

# Prior knowledge check

Create a mind map of everything you know about Germany and what life was like in Nazi Germany.



Tuesday, 15 December 2020



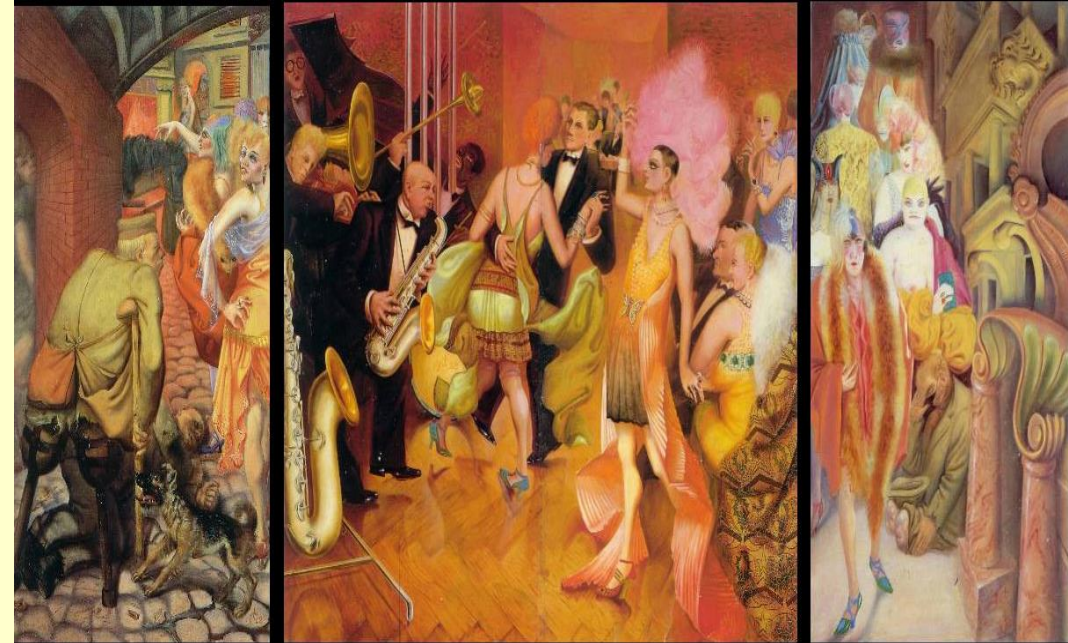
Rastrick  
High School

## Was Germany in the 20s really a 'Golden Age'?

### Learning Outcomes

You will:

- **Describe** what changes occurred in Germany in 1920s.
- **Sort** these changes into positive and negative.
- **Analyse** the reactions of ordinary Germans to these changes.



**Year 9 History**

# Was Germany in the 20s really a 'Golden Age'?

The 1920s were a difficult and unstable time for Germany. As well as having to come to terms with the Treaty of Versailles' punishments, it was a time of invasion, economic decline, putsches (rebellions) but also a huge growth in cultural freedoms and political rights. Given the vast changes and improvements towards the end of the 1920s it is sometimes referred to as Germany's Golden Age. But was it? And did all Germans welcome these changes.

**TASK:** What do you think a 'Golden Age' is? Research the definition for a Golden Age.

**Challenge:** Can you remember any other 'Golden Ages' you may have studied in previous years?



# Describe what changes occurred in Germany in 1920s

## Task:

Using slides 5-15.

1. Copy the Title of the slide as a subheading. E.g. 1) Growth in Democracy and Rights. Then BRIEFLY summarise each what that change was in no more than 25 words. (Do not copy it out).

2. Divide your page into two with Positives and Negatives on either side.

- Decide which change was positive and which was negative.

List the subheadings only.

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>
1	2



# 1) Growth in Democracy and Rights

- Prior to the 1920s Germany was ruled by one man; Kaiser Wilhelm II.
- But after being defeated during World War One he fled into exile and was replaced by the **democratic** Weimar government.
- All Germans over the age of 20 could vote, a system of voting called **proportional representation** was introduced where each party was given seats in parliament equal to their vote (20% of the vote = 20% of the seats)
- The Chancellor (leader) needed support of half of the Reichstag ( German Parliament) to do anything.



## 2) Munich Putsch

- In 1923 Germany was having economic problems and many German's were angry and frustrated with the Government. This led to some rebellions taking place.
- Adolf Hitler and a group of followers tried to launch a rebellion in the city of Munich by storming a local government meeting and demanding power.
- Fighting took place with government forces facing off against Nazi Party storm troopers.  
16 Nazis were killed, and the rebellion ended in defeat.
- Hitler was arrested and put into prison.



## 3) Invasion of the Ruhr

- The Treaty of Versailles forced Germany to pay reparations to the winning countries (132 billion marks).
- In 1922, because of the poor economy, Germany was unable to pay these reparations.
- As punishment, French and Belgian troops marched into the Ruhr, a rich and industrial area of Germany that was responsible for much of Germany's production.
- This led German workers to lose money and the German economy to crash.



## 4) Treaty of Versailles

- Although signed and brought into force in 1919 the Treaty had a significant impact on Germany during the 1920s.
- Germany's military was massively reduced, their empire and land seized and were left humiliated.
- It also forced them into debt as they had to pay reparations to the victors.
- This angered many German's who felt that their leaders had betrayed them when signing it.





## 5) Dawes Plan

- In order to help the struggling German economy, the American Vice-President Charles Dawes agreed to loan Germany over 800 million gold marks in 1924.
- This meant Germany could start to pay back the reparations, and restart their economy.
- This led to the French and Belgian troops leaving the Ruhr.



## 6) Political Instability and Uprisings

- In the early 1920s while Germany was suffering through economic hardship there were a series of uprisings, rebellions and political assassinations.
- Two main rebel groups formed: A left wing communist group called the Spartacus League and a right-wing group called the Free Corps. Both were involved in violent and deadly clashes with each other and the Weimar government.
- This created a climate of fear that other groups tried to capitalise on. One such group was Adolf Hitler's Nazi party.



# 7) Young Plan

- In 1929 there was another plan agreed on between Germany and America that expanded on the earlier Dawes Plan (1924).
- This new plan, allowed Germany to reduce the amount of reparations they had to pay from £6.6 billion to £2.2 billion.
- It also included a plan to reschedule when Germany had to pay their debt back giving them longer to pay them back.



## 8) Germany's Cultural Revival

- The 1920s was a golden age for German cinema.
- Some of Germany's cinema stars, such as Marlene Dietrich, became famous worldwide and received many awards and increased Germany's reputation abroad.
- Films and music in the cinema was very new and exciting and included topics such as sex which would have been banned during the Kaiser's days.



## 9) Economic Decline 1920 - 1924

- In the early 1920s Germany's economy was severely damaged and it struggled to keep up with reparation payments.
- As a result of this, and the invasion of the Ruhr there were disastrous repercussions.
- German wages and while prices massively increased but the money was worthless because Germany had no goods to sell to other countries.
- It was so bad that at one-point, German workers were being paid with wheelbarrows full of money and bread was costing 201 billion marks.



# 10) Bauhaus Movement

- The Bauhaus Movement was a group of designers, artists and architects that produced exciting new designs and buildings.
- The first exhibition attracted 15,000 visitors and received interest from all over the world, highlighting Germany as a cultural leader.
- These new designs moved away from the old, traditional designs and styles of Germany which some liked, but others rejected.



# Analyse the reactions of ordinary Germans to these changes.

## TASK:

1) Which of the 10 changes would you say is Germany's biggest problem/success and why? **There is no right or wrong answer. Your judgement is valid so long as it includes evidence from your summaries.**

2) How do you think German people would react to these vast changes in their country? Give two words to describe their reaction.

## Challenge:

Now Label each issue as Social, Political, Economic or Cultural. Use the key to help you understand the definitions.

**Social** = Changes that concern the people and their lives.

**Political** = Changes that involve how the country is run and who is in charge.

**Economic** = Changes that involve the economy and what Germany can produce/sell.

**Cultural** = Changes that impact Germany's culture. (What it's people do in their spare time)



# Were all Germans happy?



What is an interpretation?

**Task:** Copy down this definition: *An interpretation is someone's point of view of an event or experience that happened in the past.*

For example: **Leeds United were by far the superior side against West Brom and would have secured victory and all three points if it wasn't for the actions of the referee who was awful.**

**Interpretation A:** A letter written by Professor Willy Maillard of the Berlin School of Art, to the Nazi Minister of Science and Art in 1933 about the changes that happened to German art during the 1920s.

"In recent years, developments in art have led to chaos. The ideas that have been forced on German art must be taken care of, everything that goes against government power must be thrown out..."

**Task:** Does this interpretation show German people like or dislike the changes in Germany? How do you know? Quote the source and explain in 1 PEEL paragraph.





# Plenary

1

Give me a positive change that happened during the 1920s.

2

Give me a negative change the happened during the 1920s.

3

Give me one reason why German people wouldn't like the changes.

