

Knowledge Organiser: Unit 3, Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 – 39.

Part 1: The Weimar Republic 1918 – 29.

Summary.

The Weimar Republic was the name given to Germany after the Kaiser had abdicated in November 1918. It was created out of the legacy of defeat. This was a time of despair and hope for Germany. At first, the country faced chaos but under Gustav Stresemann, there was some recovery and stability.

Key events.

1	1918 November. World War One ended. The Kaiser abdicated and Germany became a country with no monarchy (a republic).
2	1919 January. The Spartacists Uprising
3	1919 June. The signing of the treaty of Versailles.
4	1919 August. The Weimar Constitution is approved.
5	1920. The Kapp Putsch.
6	1923 October. The French occupation of the Ruhr which leads to hyperinflation.
7	1924. The Dawes Plan.
8	1925. The Locarno Pact
9	1926. Germany joins the League of Nations.
10	1928. Kellogg Briand Pact is signed.
11	1929. Young Plan agreed.

Key terms.

The **Weimar Republic faced much opposition**, It was disliked by the left wing who wanted Germany to be like Communist Russia and it was disliked by the right wing who wanted the monarchy back.

The **Treaty of Versailles** caused many problems for Germany. The German people disliked the politicians for signing it and it caused political problems and economic problems, particularly due to reparation payments.

Weimar Constitution was the most democratic constitution in the western world, providing fair representation for all. However, it also contained the means for its own destruction.

The Golden Age was the period from 1924-29 and it saw significant changes in culture, the standard of living and the position of women.

Key words

Abdication	When a monarch gives up the throne and all power.
Armistice	Agreement to end a war.
Article 48	The President could use this to ignore the Reichstag and rule as he saw fit
Coalition	A government of two or more political parties.
Constitution	Agreement about how the country should be ruled.
Dawes Plan	The USA agreed to loan money to Germany.
Diktat	Imposed peace treaty – no negotiation.
Freikorps	Ex-military soldiers who wish to overthrow the Republic
Hyperinflation	When money loses its value
Kaiser	King
Kellogg Briand Pact	65 countries agreed to resolve conflict peacefully.
Locarno Pact	An agreement about borders signed by Britain, France and Italy.
Proportional Representation	The number of votes won determines the number of seats they get in parliament.
Putsch	An attempt to seize power by force
Reichstag	German Parliament
Rentenmark	Currency of Germany after 1923
Reparations	Money to be paid to other states for the cost of the war
Republic	A country without a king or queen as head of state.
Treaty of Versailles	Peace settlement after World War One. It stated the terms of ending the First World War.
Weimar	The base for the new government.
Young Plan	Reparation payments cut and gave Germany longer to pay.

Key people.

Wilhelm	Kaiser of Germany. Abdicated in November 1918.
Ebert	1 st President of the Weimar Republic
Gustav Stresemann	Chancellor summer 1923. He helped to bring about economic recovery after 1924 by building relations with other countries.
Hindenburg	2 nd President of the Republic.

Concept: Interpretations