

Knowledge organiser: The Weimar Republic, 1918-29

<p>After the First World War, it was thought that Germany could accept a new democratic constitution, but the challenges the Republic faced during the period of chaos, violence and economic instability called this into question. However, by the end of 1923 political and economic stability were being restored, and the period of prosperity lasted until 1929.</p>		Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words.	
		<p>January, 1919</p>	<p>The Spartacists, led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, attempted to overthrow Ebert and the Weimar government in order to create a Communist State. Ebert's army and the Berlin <i>Freikorps</i> put down the Spartacist Uprising.</p>	<p>Abdication</p>	<p>A leader, like a king, queen or emperor, giving up their throne or position</p>
<p>Summarise your learning</p>		<p>June, 1919</p>	<p>The Treaty of Versailles ending the First World War was signed.</p>	<p>Kaiser</p>	<p>The German emperor</p>
		<p>1920</p>	<p>The Kapp Putsch, led by Wolfgang Kapp, was an attempt to seize Berlin and form a new right-wing government.</p>	<p>Armistice</p>	<p>The ending of hostilities in a war</p>
<p>Topic 1: The origins of the Republic, 1918-1919</p>	<p>Following Kaiser Wilhelm's abdication Germany became a republic with a new democratic constitution. However, the constitution included several features that contributed to the instability, weakness and eventual downfall of the Weimar Republic, particularly proportional representation and Article 48.</p>	<p>1923</p>	<p>French and Belgium troops occupied the Ruhr when Germany again failed to pay reparations to both these countries. The German workers in the Ruhr went on strike as a protest against the invasion. The Government printed more money to pay the strikers a wage = hyperinflation.</p>	<p>Reichstag</p>	<p>German state parliament</p>
<p>Topic 2: The early challenges to the Weimar Republic, 1919-23</p>	<p>The five years after the First World War saw an attempted Communist revolution, political assassinations, putsches and massive inflation. Above all, Germans had to accept what they felt was a vindictive peace settlement - the Treaty of Versailles. However, by the end of 1923, political and economic stability were being restored to Germany.</p>	<p>1924-29</p>	<p>A period of economic recovery: Dawes Plan (1924); Locarno Pact (1925); League of Nations (1926); Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928); Young Plan (1929).</p>	<p>Coalition</p>	<p>A government of two or more political parties to ensure an overall majority</p>
<p>Topic 3: The recovery of the Republic, 1924-29</p>	<p>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. This seemed to encourage greater support for the Weimar Republic and less support or extremist parties such as the Nazis and Communists.</p>				
<p>Topic 4: Changes in society, 1924-29</p>	<p>The period between 1924 and 1929 is often described as a 'golden age' due to significant changes in culture, the standard of living and the position of women. Many welcomed these new ideas as they challenged tradition, however, others criticised these changes and believed that they weakened German society and values.</p>	<p>Who or what were these people/events?</p>		<p>Diktat</p>	<p>'Dictated peace' – linked to the Treaty of Versailles</p>
		<p>Friedrich Ebert</p>	<p>Leader of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and became the president of the new Weimar Republic.</p>	<p>Dolchstoss</p>	<p>'Stab in the back'</p>
		<p>Philipp Scheidemann</p>	<p>A leading member of the SPD and Chancellor of the new Republic.</p>	<p>Communist</p>	<p>A follow of the communist ideas of Karl Marx, who believed in state ownership.</p>
		<p>Gustav Stresemann</p>	<p>Foreign Secretary (1923-29) and Chancellor of Germany (August-November 1923). He was largely responsible for Germany's period of recovery.</p>	<p>Capitalism</p>	<p>An economic system in which the production and distribution of goods depend on private investment.</p>

