

## Constitution of Empire's Central Government

Emperor (Kaiser)

Chancellor

Bundesrat

Bundestag

Prussian military chiefs dominated army, legal system and Bundesrat



## Industrialisation

- Increased rural population in towns/cities
- Poorer working and living conditions ignored by Kaiser
- Shift from agricultural production to heavy industry

SDP grew in Reichstag as workers supported socialist policies - passed reforms to extend health & accident insurance, reduce child labour, introduce industrial arbitration courts

Military defeat - Treaty of Versailles limited Germany's armed forces and enforced heavy financial reparations

War weariness

Occupation of the Ruhr - French army occupied Ruhr after Germany couldn't pay reparations

Hyperinflation - extreme inflation caused by raw material shortages during workers' passive resistance

Impact of WW1



Food shortages - caused unrest

The German Revolution - led to Kaiser's abdication and new Weimar Government

## Opposition to Weimar

Left - KPD wanted communist state  
Right - wanted capitalism and to bring back Kaiser  
Freikorps - former soldiers made unemployed by Treaty of Versailles



## Weimar Culture

- Dada Movement
- Kammerspielfilm
- New Objectivity
- The Bauhaus school
- Famous films included Nosferatu (1922) and Phantom (1922)
- Albert Einstein worked in Germany (1920s)
- Jazz influence from US



Kellogg-Briand Pact - renounced war as a method of solving international disputes

# 1. THE GROWTH OF DEMOCRACY



Locarno Pact - agreed peace in Europe and guaranteed borders

## Spartacist Uprising 4th-15th Jan 1919

- Led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg (communist)
- 100,000 workers went on strike and demonstrated in Berlin
- Liebknecht & Luxemburg were arrested and brutally murdered by Freikorps



Naval expansion from 1898 - Weltpolitik & Navy Laws  
Caused budget deficit and debt but pleased Kaiser who wanted Germany to be a world power

League of Nations - Germany joined, seen as equal peacekeeping power to Allies

## Kapp Putsch March 1920

- The gov tried to disband the Freikorps
- 5,000 Freikorps marched on Berlin, captured Berlin and declare new gov lead by Wolfgang Kapp
- Ebert calls for general strike, Berlin at standstill and putsch collapsed after 4 days

Stresemann - Chancellor in Aug 1923, called off passive resistance in Ruhr, responsible for Rentenmark

The Rentenmark - New currency which was backed by gold and controlled by the national bank

Economic Recovery

The Young Plan - Agreement between Allies and Germany to cut reparations from £6.6 billion to £2 billion

The Dawes Plan - Agreement between Allies and Germany to reduce reparations to £50 million per year and USA loaned Germany \$25 billion

## Munich Putsch 8th-9th Nov 1923

- Hitler and SA marched on Munich but were betrayed by Kahr and Lossow
- Rebellion was defeated by Kahr's army reinforcements, Hitler arrested - wrote Mein Kampf in prison and made speech at televised trial

