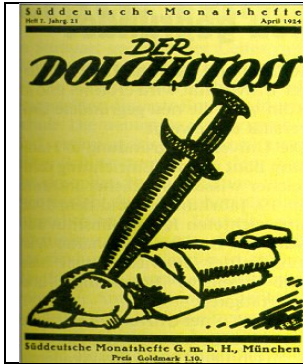


3 What Problems Faced the Weimar Government 1919–1923? - Notes



Name: _____

Date: _____

Ineffective Constitution

- The _____ did not create a strong government:
- **Article 48** of the constitution gave the President sole power in 'times of emergency' – something he took often.
- The system of _____ led to 28 parties. This made it virtually impossible to establish a majority in the _____, and led to frequent changes in the government. During 1919-33, there were _____
_____. This political chaos caused many to _____ in the new democratic system.
- The _____ was not fully under the government's control. It failed to support government during the _____ or the _____.
- Many government officials – especially _____ – were _____ and wanted to destroy the government. After the Kapp Putsch, 700 rebels were tried for treason; _____. After the Munich Putsch, Hitler went to prison for only _____

Left-wing Rebellions

- The Communist **KPD** hated the new government:
- In Jan 1919, 50,000 _____ rebelled in Berlin, led by _____

- In 1919, Communist _____ seized power all over Germany, and a Communist 'People's Government' took power in _____
- In 1920, after the failure of the Kapp Putsch, a paramilitary group called the _____ rebelled in the _____.

Right-wing terrorism

- Many right-wing groups hated the new government for signing the **Versailles Treaty**
- The _____: in March 1920, a _____ brigade rebelled against the Treaty, led by _____. It took over _____ and tried to bring back the _____.
- Nationalist terrorist groups murdered 356 politicians. In August 1921 Matthias **Erzberger**, the man who signed the armistice (and therefore a _____), was shot.

Invasion-Inflation: the crisis of 1923

- The cause of the trouble was _____ – the government paid them by _____, causing inflation. In January 1923, Germany failed to make a payment, and France invaded the _____. This humiliated the government, which ordered a _____, and paid the strikers _____.
- In Berlin on 1 October 1923, soldiers calling themselves **Black Reichswehr** rebelled, led by Bruno Buchrucker.
- The **Rhineland** declared independence (21–22 October)

Munich Putsch

- On 8–9 November 1923, _____ tried to take control of _____ (the _____).

Recovery and Prosperity - 1924 - 1929

1. Who was the Chancellor during these better times?
2. What was the Dawes Plan?
3. How did Foreign Relations “normalize” during this time? (Give Examples)
4. What was the purpose of the Locarno Treaties? (ie: collective security)
5. Why did the Nazis and the Communists make little progress with the German people during these years?

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Political Structure of the Weimar Republic

Reichstag

- *- elected by proportional representation, many parties
- *- passed laws, coalitions of parties necessary
- elected every 4 years, or when chancellor lost support of a working majority (explain similar to Canada)- elections called by the President
- elected from lists of candidates (proportional representation), lead to many parties
- all men and women over 20 have vote

Chancellor

- *- like a Prime Minister, had to negotiate support of enough members of Reichstag to pass legislation
- appointed by the President

President

- *- elected for 7 years, a bit like an elected Kaiser
- *- had the power to appoint and dismiss Chancellors
- power to call elections
- commander of armed forces
- could make treaties
- could use armed forces to force states into agreement
- *- under Article 48 of Weimar Constitution (suicide clause) could govern by decree in "emergencies" (art. 48 allowed the president to make laws submitted by cabinet, without the consent of Reichstag).

see DeMarco p. 88 John Heartfield montage, and other posters.