

1. After the end of World War I in 1918 and the defeat of the German army, great unrest was to follow the government of Germany until the rise of Hitler to power in 1933. In typical style of nation's first suffered a humiliating defeat in war, there were citizens who were quick to take advantage of the weak new government in Germany, following the end of World War I in 1918, various political groups vied for power, both violently and nonviolently, until Hitler's ascent to dictator of Germany in 1933.

2. The start of a new government to give rise to many radical groups who were displeased with how the Weimar Republic was attempting to rebuild Germany. Clara Zetkin, a Communist member of the Reichstag, released an editorial titled "The Situation in Germany" in a Communist magazine in 1920. In it, she called the Weimar Republic a "bloody class terror" (Doc 3) in which the bourgeoisie sought to obtain "class dictators-hip" (Doc 3) as a Communist. We would expect Zetkin to brutalize any form of republican government, as part of Communist ideology is the dismantling of controlling government. In contrast to the radicalism of Communists, was the radicalism of the National Socialist Party, or Nazis. In 1921, Joseph Goebbels, Nazi party member and chief propagandist of the party, gave

3. a speech to Nazi party members, recasting the them in power Weimar Republic. In it, he described the National Socialist Party as "weapons of democracy" (Doc 7) who would destroy the ideology of the weak German government as a member of a radical political group. It is expected of Goebbels to speak out against a conservative government. Furthermore, radicalism, like various power-hungry groups. Ernst von Salomon, a former member of a Free Corps unit, felt that the new government was of poor leadership. In his 1930 novel "The Dawned" he questions "Where's Germany? In Weimar? In Berlin?" (Doc 8). He was left with no direction of a veteran of World War I, it would be considered water for him to have felt better and to have had nothing but radicalism left to turn to. Radical groups in Germany provided ~~the~~ a collecting ground for those discontent with Weimar government to bond together.

4. In stark contrast to the radical groups gaining power in Germany following 1918, were the conservative groups who sought peace. Ernst Troeltsch, a Protestant theologian and leader of the German Democratic Party, published "German Democracy in a 1917 program." Troeltsch called the new government a "natural consequence" (Doc 15) of

modern times and called for German industrialization into the league of nations. Treitschke claimed that Germany would soon have become a "volcano of industry" if ~~the~~ the nation did not become a democratic nation of the leader of the German Democratic Party, it is natural for him to call for such, as one of their ideals was surely moderate democracy. Furthermore, Max Juchacz, a representative of the Social Democratic Party also felt that the time was ready for social and democratic change. In a 1919 speech to the National Assembly, Juchacz championed that women would be able to do their potential through the "political equality" (Doc. 2) of voting, as a Social Democrat, he would expect her to say that because they wished to allow expanded suffrage (Continuing, Bernhard, Prince von Bismarck, Chancellor of Germany from 1871 to 1890) wrote members of the first World War, which were published in 1931. In the memoirs he called the ~~new~~ new German Republic a "cruel piece of self-deception" (Doc. 9). Though he was against the government, he did not advocate uprising and may thus be considered conservative. If the Chancellor, he would expect him to be against the new republic because he was the head of the old government.

Conservatives through they did not advocate social upheaval, rather they favored political opinions that caused social instability. If another group in Germany that split public opinion, were those who supported the republic. Carl von Ossietzky, a journalist, wrote "Defending the Republic: The Great Fashism" in 1921. In it, Ossietzky explains that the government is not meant to be loved, but is merely to be an administrative (Doc. 6). He ridicules the parties otherwise, saying they lack "better conscience" (Doc. 6) of a journalist, his opinion is natural because he is reporting on the happenings of daily life. In addition to Ossietzky's intolerance is Honor Mann's enthusiasm. In a 1927 speech to German university students, he champions the new German republic. He calls the republic, "Inhumanity... democracy... responsibility" (Doc. 4). If a novelist, he would obviously be more idealistic than others, and his unending expectations for the success of the republic is evident and expected. Honor Mann, novelist, and writer of "The German Decision" supported the republic if only to stop the spread of Nazism. In 1931, "The German Decision" called

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PRO 5-5

attention to Hitler's "psychological" stupidity of the German people. His opinion is that of a very naive moralist, and is to be expected because he wished for stability and order, and said that Hitler would not provide it. In summary, the very political parties that sought to maintain order, were the parties that allowed for total destruction of it. By splitting opinion, fascists were able to make the poor feel important and thus were responsible for total destruction. With Hitler's coming of power in 1933, the Berlin Republic crumbled and total chaos ensued.

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The main factors contributing to the instability of the Weimar Republic were fear of a rising proletariat class, confusion and uncertainty about what they want in a government and low morale resulting from the devastation of WWI.

Many Germans were afraid of the proletariat class becoming too powerful and therefore causing an imbalance in government in favor of a ~~minority~~ minority. Document 1 states that Germany is already a radical democracy and is concerned that it will go further and become a "dictatorship of the proletariat." This makes sense coming from a leader of the German Democratic Party, or someone who currently has power, because he is afraid that he would lose that power if there were a proletariat uprising. Document 5 also shows the impending threat of a proletariat uprising by depicting working class men marching with guns under the "Someday we'll get

also" as in someday proletarians will get even rights. Document 3 also illustrates the threat of proletariat revolution by saying that the only way to avoid monarchist militarism is a proletariat revolution. Clara Zetkin would advocate this because she is part of the communist party who is in favor of the working class and also if such a thing were successful, she would gain more power.

Confusion and uncertainty of the German people as to ~~what~~ their own goal added with their lack of motivation is another source of instability in the Weimar Republic. Document 6 states the lack of motivation shown by the German public in regards to the German Republic. It says the German Republic is not complete yet because the constitutional parties don't know where they want to go with it. Document 8 says that Germany has been through a lot and now nothing is getting done and nobody even knows what they want done. Ernst von Salomon

is probably addressing this issue because he is a WWI vet and has worked hard ~~for~~ for Germany ~~there~~ is and is disappointed to see that no one else is motivated to further its position.

Germany was left in ruins after WWI and its low morale took an effect on its people causing great instability in the Weimar Republic. Document 4 describes how horrible war is and how Germany needs to move beyond it. Because Thomas Mann is German, his opinion on war is probably so negative because of the horrible defeat Germany faced in its last war. Document 9 addresses how Germany has been conquered ~~over~~ time and time again and its current government is weak. Bernhard is most likely delivering this speech because he has a personal connection to Germany's

progress. He was chartered and is upset to see it left under such poor government after its devastating war. Document 10 says that Germany has lost its courage because of the greatness and doubtlessness of its enemy, now Germany people are left in such a horrible situation that they have lost hope.

To sum up, the Weimar Republic was unstable because of the threat of a proletarian uprising, impotential and ~~the~~ unsureness of German people, and horrible condition ~~and~~ Germany was left in after being defeated by their many great enemies. This instability led to Hitler's rise after WWI and then eventually to WWII.

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With opposing parties at its head, the Weimar Republic was unstable and therefore ideal for a takeover by a single party. Terror, rapid changes, and general mass confusion created a weak governing system that was doomed to fail.

As document 8 points out, the citizens of Germany did not know what to believe, all they knew was that a change was needed. Carl von Ossietzky wrote in "The Diary" that "Our republic is not yet an object of mass consciousness." The general public was left in the dark, unsure of which to follow, the Republic, the new Democrats, or the Communist Socialist party.

Document 1 shows another point of view. Ernst Troeltsch writes about the problems caused when decisions are rushed. He explains how Germany would remain chaotic, always at the edge of a civil war if a single party was not chosen, he also predicts that Germany "may become a volcano of misery" if a dictator comes to power. In many senses he is correct, Adolf Hitler's reign ended with another World War with millions killed. Thomas Mann agreed stating that democracy

was the only real way to humanity and freedom.

On the other hand, Communism rose in power with or without support. Joseph Goebbels from the National Socialist party said not only did they come to destroy the Weimar ideology, but that that came as enemies determined to win. Adolf Hitler even knew that the general people were wary of his party but his creative speaking and determination ultimately led to his ideas coming to be.

Communism rose through tactics of terror while the Democratic Party leaned towards help from the League of Nations. No government can successfully rule with such dissent ridded through out its' country. World War I left Germany in Shambles and it needed a strong government to pull it through the struggles that were a result. With two parties fighting for control the people had to pick and hope they had done so correctly. Like Weimar Republic's first chancellor said, the German people had not "won", they were simply reconquered.

