’ 1920

- 13-17 March 1920
- Dr Wolfgang Kapp led a Freikorps takeover in Berlin







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Topic 3: Gustav Stresemann's recovery

Following the crisis of 1923, including the French occupation of the Ruhr and hyperinflation, Germany seemed to experience a period of recovery at home and abroad under the direction of Gustav Stresemann and with the assistance of American loans.

Economic Solutions

The Dawes Plan 1924	The Young Plan 1929
Reparations: Lowered payments	Reparations: Reduced by 20%
	
Loans: 800 Marks from USA	Loans: Continued from USA
	

International Relations

The Locarno Pact

In 1925, Germany signed the Locarno Pact with Britain, France, Belgium, and Italy. The pact agreed that all signatories would keep their existing borders. Stresemann realised that France needed to feel secure to co-operate over changes in the Versailles peace treaty.

The League of Nations

For the Locarno Pact to work, Germany had to join the League of Nations. In 1926, Germany was given a permanent seat on the League of Nations – a return to GREAT POWER Status. This allowed Germany to bring about the Young Plan

The Kellogg-Briand Pact

In 1928, Germany signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact along with 64 other countries. The Pact agreed that countries would keep their armies for self-defence and solve international disputes using 'peaceful means'.

Changes in society 1924-29


Standard of living

- Hourly wages rose in real terms (10% in 1928)
- Pensions and sick benefit schemes were introduced

Women

- Women were welcomed into the workforce.
- Number of women in work was 1.7 million higher in 1925 than it 1907
- Women were able to vote
- Women were elected to local and regional assemblies all over Germany.



Vocabulary	Wider Research	Apply							
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Kaiser 2) Reichstag 3) Armistice 4) Constitution 5) Chancellor 6) President 7) Article 48 8) Republic 9) Democracy 10) Dictatorship 11) Reparations 12) Scapegoat 13) Putsch 14) Freikorps 15) Hyperinflation 16) Weimar 17) Economy 18) Nation 19) Locarno Pact 20) Kellogg-Briand 21) League of Nations 22) Dawes Plan 23) Young Plan 24) Retenmark 25) Versailles 26) Spartacist 27) Communism 28) Dolchstoss Theory 29) President Ebert 30) Gustav Stresemann 	<p>Overview of WW1 https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history</p> <p>Treaty of Versailles https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/treaty-of-versailles-1</p> <p>Kaiser Wilhelm II background study http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/wilhelm_kaiser_ii.shtml</p> <p>Spartacist Uprising https://www.historytoday.com/archive/spartacist-uprising-berlin</p> <p>Kapp Putsch https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/weimar-germany/kapp-putsch/</p> <p>Dictatorship vs Democracy https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/wjec/history/pdf/democracy_or_dictatorship.pdf</p> <p>Hyperinflation https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/weimar-germany/hyperinflation-and-weimar-germany/</p>	<p>1. Create a dictionary for this topic. Include all the key vocabulary, definition and use the word in a sentence.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1294 427 2123 770"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1294 427 1572 528">Key Word</th> <th data-bbox="1572 427 1848 528">Definition</th> <th data-bbox="1848 427 2123 528">Use the word in a sentence</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1294 528 1572 770"></td> <td data-bbox="1572 528 1848 770"></td> <td data-bbox="1848 528 2123 770"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. Write a newspaper article/blog explaining how democratic the new Weimar Constitution was.</p> <p>3. Write a newspaper article/blog criticising how undemocratic the new Weimar Constitution was.</p> <p>4. Research what happened during the Spartacist Uprising and the Kapp Putsch (think about key leaders, key locations, key motives. Key events)</p> <p>5. Explain how the Treaty of Versailles would make Germans very angry with the government (2 paragraphs).</p> <p>6. Create a mind map summarising key policies introduced by Stresemann to help Germany recover between 1923-1929.</p> 		Key Word	Definition	Use the word in a sentence			
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