

GCSE History Topic 1: Germany 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship



Part 1: Germany and the growth of Democracy

Key dates	
1871	Germany becomes a new nation after defeating France
1888	Kaiser Wilhelm II becomes emperor of Germany.
1898	Naval race: German begins to compete with Britain's navy
1914	Outbreak of World War One
1918	Kaiser Wilhelm abdicates. First World War ends
1919	Spartacist revolt. Treaty of Versailles. Weimar constitution established
1920	FEB: Founding of Nazi party MAR: Kapp Putsch
1923	JAN: French and Belgian troops invade German industrial area – the Ruhr. Hyperinflation makes money worthless
1923	NOV: Munich Putsch. Hitler leads Nazi party to seize Government
1924	Gustav Stresemann becomes Foreign Minister. AUG: Dawes plan announced
1925	Hindenburg becomes President
1926	Germany joins League of Nations
1929	FEB: Young Plan OCT: Wall St crash

Key people	
	Kaiser Wilhelm II Emperor of Germany 1888-1918
	Friedrich Ebert Leader of the Social Democratic party and first President of Germany
	Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht Led the Spartacist revolt of 1919
	Gustav Stresemann Chancellor 1923 Foreign minister 1924-29
	Adolf Hitler Leader of the Nazi party and the Munich Putsch

Key Tier 3 vocabulary	
abdicate	Give up the throne of a country
armistice	A ceasefire after which terms of a treaty are negotiated
communism	System where all property is owned by the government; people are equal and are paid according to their needs
constitution	A set of rules by which a country is governed
Freikorps	Right-wing German paramilitary group in the late 1910s/20s
hyperinflation	Sudden, dramatic rise in prices
Mutiny	Rebellion by soldiers or sailors who refuse to take orders
Passive resistance	Protesting against government or laws by using no-violent acts
Proportional representation	Political system in which the number of politicians for a party is in proportion with the number of votes they win
Putsch	Attempt to seize power or take control by force
Reparations	Payments made by Germany to some of the winning nations of the First World War for the damage done by the fighting
Weimar Republic	Name given to Germany's democratic system between 1918 and 1933
Weltpolitik	Literally meaning 'world policy' this was the Kaisers plan to turn Germany into a global power

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Prior knowledge required:	Provides building blocks for:
- World War One - The interwar years - Primary sources and World War Two - The Holocaust, a case study	- GCSE: <i>Conflict and tension between East and West 1945-1972</i> - A level: <i>Britain 1930-1997 including; Churchill</i>

Guilt for the war (Germany had to accept blame 'for causing all the lost and damage of the war')

Armed forces (100,000 men, no tanks, subs, planes. Only 6 battleships. Conscription banned. Rhineland was demilitarised.)

Reparations (£6,600 million to pay in instalments until 1984)

Germany lost land (Saar to France, Polish Corridor, Colonies handed over to League of Nations, Demilitarise Rhineland, Anschluss (can't unite with Austria) & Danzig)

League of Nations (International committee but Germany banned from joining)



Penalties of the Treaty of Versailles, on Germany

What cross-curricular links can you make with this big picture enquiry question?

Key knowledge		
OVERVIEW:- This period study focuses on the development of Germany during a turbulent half century of change. It was a period of democracy and dictatorship – the development and collapse of democracy and the rise and fall of Nazism.		
KAISER WILHELM II AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF RULING GERMANY:- The growth of parliamentary government; the influence of Prussian militarism; industrialisation; social reform and the growth of socialism; the domestic importance of the Navy Laws		
IMPACT OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR:- War weariness, economic problems; defeat; the end of the monarchy; post-war problems including reparations, the occupation of the Ruhr and hyperinflation.		
WEIMAR DEMOCRACY:- Political change and unrest, 1919–1923, including Spartacists, Kapp Putsch and the Munich Putsch; the extent of recovery during the Stresemann era (1924– 1929): economic developments including the new currency, Dawes Plan and the Young Plan; the impact of international agreements on recovery; Weimar culture.		
Key historical skills		
Cause/consequence	Similarity/difference	Change/continuity
Significance	Sources	Interpretations