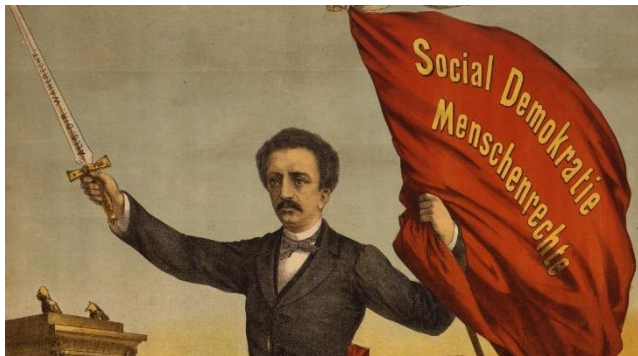


Kaiser Wilhelm- Industrialisation (before 1914)

- **INDUSTRIALISE**= grow industries and make the economy of the country stronger.
- Kaiser wanted to build up to challenge Britain and turn Germany in to global power (**Weltpolitik**)
- Funded by rich German businessmen and tried to improve the production of raw materials.
- By 1913= Germany producing more **iron and steel** than Britain. Producing the same number of **coal** as Britain.
- By 1914 Germany produced 2/3 of Europe's steel.
- Germany dominated in trading goods such as electrical goods and chemicals. Businessmen became **very very very rich!!!!!!** 😊
- Wanted industries to focus on building army up, especially the navy to challenge Britain.
- Introduced **Naval Laws** which saw Germany spend lots of money on building ships but borrowed a huge amount of money from US. **490 billion marks (DEBT BEFORE WW1)**



Kaiser Wilhelm- Rise of Socialism (before 1914)

- **SOCIALISM**= Wanted a fairer society where wealth is shared better amongst the country (**IT IS NOT COMMUNISM**)
- Workers start to demand better due to low wages and poor living/working conditions.
- Workers join **TRADE UNIONS** and then go on **STRIKE** to force the Kaiser's government to improve pay and conditions. 1914- **3 million workers in a union.**
- **SPD** were a new party that promised to improve things for the poor.
 1. The promoted socialism and trade unions.
 2. Wanted a system similar to Britain. So wanted Kaiser to **share his power** with the **Reichstag.**
 3. Wanted Kaiser to improve the pay of workers and remove positions of power from the factory owners.
 4. **33%** of Germans supported the SPD which concerned the Kaiser.

PROBLEM: Some were Communists in the SPD and wanted to revolt and kill the Kaiser and create a community-based country.

Kaiser **banned** them in 1890s, but this made the **SPD** more popular and concerned the Kaiser because he didn't know if the new support was more for Communists.

Naval Laws (Germany, 1898–1912)

Definition:

A series of laws introduced under Kaiser Wilhelm II to **expand and modernize the German Navy** aiming to increase Germany's influence and challenge Britain's naval power.

Purpose / Reasons:

- Establish Germany as a **global power** ("Weltpolitik")
- Compete with **Britain**, the world's leading naval power
- Strengthen **national pride** and **militarism**
- Support **colonial ambitions** and overseas trade

Key Features / Details:

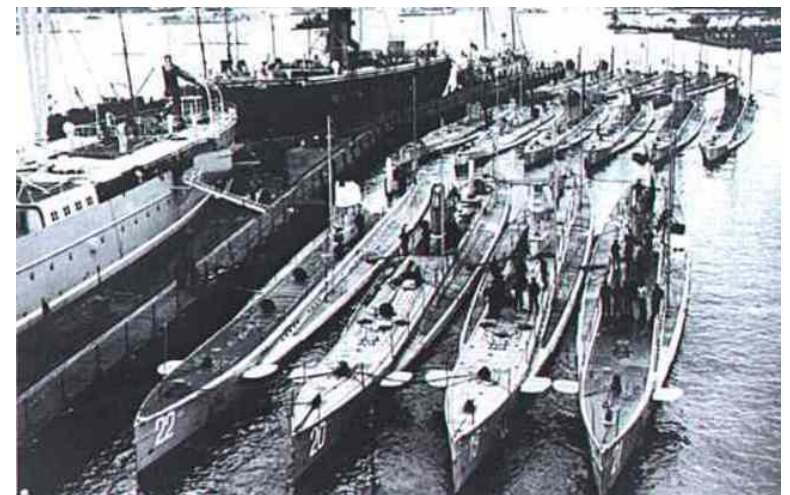
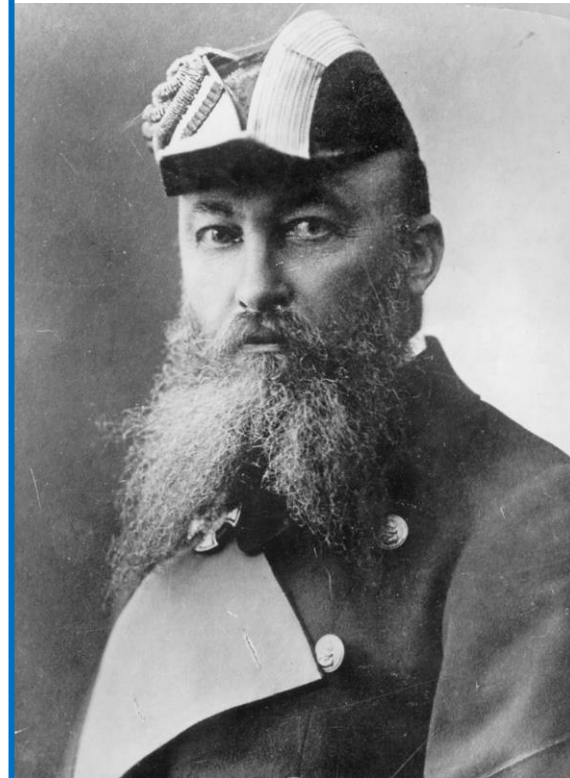
1. **Fleet Expansion:**
 - 1898 Naval Law: Plan for 19 battleships
 - 1900 Naval Law: Expanded fleet to 38 battleships
 - 1906 & 1912: Further expansions, including **modern dreadnoughts**
2. **Strategy:**
 - Build a "**Risk Fleet**" strong enough to **deter Britain**, not necessarily defeat it
 - Encourage Britain to **avoid conflict** due to high risk of losses
3. **Economic Impact:**
 - Expensive → funded through **taxes and government loans**
 - Stimulated shipbuilding industry

Consequences:

- **International:**
 - Triggered **naval arms race with Britain**
 - Increased tensions contributing to **WWI**
- **Domestic:**
 - Boosted **militarism** and the **power of the Kaiser**
 - National pride and support for navy grew
- **Military:**
 - German Navy became **modern and powerful**, but still smaller than Britain's fleet

Significance:

- Key example of **militarism and nationalism** in early 20th-century Germany
- Showed Germany's ambition for **global influence**



Impacts of WW1 DURING!

- In 1914, the **start of the war popular** and people felt **patriotic**
- The British started to **blockade German ports** so quickly led to huge food shortages due to Germany's landlocked position.
- Protesters started to come out and demand an end to the war in 1915.
- **Protests** started small with 500 people but soon grew to big demonstrations **outside the Bundesrat of 10,000 people.**
- Soldiers were getting tired on the frontline from constant bombing, gas attacks and machine gun fire. **Thousands of men were dying monthly** which started to decrease support for the war back in Germany.

- Germany started to become **politically weaker** due to the large protests.
- **Spanish flu** started to spread, and this killed more than it should have (**600,000**) due to immune weaknesses from poor diet. **Adults were only consuming 1,000 calories a day.**
- **Ludendorff** publicly saying that Germany cannot win the war and told the Kaiser to change. Came across as the army going against the Kaiser.
- Kaiser did hand some powers over, but when it did, it was too late as **revolutions were spreading across Germany.**

Impacts of WW1 AT THE END!

- Mutiny in **Kiel** where sailors were ordered to attack the British- they **REFUSED** and sunk the ships instead.
- **Soldiers** sent in to deal with the sailors but **joined them** instead, later joined by workers where they started to protest. A **communist based government was set up** all over the city.
- Protests started to spread across Germany, people felt betrayed, so the **Kaiser ran away as the army refused to support him.** His reign was over!!

- Germany was left in so much **debt** due to the large sums they had borrowed, **480 billion marks**, before the war had even started. They then **spent another \$39 billion during the war.**
- They borrowed money to Austria-Hungary, but their empire fell apart at the end of WW1, so Germany would never get this back.
- **War pensions** would cost the government **1/3 of its budget** due to the 600,000 war widows left over from dead men.
- **Factory owners made a huge amount of money** whilst **workers had their pay frozen.** This led to a **communist feeling growing** across Germany.
- **Women worked in factories** and people saw this as **damaging traditional values.** They were replaced by men once the war had ended, impacting the widows further.

Treaty of Versailles- what was agreed?

- Germany were not invited to the discussions for the ToV and were told they had to accept them or else they would be invaded!

1. Germany had to take full blame for the war and then must pay for it (**Reparations= £6.6 billion**)
2. Germany had to reduce its army to avoid them ever invading a nation again (**100,000 soldiers, 6 battleships, no Airforce; tanks or submarines**)
3. Germany had to **give over its colonies** from their Empire (mainly African colonies) **to the winners of war** (Britain and France gained massively from this)
4. Germany would give **Alsace-Lorraine to France**, the port of **Danzig to Poland** and give the Sudetenland to Czechoslovakia (**all lands had major industries and resources in them**).
5. Germany could never unite with Austria.
6. Germany was **never allowed to place troops on the Rhineland** as this bordered France.

Treaty of Versailles- German reactions?

- Germans **HATED** the Treaty of Versailles

1. **Too harsh**- Treaty took large amounts of land away from them. This put German citizens in the hands of foreign powers, lost them factories, farms and mines which reduced the economic output. This did not help Germany when they had large amounts of debt to pay off.
2. **DIKTAT**- they felt it was a dictated peace that was forced upon them. They believed this was a peace treaty and instead were treated like that had surrendered.
3. **Angry and humiliated**- they felt they never lost the war. Felt the new politicians had betrayed the country.
 - a. Some Germans, including soldiers, felt the Germans were more than prepared to carry on fighting.
 - b. Great war heroes like Hindenburg and Ludendorff said politicians were **stabbed in the back** by the new politicians= **November Criminals**.

New German constitution

Form of Government

- Germany became a **democratic republic** instead of a monarchy.
- Head of state: **President**, elected every 7 years.
- Head of government: **Chancellor**, responsible to the Reichstag (parliament).
- **Consequences & Significance:**
 - Shifted power from monarchy to elected representatives.
 - Strengthened democracy, but strong presidential powers could override parliament, creating potential for abuse.

Proportional Representation

- Seats in the **Reichstag** allocated according to **percentage of votes**.
- Allowed **small parties** to gain representation.
- **Consequences & Significance:**
 - Made the system more democratic and inclusive.
 - Led to **split parliaments** and **unstable coalition governments**, weakening political stability.

Civil Rights / Freedoms

- Guaranteed **freedom of speech, assembly, religion, and equality before the law**.
- Workers' rights: 8-hour workday, welfare support.
- **Consequences & Significance:**
 - Promoted **social reform and equality**, expanding rights for citizens.
 - Left extremists free to challenge the democratic system.

Article 48 – Emergency Powers

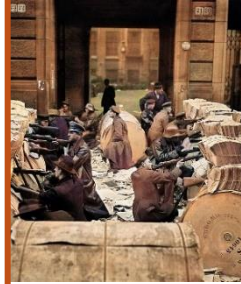
- Gave the **President power to rule by himself** in an **emergency** without parliament.
- **Consequences & Significance:**
 - Intended to protect the republic during crises.
 - Later exploited to **bypass democracy**, contributing to authoritarian rule and the eventual collapse of the Weimar Republic.

Political problems (1919-23)

- Most people unhappy with what was agreed at ToV because they felt betrayed, humiliated and dictated to (diktat)

First uprising: Spartacist revolt (1919)

1. Led by Rosa Luxembour and Karl Liebknecht.
2. A communist revolt inspired by Spartacus freeing slaves and the Russian Civil War.
3. Storm the streets, and fight the city guards across the country and seize buildings. They put up Communist Red flags all over the buildings.
4. President Ebert sent 5,000 Freikorps (ex-soldiers) and provided them with guns to defeat communists.
5. Communists were beaten, Luxembour and Liebknecht were killed and Communist support decreased and they never got this back.



Political problems (1919-23)

Second uprising: Kapp Putsch (1920)

1. Led by Wolfgang Kapp
2. Right-wing revolt that was in response to the ToV and the November Criminals.
3. Had the support of the Freikorps who used the weapons given to them by Ebert to try and get control of Berlin.
4. Ebert tried to send the army in but they refused to fight because they used to fight along side each other and refused to kill each other. Ebert then ran away.
5. Kapp took power for 5 days and in response Ebert told the public to go on strike- THEY DID THIS!!!
6. Strike led to no water, no electricity and no food so people protest and Kapp loses control.
7. Kapp runs away, is hunted down and killed.
8. People went on strike because they were fed up of revolts and no stability- Ebert would give them



Political problems (1919-23)

- Most people unhappy with what was agreed at ToV because they felt betrayed, humiliated and dictated to (diktat)

Political assassinations:

1. Right wing groups aimed to kill key people who signed the Treaty of Versailles (November Criminals).
2. 350 politicians assassinated- half of the members in the Reichstag.
3. Matthias Erzberger- Signed the armistice (end of war document) in 1918.
4. Walter Rathenau= Shot dead and he was the foreign minister.
5. Phillipp Scheidemann- acid thrown into his face; he was a member of the government who set up the new Weimar state.

Most assassins were given a few years in prison (4 years avg, showing judges dislike of new political system.



Political problems (1919-23)

THIRD uprising: Munich Putsch (1923)

Causes:

- Economic crisis: **Hyperinflation** ruined savings and angered the middle class.
- Political dissatisfaction: Weak Weimar Government seen as ineffective.

Arrested and Imprisoned:

- **Hitler and Ludendorff were arrested**; temporarily removed from political leadership.
- Publicly humiliated, showing the failure of violent revolt.

Party Banned:

- **Nazi Party banned; could not participate in elections** or officially influence politics.
- Loss of momentum and immediate political influence.

Loss of Life & Bad Public Image:

- **16 Nazis were shot** during the Putsch.
- Made the party look like a **reckless, violent revolutionary group** rather than a serious political force.
- Many Germans were **fed-up with armed revolt**.

Positive Impacts for Hitler and the Nazis:

- **Publicity**: Hitler became a household name; speeches widely covered in newspapers.
- **Prison Time**: Served 9 months; wrote Mein Kampf, spreading his ideology.
- **Party Reorganisation**: Learned power could not be seized by force; established local party offices to engage the public.
- **S.A. Recruitment**: Young men joined, providing energy for future growth.
- **Propaganda**: Joseph Goebbels started spreading Nazi ideas and listening to local anger.





Ruhr Crisis

- Germany could not afford to pay their annual payment of the £6.6 billion total for 1922 as they had only managed to scrape together for 1921.
- **France and Belgium** ignored German concerns and **invaded the Ruhr** to take what they were owed **in January 1923**.
- They **took control of every factory, mine and railway** and then took food and goods from the shops to get the money they were owed.
- German government encouraged workers not to fight but to go on strike instead. The government knew they wouldn't strike without offering to pay them to stay off work. This is known as **passive resistance**.
- 100 strikers were killed by the French and 20,000 chucked out of their homes.
- The striking workers had more time to spend their money, which led to a demand for higher wages.
- **Government quickly ran out of money, so started to print money off with no gold to back this up.** As a result, prices rose rapidly and out of control (**hyperinflation**)



Negative impacts of hyperinflation

- As prices went up, the government just printed more money to help people- but this then led to prices rising even faster.
- People had to be **paid twice a day** and carried their wages around in wheelbarrows. The money in the wheelbarrow wasn't enough to buy decent food.
- **People stole wheelbarrows as they were worth more** than the money inside of it.
- Price of goods rose that quickly; you could join a queue and not afford the item once you were at the front of the queue. **201 billion for a loaf of bread; 6 trillion for butter and 32 trillion for shoes.**
- People **lost support in the government** and questioned how democracy had actually improved their lives. Their saving had become worthless and **people started to look for more radical ideas.**
- People used their money to light fires, make kites with and people lost all their life savings. Pensions did not go up with inflation leaving the elderly extremely poor and needing to go back to work.

Positive impacts of hyperinflation

- People who had borrowed money prior to hyperinflation found it easy to pay off their debts. **Any items on a fixed rate** (mortgages, cattle loads) **could pay this off easily.**
- If someone had got a **fixed loan** of 10,000 marks in 1920, it **would stay** at 10,000 marks in 1923 **even if that meant very little.**
- **The rich could invest their money in foreign countries** to keep their money safe, and in some cases, increased the value against stronger foreign currencies.
- People who had **hoarded goods, or had a skilled trade, would demand higher payment for these** which meant they benefited from the rising costs.