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I. Letter from the Secretary General

Esteemed Delegates,

I would like to welcome you all to JTMUN'24, and tell you that I am more than honoured to see all of you in the conference. I am Berat Burak Okyar, the Secretary General of this conference, and I am a sophomore in Jale Tezer Private High School.

When I first started to attend Model United Nations conferences, I realised that it is extremely important for one to know what MUN is. MUN gives conscience to the person; regarding global issues, wars, human rights violations, and so much more. Therefore, I believe that this committee will help you understand new ways of thinking, and will make you open to out of the box ideas.

During the process of preparing for this conference, we had both fun and hard times, but when we thought of the final version, where people from different schools and ages come together for a collective better world idea, all the hard times passed through.

I would like to thank every single one of the people, starting from the Executive Team, who helped us to make this conference possible. I would also like to thank our English instructors, who had always been there when we needed them.

I really hope that all of you have great experiences in these 3 days, and I will be glad to answer any questions you might have during the conference. You can come to me for any of your concerns.

You can ask any question of yours before, during, or after the conference; feel free to send an email to beratburakokyar@gmail.com. I hope that you enjoy and learn new things in the conference.

Yours Sincerely,
Berat Burak Okyar,
Secretary General of JTMUN'24.

II. Letter from the Deputy Secretary General

Letter from the Deputy Secretary-General

Honourable Delegates,

I greet you all with my most sincere feelings. I am Mehmet Ege Arpağ. I am a sophomore in Jale Tezer Private High School. I will take part as the Deputy Secretary-General of JTMUN held this year. I am honored enough not to be described in words, not to fit in lines.

In this conference, we aimed to provide you with an extraordinary academic experience, new friendships, a new angle to look at the world and unlimited opportunities. For the sake of this purpose, our academic team has written finely detailed study guides in an extremely short period of time. For their unbelievable efforts I would like to state my deepest gratitude.

I would like to emphasize the importance of these study guides. It is critical that you read these study guides so that you can participate effectively, accurately and actively during these 3 days ahead of you. Also you may need a deeper research if you see it necessary.

May this conference be productive, entertaining, educational and memorable for everyone.

Sincerely,

Mehmet Ege Arpağ

Deputy Secretary-General

III. Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Most Honorable Ministers,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you into this Historical Crisis Committee where we will be simulating the Cabinet of Ministers of the Weimar Republic, at a time perhaps most tumultuous in German history. I, Ali Mete Çavdar, will be your under-secretary general for the duration of the committee, and I, along with my Academic Assistant, Erdem Alp Ünal, who I would like to wholeheartedly thank for his efforts in the preparation of this committee, have, and will be working hard to provide you with the most realistic and thrilling experience that we can. Throughout this committee, you will be at the helm of a nation bedridden with crises and issues, and at times, a nation that has, and will be on the brink of collapse. Your goal? Survival. You are expected to make sure that your beloved (hopefully) nation does not fall to the hands of political extremists, or worse, foreign powers. They will try to knock you down, beat you, and stand over you, and *you, you shall resist*. I genuinely hope that you will have fun attending this committee, as we have worked quite hard, and researched as much as we could to provide you with the most comprehensive and realistic committee that we could under the circumstances offered to us. If you have any questions, you may always contact me at my email address below, and finally, good luck, I hope you enjoy this guide.

Kind Regards,

Ali Mete Çavdar

Under-Secretary General

meteokulcavdar@gmail.com

IV. Letter From the Academic Assistant

Dear participants of the Jale Tezer Model United Nations Conference, and the Historical Crisis Committee,

I am your Academic Assistant Erdem Alp Ünal, and I truly feel honoured writing this letter. I am a high school student studying in TED Ankara College, and I have been attending many MUN conferences for a few years, yet, this conference will always hold a special place in my heart since it is my first experience as an Academic Assistant. When Mete, whom I must thank deeply, came to me asking if I would be interested in making a committee for the Weimar Republic, in such an organization, I felt delighted, as the interwar period for Germany was rough times. Nonetheless, it shaped and redirected the course of history and had a crucial role in molding the way we know Germany as today. Therefore, you, as the delegates of the committee, or more appropriately the Representatives of the Cabinet of People's Representatives, will have the chance to pick up what is left from this shattered nation and build it into your own free, yet quite complex puzzle, constructing your very own republic right from the scratch. I hope that with the help of my dear Under-Secretary General, Mete, this committee can provide all of you an enjoyable reenactment of one of, if not the most crucial sections in German history. I wish you all a fruitful 3 days as the Representatives of the Cabinet of People's Representatives.

Erdem Alp Ünal

Academic Assistant of the Historical Crisis Committee

1. Introduction

The Weimar Republic is a constitutional federal republic formed in place of the German Empire on 9th of November 1918¹. During the the Great War², the German Empire had lost much of its manpower, faced malnutrition, and many strike attempts. Due to such unrest within, Germany had lost its chance of succeeding at any military offensives. Furthermore, with the abdication of Wilhelm II³, some form of change was inevitably needed. Thus, deriving from the city of Weimar, the Weimar Republic was established. Nonetheless, the Weimar Republic still had to face the grave problems caused by the downfall of the German Empire in the Great War, such as hyperinflation, political extremism and many other ethnic crises. Coming from a very dark time in German history, any decision made by the Weimar Republic would greatly alter the course of history due to the susceptible nature of Germany during the interwar years. Yet, it still had many questions left unanswered: How would the Far-Left uprisings be halted? What would be the clauses of the peace treaty? How could hyperinflation be resolved? How could the war reparations be paid? The Weimar Republic as we know it today, has lasted from 1918 to 1933 where it has greatly influenced the political balances within the European countries and left its spot on history.

¹ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. (n.d.-b). United States holocaust memorial museum. <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-weimar-republic>

² United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. (n.d.-a). United States holocaust memorial museum. <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/world-war-i-and-its-aftermath-key-dates?parent=en%2F35>

³ The aftermath of the First World War. The Kaiser abdicates – The Holocaust Explained: Designed for schools. (n.d.). <https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/the-nazi-rise-to-power/the-effects-of-the-first-world-war-on-germany/the-kaiser-abdicates/>

2. Historical Information Regarding the Weimar Republic

In order to successfully understand the intricacies regarding the Cabinet of Ministers, one must first understand how the Weimar Republic was conceived as it stood on 13 February 1919. This section will thus aim to provide a short, but comprehensive summary of the events that led up to the end of the German Empire, and the creation of the Weimar Republic. The history regarding the Republic is so vital, as most events that led up to the creation of Weimar Germany would directly influence its future, and thus, if one successfully understands the history behind the Weimar Republic, they will have a much easier time dealing with the crises that the young republic would, and will face soon after its creation.

a. The Great War and its Aftermath on the German Empire

The Great War, or in contemporary terms, the First World War, was the most destructive war that Europe had ever faced up to that point. The Great War was a war of many “firsts”, as in that it saw the pioneering of many new strategies and technologies which would have horrifying consequences on the eventual death toll of the war. Most importantly, the Great War saw the wide-spread use of trench warfare.⁴ Trench warfare refers to a type of warfare where soldiers generally stand in, and fight from, stationary fortifications, often very complex and well-built, called trenches. This type of warfare makes defending strategic positions during battle much easier than in earlier types of battles, since soldiers would have to leave their trenches and lead attacks towards enemy trenches if they wished to gain ground. This basically creates a warfare environment where offensives are extremely costly for the attackers, in terms of equipment, and more importantly, in terms of manpower. Every

⁴ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. “Trench Warfare.” In *Encyclopedia Britannica*, December 6, 2017. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/trench-warfare>.

offensive would guarantee thousands of lost lives, usually to gain a mere few meters of ground. Since the German Empire was usually the side to execute offensives, this meant thousands of German deaths would occur for extremely small gains in France and Belgium. This would lead both to the demoralization of German troops as the war started to look increasingly unwinnable and as the realities of trench warfare set in. This is all in addition to the fact that trenches were often very poorly sanitized, and disease was common and spread very quickly throughout trenches, leading to many more deaths. During the Great War, Germany suffered a higher number of deaths than any other belligerent, with 1,773,700 deaths, followed only by the Russian Empire, which had an extremely backwards and outdated army, and performed generally very poorly during the war.⁵

In addition to all this, Germany did almost all of the heavy-lifting of the Central Powers. Germany's allies during the Great War consisted of Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria. While all of these countries fought valiantly during the war, Austria-Hungary was an ethnically and politically unstable empire that had passed its prime decades, perhaps centuries ago, with an outdated army, and lacking industry; the Ottoman Empire, dubbed "the sick man of Europe" had little-to-no industry, an extremely outdated army and political system, and ruled over lands that were brewing with ethnic conflict; and finally, Bulgaria actually performed much better than expected during the war, but in the end, Bulgaria was still a small and relatively young state in the Balkans that couldn't exactly change the fate of the conflict. This left Germany as the only country in the Central Powers with an actually powerful industry. To showcase this, we can look at the steel production in the Central Powers at the outbreak of the war, which is a common metric used to measure

⁵ Royde-Smith, John Graham, and Dennis E Showalter. "World War I - Killed, Wounded, and Missing." In *Encyclopedia Britannica*, January 9, 2019.
<https://www.britannica.com/event/World-War-I/Killed-wounded-and-missing>.

industrial capacity and output. In 1913, Germany produced 17.6 million metric tons of crude steel, while Austria-Hungary, the second largest economy in the Central Powers, produced 2.6 million metric tons.⁶ All of this, in addition to the fact that the Central Powers had to fight a two-front war, with France and Belgium in the west, and Russia in the east, meant that Germany had to stretch its army, and more importantly, economy, to extreme extents. During the war, about 80% of all industrial workers worked in some type of facility that related to wartime production, as opposed to civilian goods. In addition, most raw materials were dedicated away from civilian production, and towards wartime goods such as weapons and ammunition. Also, the mobilization and conscription of able-bodied men to the military meant a significant worker shortage also arose during the war, as skilled and highly needed workers were called to serve in the military. While steps were taken to alleviate this shortage, Germany's industrial workforce took a very significant hit nonetheless, which would go on to affect it all the way until the end of the war, and afterwards, would lead to the Weimar Republic having a weak, unstable, and exhausted economy.⁷

Furthermore, it is vital to mention the blockade that was imposed upon the German Empire predominantly by the British Empire throughout the length of the conflict to understand how seriously Germany was affected by the war by its end. The Allied Powers had almost decisive control of the seas at the outbreak of the Great War, thanks to the fact that the combined British and French navies were powerful enough to outclass the navies of the Central Powers by an almost 2:1 ratio. This naval supremacy was quickly utilized by the

⁶ Statista. "Steel Output of Axis European Countries 1900-1945," n.d.
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1286636/crude-steel-production-axis-europe-1900-1945-country/>.

⁷ Ullmann, Hans-Peter. "Organization of War Economies (Germany) / 1.0 / Handbook - 1914-1918-Online (WW1) Encyclopedia." 1914-1918-Online (WW1) Encyclopedia, July 11, 2024.
https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/organization-of-war-economies-germany/#toc_restructuring_of_production.

Allies to impose a blockade on the Central Powers, which would mean that any material that was required to be traded overseas, would practically be impossible to obtain. While this did create problems regarding things like weapons production at first, the Central Powers were quick to find substitutes for most materials that they could not obtain. However, what they could not find a substitute for, was food. Germany was dependent on external trade for satisfying its food needs before the war, but this fact, coupled with the fact that German food production policy was generally poorly managed during the war meant that Germany faced severe food shortages during the later stages of the war. During the war, between 478,500 and 800,000 civilians died as a result of diseases stemming from hunger and malnutrition. Worst of all, even after the signing of the Armistice of Compiègne, which ended hostilities in the Western Front, the blockade was not lifted, as the Allies demanded a peace deal be signed before removing their blockade. This means that the Germany that the Cabinet of Ministers will rule over is one that is still hungry, and one where the people would not be hesitant to take to the streets in search of food.

In conclusion, the Great War birthed a Germany whose army was shattered, fighting in meaningless battles for no gain, while the German economy's state deteriorated day by day, and the German people could not put food on the table. The Great War was, to put it lightly, simply too great for Germany. Even with its powerful, large army, and gargantuan industry, Germany and her mostly incompetent allies could not bear the force that was the Allied Powers.

b. Collapse of the German Empire

The conditions that had been created in Germany as a result of the Great War left much of the German public in want of an end to the war. Seeing as the imperial government,

and in some parts the German military high command had no intention to end the war until the utmost capitulation of Germany, a large number of people started associating themselves with left-leaning political parties such as the *Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands* (SPD). In addition to this, every single one of Germany's allies had signed armistices with the Allies by 3 November 1918, leaving Germany alone and cornered on all sides. This, along with continuous Allied advances in the Western Front, led Kaiser Wilhelm II, along with all German nobility to abdicate their positions within the empire. This may thus be considered the end of the existence, or collapse of the monarchical German Empire.⁸

c. The November Revolution

The November Revolution, or German Revolution was a series of left-wing political revolts within Germany that would eventually lead to the declaration of the Weimar Republic and mold it into the form that it would be known for. The November Revolution started out as a sailors' mutiny in the ports of Kiel and Wilhelmshaven. After having been given an order to provoke a battle with the British Grand Fleet, sailors of the Imperial German Surface Navy refused, reasoning that such an attack would jeopardize negotiations between the British and Germans. Several hundreds of mutineers were arrested, however, this only led to growing protests by the sailors, where during a march protesting the mutineers arrest, 9 protestors were shot and killed by German soldiers. While the central government tried to cool the situation down, a "workers' and soldiers' council" (a left-wing revolutionary council which had its members directly elected by soldiers and citizens in the region where it was located) had already been established in Kiel, which intended to spread the revolution to nearby cities.

⁸ Encyclopedia Britannica. "German Empire - the Last Year of the German Empire." Accessed December 2, 2024.
<https://www.britannica.com/place/German-Empire/The-last-year-of-the-German-Empire>.

The revolution was successfully spread to nearby coastal cities, and workers' and soldiers' councils had been established in cities as far as Munich. The revolutionaries quickly occupied important government buildings such as city halls, and took over crucial pieces of infrastructure such as railway stations. However, the left-wing November Revolution didn't have any large effects on the more conservative and militaristic Eastern Germany. Fearing an all-out revolution similar to the one that was occurring in Russia, the leader of the SPD, Friedrich Ebert, met with Chancellor Prince Max of Baden, who unconstitutionally handed the chancellorship of Germany to Ebert. Ebert quickly called for the public to "Leave the streets", however at this point, such a call was too late, as the protestors sustained their demonstrations. At this point, what could be considered the first stage of the revolution was complete, power had been shifted from the Emperor to the left, and the German Empire was gone in all but name.

At this point, the revolution took a different turn, as it shifted away from the left-wing attempting to take power from the imperial government, to deciding upon how the new Germany would be moulded. Regarding this issue, there existed two main sides: the SPD, who argued for a parliamentary moderate left-wing republic and government, and the *Unabhängige Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands* (USPD), which was significantly more radical in its beliefs, and argued for the creation of socialist republic. During the first stage of the revolution, the two parties had worked together, however, they would slowly drift apart as the revolution progressed. When Philipp Scheidemann of the SPD learned of Karl Liebknecht of the Spartacus League (a far left marxist organization)'s to proclaim a socialist republic, Scheidemann spontaneously stepped onto a window of the *Reichstag* (the German parliament) and proclaimed the creation of a republic, 4 hours later, Liebknecht proclaimed the creation of a socialist republic. These proclamations would lead into what could be called

the second stage of the revolution, where the SPD-USPD government would fight to defeat the far-left and consolidate power. At this point, a revolutionary interim government would be created to consolidate power and to protect Ebert's republic, dubbed the Council of People's Deputies. The Council would be made up of 3 members of the SPD and 3 members of the USPD, and would aim to provide a smooth transition into a parliamentary republic, and stabilize the country. At this point, the Armistice of Compiègne would also be accepted and signed by the new government.⁹

d. The Council of the People's Deputies

The Council of the People's Deputies main aims were to stabilize the republic, and remove the threats imposed upon it by Liebknecht and the Spartacists' socialist republic. Additionally, they intended to rule over a period where a constitution for the Weimar Republic would be drafted, as the old German Empire's constitution was seen as inadequate for the democratic republic that Ebert envisioned to create. They additionally presided over a series of reforms that aimed to liberalize and democratize Germany. These included labour regulations, such as imposing an 8-hour-work-week, and social reforms, such as enacting universal suffrage for all adults over the age of 20, which, for the time, was an extremely progressive piece of legislation, as women were not allowed to vote in most countries. The Council also presided over a series of nationalisations, which saw many private companies, especially in the coal industry, turned over to the state. This was all in addition to the Council supporting the empowerment of worker's unions, creating a period in German history where the country saw general left-wing reforms, as per the "revolution".

⁹ "HISTORICAL EXHIBITION PRESENTED by the GERMAN BUNDESTAG," March 2006.

https://www.bundestag.de/resource/blob/189772/8b9e17bd8d64e64c8e3a95fc2305e132/november_revolution-data.pdf.

However, apart from the reforms enacted, the period in which the Council was the main governing force of Weimar Germany also saw conflict with far-left elements within the country, especially with the Spartacists. While Ebert's government in-fact also embraced a left-leaning ideology, in the end, it aimed to create a moderate-dominated political environment, much like the democracies in France and Britain. The Spartacists, on the other hand, called for the creation of a full-on council republic, like the one that was being established by the Bolsheviks in place of the Russian Empire. This culminated in the Spartacist uprising which saw the killings of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, two prominent figures of the far-left. Since the Spartacist uprising will already be discussed in detail in further sections, knowing that it was successfully put down by pro-government forces is enough for this section. The period also saw right-wing uprisings, with the main one being a putsch(coup) attempt that was attempted by the *Volkmaredivision*, a part of the little German navy that was left after the Great War. The sailors demanded that Ebert accept near-dictatorial powers in place of the Council, occupied the *Reichchancellery*, and placed members of the Council under house arrest for a period of time. As a result of these events, Council members who aligned with the USPD resigned in protest, and were replaced by SPD members.

In general, this period in the Weimar Republic's history saw a very wide range of reforms when compared to the previous German Empire, and saw a period of revolts and instability which was controlled well enough to keep the Ebert government in control. By the end of the Council's rule, which will be discussed further in the next section, Ebert's government had almost complete control over Germany, and the direct threat of an opposition republic being established had been mostly eliminated. This, however, would not mean that

the new republic and government was completely stable, nor would it mean that far-left *revolts* would cease, as a very wide far-left political base still remained.¹⁰

e. The Re-establishment of the National Assembly

As stated above, the main purpose of the Council of People's Deputies was to provide a transition from an interim regime to one that was politically and legally stable. The political stability of the regime was mostly established after the defeat of the Spartacists and Liebknecht's socialist republic. However, the republic still had a very shaky legal foundation, as at the time of the Council's rule, there existed no constitution, and the parliament was suspended. One of Ebert's main goals was thus to end this de-facto dictatorship that ruled over the country, and transition into a constitutional, parliamentary democracy. As a result, the last stage of the Council's transitory actions would come in the form of the elections of 19 January 1919. These elections directly elected the *National Assembly*, which would act as the parliament of the republic. They would additionally be tasked with drafting a constitution for the republic. The SPD would win the majority of votes in this election, and form a coalition with the *Deutsche Zentrumspartei* (Centre) and *Deutsche Demokratische Partei* (DDP). Importantly, the USDP would be left out of the government.¹¹ It is important to note that the committee where the delegates will be simulating will start on 13 February 1919, at the immediate date when Philip Scheidemann was elected minister-president(or chancellor) by the National Assembly. Thus, at this time, there still wouldn't exist a Weimar constitution, as it would have been actively being drafted by the National Assembly. With the election of Scheidemann, the era of the Council of People's Deputies' rule would come to an end, as the

¹⁰ [www.britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Council-of-Peoples-Representatives). "Council of People's Representatives | German Government | Britannica." Accessed December 7, 2024.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Council-of-Peoples-Representatives>.

¹¹ Deutscher Bundestag. "Deutscher Bundestag - Reichstagsgebäude in Der Weimarer Republik," 2017. <https://www.bundestag.de/parlament/geschichte/schauplaetze/weimar>.

Scheidemann cabinet would be formed, and the Weimar Republic would slowly transition into regular rule.¹²

3. Current State of Germany

In order to better understand the complications that the Weimar Republic is and potentially will be dealing with, it is needed to take a look at the grand scheme of things and investigate the situations within the World and the Weimar Republic as a whole. This section will aim to provide a background to the ongoing problems within the Republic and what may cause a threat to the integrity of the Weimar Republic. To further inspect, the section will provide the root of all of these problems and thoroughly explain how they have evolved throughout history. By understanding the key details to these complications one can effectively provide solutions to be imposed.

a. The Armistice of Compiègne and the Rhineland

The Armistice of Compiègne and the Rhineland, also known as the Armistice of 11 November 1918, was signed near Compiègne and ended the war between the Entente and their last opponent, the German Empire, practically putting an end to the Great War. The impact of the armistice was so great that after the request of cessation of hostilities from the Grand Chancellor, Prince Maximilian of Baden and the abdication of Wilhelm II, the event caused a chain reaction within Germany that eventually led to the November Revolution as we know it today¹³. The armistice terms demanded the immediate cessation of warfare and

¹² Weimarer-republik.net. "Chancellors of the Reich / Weimarer Republik," 2014. <https://www.weimarer-republik.net/en/weimar-gateway/people-whos-who-of-the-weimar-republic/state/chancellors-of-the-reich/>.

¹³ Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères. (n.d.). The armistice of 11 november 1918 and the quai d'orsay. France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/the-ministry-and-its-network/the-diplomatic-archives/documents-from-the-diplomatic-archives/article/the-armistice-of-11-november-1918-and-the-quai-d-orsay>

surrender of the army and of heavy guns and airplanes. German troops had to withdraw to the east bank of the Rhine within 30 days, and a neutral zone would be established there to a depth of 30 to 40 kilometres. Moreover, Allied troops were to be allowed to occupy strategic positions throughout Germany, at the expense of the German government. Among other key conditions, all Allied prisoners of war were to be returned and all German ships were to return to port to be decommissioned. Selected U-boats and battleships were to be surrendered, with the remainder of the German fleet to be disarmed and placed under the jurisdiction of the Allied countries¹⁴. After the armistice was signed, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, the president of the United States at the time, declared the “Fourteen Points” which were the principles of peace negotiations that served as a basis for the Paris Peace Conference a year later.

b. The Ebert-Groener Pact

The Ebert-Groener Pact is the agreement between Friedrich Ebert, a Social Democrat of the Council of People's Representatives, and Wilhelm Groener, the successor to General Erich Ludendorff in the *Obersten Heeresleitung* -Supreme Army Command- (OHL)¹⁵, on November 10, 1918, a day after the abdication of Wilhelm II. In a telephone conversation, Groener declared his loyalty to the new government and assured it of the military support of the OHL against left-wing radical revolutionaries during the political upheaval. In return, Ebert guaranteed that sole command of the troops would remain with the officer corps. Paul von Hindenburg remained at the head of the OHL to lead the orderly return of the front troops to their homeland.

¹⁴ Cronan, J. (2018, November 9). Milestones to peace: The armistice of compiegne. The National Archives blog.

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/milestones-to-peace-armistice-compiegne/>

¹⁵ Stiftung Deutsches Historisches Museum, S. H. der G. der B. D. (n.d.). Gerade auf Lemo Gesehen: Lemo Das Lebendige Museum Online. Deutsches Historisches Museum.

<https://www.dhm.de/lemo/kapitel/weimarer-republik/revolution-191819/ebert-groener-pakt>

The common interest of the military and the new provisional government was to maintain peace and order. The expansion of the German revolution into a bloody civil war on the Russian model and the spread of Bolshevism were to be prevented at all costs. With this agreement, the Council of People's Representatives had a power factor that allowed the Social Democrats to assert their claim to political leadership in the following weeks in the Christmas Crisis of 1918 and the January Uprising of 1919.

It is important to note that the deal was kept in secret due to the fact that neither of the both sides actually favored the agreement. In fact Ebert believed that his actions would face accusations of selling his ideals for authority, and Groener would not have supported the changes introduced by the Council of the People's Representatives if not for the fact that he believed that such actions were needed to halt Far-Left ideologists¹⁶.

Ultimately, the pact gave the government means to take action against the uprisings within the country. However, it drew a fine line between the SPD and the other socialist parties, who accused Ebert for allying with the sole enemies of the ongoing revolution. In addition, the military became largely a self-governing institution that supported the government. However, this cooperation with the old imperial power elite deprived the SPD of a large part of its supporters, who felt increasingly betrayed by the Social Democratic leadership and turned to the USPD or with a more radical understanding of the Communist ideology to the *Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands* (KPD).

¹⁶ Slideshare. (2015, July 29). Weimar Germany - proclamation of the republic and the ebert groener pact. SlideShare.
<https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/3-proclamation-of-the-republic-and-the-ebert-groener-pact/51062666>

c. Unrest within Germany due to Far-left Uprisings

Before going into the detail with the Far-Left uprising taking place in Germany, it is best fit looking with a wider perspective and examining the root cause of Far-Left ideologies in the whole world. This section of the guide will aim to provide a brief and to the point explanations to the Far-Left extremism within Germany and provide a background for the uprisings that have occurred and the current situation of the political crisis in Germany. One must first understand the prior events leading to the point in time in order to provide a sustainable and reasonable solution to the upheaval.

Going a few years back in time to February 1917, it is possible to see a declining Russian Empire. Without diving much into detail, this downfall in the Empire eventually led to a grand-sized revolution starting with many worker strikes and evolving into a bloodbath¹⁷. Ultimately, this revolution, also known as the Bolshevik Revolution, led to a radical change in the governmental system in the Russian Empire, or more appropriately turning into the United Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) as we know it today. With this grand revolution, the idea of Bolshevism, or more commonly known as Communism, which is the idea of creating a socioeconomic order revolving around common ownership, became a common trend within countries with a grand worker class. Nevertheless, this guide will not go much into the ideology of communism as with a Weimar Republic point of view, Bolshevism just meant grave danger for the government and the future of the Republic.

¹⁷ Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (2024, October 30). The February Revolution. Encyclopædia Britannica.
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Revolution/The-February-Revolution#ref348364>

i. The Popularization of Far-Left Ideologies in Germany

As mentioned in the previous part, Bolshevism ultimately also found its way into Germany as well. However, unlike in Russia, both the government and the military were against a grand revolution of any sorts regarding Bolshevik ideals. In fact, as stated earlier in the guide, Frederick Ebert and the OHL had made the agreement to cooperate against any Far-Left uprisings, as they were the common enemy of both the former German army and the Cabinet of People's Representatives.

Nonetheless, this cooperation proved to be inadequate to stop the Far-Left ideals, since after Maximilian, Prince of Baden, resigned as chancellor and appointed SPD leader Friedrich Ebert to succeed him, Bavaria had already declared their own socialist republic. With that being said, there was yet another group battling against the Far-Left uprisings, which was the Freikorps. They were independent paramilitary groups whose methods were far more brutal than the latter. The early period in the Weimar Republic history mostly revolved around suppressing these uprisings occurring all around the country such as the Christmas Crisis of 1918¹⁸.

ii. The Spartacist Uprising

One quite significant uprising that has occurred in Germany is the Spartacist Uprising, also known as the January Uprising of 1919 or rarely as Bloody Week. The Spartacist uprising took place from 5 to 12 January 1919 where it consisted of the power struggle between the SPD and the KPD led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxembourg, essentially a

¹⁸ Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (2024a, October 15). Weimar Republic. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Weimar-Republic#ref339526>

battle of two ideologies in Germany. The revolt began with over 100.000 worker strikes in the center of Berlin, where government-led buildings were seized, and evolved into a battle that held significance for the future of the Republic.

The uprisings were led by a team in the name of *Spartakusbund*, founded in 1914, who wanted to spread the idea of Bolshevism and set up a council republic mirroring the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. This league was led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxembourgh and when the KPD was established the league became a part of it¹⁹.

After the buildings were seized in Berlin, the government was transported to Weimar in order to avoid the violence. This left the leaders of the revolution unable to agree on how to proceed and as a result the uprising remained with no direction. Consequently, many protesters returned home, frustrated at the lack of planning. In the later days, Freikorps arrived at the city center in order to cease the uprising once and for all. During the battle, over 100 civilians were killed and the leaders of the *Spartakusbund* were captured and brutally murdered. These events led to the communists and the working class to despise the current government which only made the situation worse than when it started.

iii. The Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands (KPD)

The KPD was a major Far-Leftist political party within the Weimar Republic. It was founded in the aftermath of the Great War on the 1st of January 1919, by socialists who sought to establish a Soviet Republic in Germany²⁰. They participated in the Spartacist

¹⁹ BBC. (2023, January 27). The spartacist revolt - weimar germany - national 5 history revision - BBC Bitesize. BBC News.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zh9p34j/revision/5>

²⁰ Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). Communist Party of Germany. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Communist-Party-of-Germany>

uprising where after the defeat, their leaders, Rosa Luxemburg, Karl Liebknecht and Leo Jogiches were murdered by the Freikorps. Being left with no leaders the party shifted into a more moderate, parliamentary ideology and regarded Paul Levi as their leader.

The KPD usually had around 10 to 15 percent of the vote, and proved to be a great opposition against SPD, who they regarded as “social fascists”. Later on in the Weimar Republic, the KPD steered into a more Stalinist course and became loyal to the leadership of the USSR after Levi was expelled. During the early years of the republic, the KPD was the root cause of many internal conflicts and actively supported all of the Far-Left ideologies within Europe. In fact, the KPD, outside of the USSR, was seen as the “leading force” of the communist movement. During the course of its history, the party was led away from the idea of immediate revolution in an effort to win over the SPD and the USPD voters, which resulted in the substantial portion of the USPD joining the KPD instead. All in all, the KPD was a massive problem in the Weimar Republic that could not be neglected as it was a great force in the Reichstag elections.

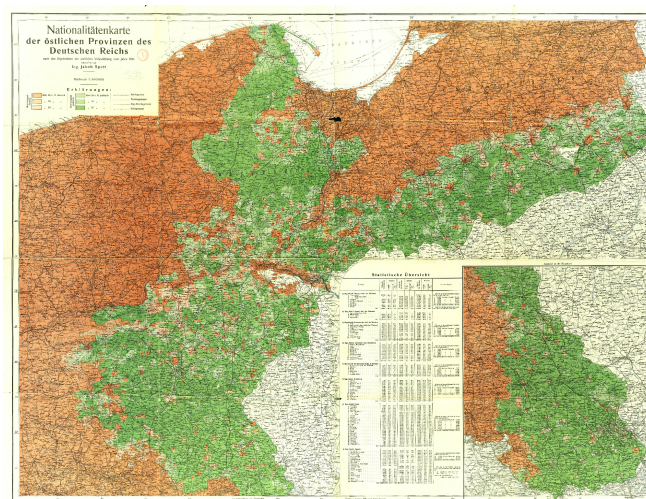
d. The Situation in Eastern Germany and Ethnic-Polish Regions

The German Empire, barring its colonial holdings, which had been decisively lost in the Great War, was a mostly ethnically homogenous nation, with one large exception. In the 1900 German census, out of the 56.3 million inhabitants in the Empire, 51.8 million spoke German, while 3 million spoke Polish.²¹ The Polish diaspora, concentrated in the Eastern German provinces of mainly *Posen*, *Silesia* and *Westpreußen*, had always been a problem for the German Empire, however any attempts at insurrection had always been put down by the

²¹ Archive.org. “Fremdsprache Minderheiten Im Deutschen Reich.” Accessed December 8, 2024.

https://web.archive.org/web/20100206125600/http://www.verwaltungsgeschichte.de/fremdsp_rachen.html.

Empire. Now, an actual Polish state had been established out of the ruins of Russian Congressional Poland, and German authority over these regions was weaker than ever. This means that there exists a very real possibility of Polish insurrection taking place in hopes of these regions breaking away from Germany in favor of the newly established Polish state. Additionally, it must be expected that in any peace treaty proposed by the Allies, these regions will be expected to be given up by Germany, as to respect self-determination, and as they actually do contain very little Germans, and have historically been part of Poland. With all of this in mind, the Cabinet of Ministers must take extra attention to ensure that these regions are stable, that any conflicts with ethnic roots don't arise, and that they are sufficiently put down if they do. Below, a map of ethnicities in Eastern Germany is attached, with green representing mainly Polish regions, and orange representing mainly German regions.



4. Information into the Weimar Republic and its Procedures

This section is intended to provide general information and insight into the inner workings of the Weimar Republic's legislative and executive systems, which consisted mainly of the Presidency, which won't be discussed as it won't be relevant in the committee, the National Assembly, which served as the parliament of Weimar Germany until transition

into the Reichstag, and the Cabinet of Ministers, which served as the main law-proposing and governing body of the republic. It is important to have insight into all of these mechanisms, as to be able to know what a minister can or cannot do, to efficiently, effectively, and correctly govern and stabilize the Weimar Republic.

a. The National Assembly (Reichstag)

The National Assembly, as stated beforehand, was formed after the elections of 19 January 1919, through a system of direct competitive elections. This meant that every party would receive representation in the parliament proportionally to the amount of votes they had gathered. Importantly, the enactment of women's suffrage by the Council of People's Deputies meant that the Weimar National Assembly was the first German parliament to also represent women. The National Assembly convened its first session on February 6 1919, in the German National Theater in the city of Weimar, which is what gave the Weimar Republic its name. This decision was taken as when the Assembly was first convening, Berlin, which yet remained the capital, was still in a politically "complicated" state.²² In the elections, the SPD had gained 38% of the vote, the Centre 20%, the DDP 19%, the *Deutschnationale Volkspartei* (DNVP) 10%, and the USPD 8%. The SPD, Centre, and DDP together formed the governing coalition of the republic, referred to as the Weimar Coalition. With this in mind, the Assembly's main political structure was a moderate, but left-leaning one, with the only majorly right-wing party being the nationalist DNVP.²³

²² Weimar Republic. "The Weimar Reichstag," 2014. <https://alphahistory.com/weimarrepublic/weimar-reichstag/>.

²³ Weimarnotes.com. "Weimar Votes," 2022. <https://www.weimarnotes.com/>.

i. The Function of the National Assembly as a Parliament

As stated above, the National Assembly served as the parliament of the Weimar Republic in its first years, later being replaced by the Reichstag. Since the Weimar Republic did not yet have a constitution, the powers of all governing and legislative bodies, including the parliament, were regulated by the “Law on Provisional Reich Power”. We will now go over relevant parts of this law to further detail the powers that the Assembly did, and did not have. First and foremost, and perhaps most importantly, as per the first clause of the law, the Assembly had the task of passing “Urgent Reich Laws”, this meant that the Assembly was expected to discuss, and vote upon laws that were desperately needed to stabilize the republic and turn it into the envisioned parliamentary democracy. Members of the Assembly could not be salaried, and they were legally protected from being legally apprehended for their votes or expressed views, nor could they be arrested during a session for any punishable crime. The parliament could also propose laws in its own volition, meaning a law could be produced entirely in the parliament without the need for any external bodies. Additionally, the sessions of the Assembly were public, and any laws or regulations that were published were required to be published in the *Reich Law Gazette*.

In addition to the National Assembly, there existed a “Committee of States”, which essentially acted like the upper house of the Weimar parliament. This body, instead of receiving directly elected representatives, allowed representation for every constituent state of Germany depending on their population. These representatives would then be elected in state-held elections. The Committee of States was not as powerful as the National Assembly, as it only held nominal law making powers. However, technically, every law passed also required approval from the Committee of the States.

The National Assembly, as there didn't exist a constitution, also elected the Reich President, which would be Ebert. The President would act as the German head of state, and represent Germany under international law, and enter into treaties with foreign powers. However, any treaty required approval from both the National Assembly and the Committee of States to be approved. Additionally, and as an important divergence from the constitution of the German Empire, the President could not declare war. Declarations of war had to be in the form of a law, which, as discussed, required approval from the National Assembly. Finally, if, at any time, the Committee of States and National Assembly could not agree upon a law, the President could make a decision by means of calling upon a referendum.²⁴

ii. The Drafting of the Weimar Constitution

As stated before, the National Assembly was also the sole body responsible for drafting and approving a constitution for the Weimar Republic. It is important to note that at the starting date of the committee, which is 13 February 1919, when the Scheidemann Cabinet was established, the National Assembly was still actively drafting a constitution, and thus, there still didn't exist one. However, delegates may expect that the National Assembly successfully passes a constitution in the duration of the committee.

b. Powers of the Cabinet of Ministers

Understanding the powers of the Cabinet of Ministers is extremely important, as every delegate, as a member of the Cabinet, must know what they can and cannot do, to sufficiently achieve their goals. With that in mind, the Cabinet of Ministers was chaired and headed by the Minister-President (MP), or the chancellor, which on 13 February 1919, was

²⁴ www.kai-riedel.de, Kai Riedel. "DocumentArchiv.de - Gesetz Über Die Vorläufige Reichsgewalt (10.02.1919)." Documentarchiv.de. Accessed December 8, 2024. http://www.documentarchiv.de/wr/vorl-reichsgewalt_ges.html.

Philip Scheidemann. The MP was appointed by the Reich President, and was responsible for forming a government, and thus appointing Reich Ministers. Ministers had almost ultimate authority over their respective ministries, and could take action to steer the part of the government that they were responsible as they saw appropriate. This included the army, as the Army and Admiralty were de-facto, and later de-jure subordinate to the Ministry for the Reichswehr; which was further reinforced as a result of the Ebert-Groener Pact, explained in later sections. The Cabinet could also propose laws to be voted upon by the National Assembly, however, these laws technically required approval from the Committee of States. If the Committee of States did not approve a law proposed by the Cabinet, however, they could still be voted upon by the National Assembly, but the Committee of States would also propose an amended version of the law to be considered by the National Assembly. In addition, members of the Cabinet could attend the sessions of the National Assembly and make speeches as they wished, and required no special invitation. The President could also propose laws if they wished, however, any law proposed by the President was also required to be signed by a member of the Cabinet. Finally, the Cabinet was directly responsible to the National Assembly, and required its confidence. This means that if the Cabinet acted in a matter not befitting the Assembly's views, the Assembly could propose a motion of no confidence and dissolve the Cabinet.

c. Political Parties in the Weimar Republic

This section will serve to concisely explain the views of the major political parties that had seats in the National Assembly on 13 February 1919, and more importantly, were part of the Weimar Coalition. Every minister is expected to act and speak in the manner that their political alignment dictates, and thus, understanding the views of Weimar political parties is extremely important.

i. Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (SPD)

The SPD, as was discussed many times, was the most prominent and politically powerful party in the early years of the Weimar Republic. With an impressive 11.5 million votes gained in the 1919 elections, they held the most number of seats in the National Assembly, and Committee of States. The SPD advocated for social democracy, nationalization of privately owned infrastructure and means of production, and was a generally left-leaning party. They were a generally progressive and reform-minded party, calling for the equality of all citizens in the eyes of the law, as can be seen with their enacted women's suffrage.²⁵

ii. Deutsche Demokratische Partei (DDP)

The DDP, founded right around the time when the Weimar Republic was being established, had the second largest political base in Weimar Germany after the SPD, with 5.6 million votes gained in the 1919 elections. Part of the ruling coalition, the DDP was regarded as a centre to centre-left party, advocating for liberal economics and ideals, in addition to some social ideas. The DDP had a large Jewish voter base, in addition to the support they had from industrialists. Additionally, they supported uniting Austria and Germany.²⁶

²⁵ Conradt, David P. "Social Democratic Party | History, Policies, & Structure." In *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2019.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Social-Democratic-Party-of-Germany>.

²⁶ Weimarer-republik.net. "DDP / Weimarer Republik," 2014.

<https://www.weimarer-republik.net/en/weimar-gateway/people-whos-who-of-the-weimar-republic/parties/ddp/>.

iii. Deutsche Zentrumspartei (Centre)

The *Zentrumspartei*, or simply Centre, gained the third most votes in the 1919 elections with 4.8 million votes, and was a part of the ruling coalition. The Centre held Christian Democratic beliefs. They didn't very strongly align with the republic's democratic ideals and parliamentary nature, and based their political beliefs on conservatism and preservation of traditional Christian values. The party was seen as representative of all Christian Germans, gaining votes from republicans, monarchists, and a range of voters in the middle and industrial class. The party also had a left-wing, prominently containing Matthias Erzberger and Joseph Wirth, who advocated for Christian worker's unions and aligned more heavily with republican ideals than the rest of the party.²⁷

iv. Deutschnationale Volkspartei (DNVP)

The DNVP was the largest party in the National Assembly that wasn't part of the Weimar Coalition, with 3.1 million votes gained in the 1919 elections. Thus, they also weren't represented in the Cabinet of Ministers. As the name suggests, they were a nationalist, authoritarian, conservative, far-right political party. The DNVP held beliefs such as anti-communism, anti-semitism, anti-Catholicism, and monarchism. In many ways, they were similar to the Nazi party that would come on stage in the later years of the Weimar Republic. Importantly, some military elements held beliefs that aligned very closely with the DNVP's, especially in the Freikorps, which could prove dangerous if not approached correctly. As the German military, even after the November Revolution had taken place, was still staffed with the monarchist, conservative, right-wing officers of the German Empire, and as most paramilitary organizations were made up of ex-military personnel, the link between

²⁷ "Centre Party | Political Party, Germany." In *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2019.
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Centre-Party-political-party-Germany>.

the DNVP and military elements could certainly threaten the authority and stability of the Weimar government.²⁸

v. Unabhängige Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (USPD)

The USPD was the second largest political party in the National Assembly that was not part of the Weimar Coalition, with 2.3 million votes gained in the 1919 elections. The USPD importantly had been represented in the Council of People's Deputies, and had been an important part of the November Revolution. Yet, by 1919, they had practically no representation in government. They generally advocated for more radical socialist ideals than the SPD, aiming for a balance between Ebert's parliamentarism and Soviet style council republicanism rather than just forming a republic similar to the democracies of the West. Their activities may still prove to be a burden on the government, with far-left extremism still prevalent in Germany.²⁹

5. Important Resources for the Survival of Germany

It is important to note that for survival and wellbeing of the Weimar Republic, understanding its key resources and how they can be utilized is crucial. This section will provide a detailed and comprehensive list about the important resources that can and should be utilized by the Weimar Republic. The resources at hand are essential to the continuity of the Weimar Republic as if not for them the republic would have collapsed when faced with any sort of conflict.

²⁸ Encyclopedia Britannica. "German National People's Party | Political Party, Germany." Accessed December 8, 2024.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/German-National-Peoples-Party>.

²⁹ www.weimarer-republik.net. "USPD / Weimarer Republik." Accessed December 8, 2024. <https://www.weimarer-republik.net/en/weimar-gateway/people-whos-who-of-the-weimar-republic/parties/uspd/>.

a. The Freikorps

The Freikorps, with its translated version being “Free Corps” served as the backbone of the military forces in the early years of the Weimar Republic³⁰. They are composed of volunteering former soldiers that have fought in the Great War, unemployed young men, and are led by many former generals of the German Empire. Over the lapse of the year after they were formed in 1918, they proliferated all over Germany, forming over 65 corps with various names and sizes. During the years of the Weimar Republic, they fought as volunteer paramilitaries against the Far-Left and Far-Right revolts occurring all over the country as well as dealing with the Ethnic-Polish Regions.

Since their ideologies differed from that of the Weimar Republic’s, they acted independently from the government, not taking direct orders³¹. They actively put down left-wing revolts and uprisings in Berlin, Bremen, Brunswick, Hamburg, Halle, Leipzig, Silesia, Thuringia, and the Ruhr and defended the conservative and protofascist ideas. With the establishment of a new republic, a force to stop any uprisings was crucial, where the Freikorps proved to be extremely potent, as for the early Weimar Republic, they served a common purpose of suppressing Far-Left ideologies. However as the Freikorps started to get involved with Eastern Europe, where they rejected all orders from the government, they became a hindrance. As a result of the difference in ideologies of the Republic and Freikorps, the rise of a strong Freikorps may alert the sovereignty of the Weimar Republic.

³⁰ Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). Freikorps. Encyclopædia Britannica.
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Freikorps>

³¹ Meet the freikorps: Vanguard of terror 1918-1923: The National WWII Museum: New Orleans. The National WWII Museum | New Orleans. (n.d.).
<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/meet-freikorps-vanguard-terror-1918-1923>

b. The Remains of the Reichswehr

As the word to word English translation, “State Defence”, also hints, Reichswehr served as the official army of the Weimar Republic through the years 1919 to 1935. After the Imperial German Army’s dissolution with the harsh defeat in the Great War, the Treaty of Versailles had to be signed by the Weimar Republic, where the treaty officially stated that the army of the Republic at most can consist of 100.000 men and the navy could at most consist of 25.000³².

Consequently, the severe restrictions stated in the Treaty of Versailles meant the German army had to be rebuilt, as a result, the Reichswehr was formed. After being provisionally formed in March 1919, the Reichswehr became the official army of the Republic in January 1921 when the limitations of the Treaty of Versailles had been met.

Similar to the Freikorps, the Reichswehr mainly served the same purpose of silencing the unrest due to Far-Left ideologies. Nevertheless, the Reichswehr had one very distinct difference in that it served directly under the influence of the government. This in turn meant that the Reichswehr was apolitical and had pledged its loyalty to the government in the Ebert-Groener Pact. In the early years of the Republic, the Reichswehr and the Freikorps collaborated against opposing ideologies, until 1921, when the Freikorps was banned by the government and the Schwarze Reichswehr³³ was formed. The Reichswehr mainly provided political power to the Weimar Republic through its leadership in several cities, and served as one of, if not the most important resources of the Weimar Republic.

³² Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). Encyclopædia Britannica.
<https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/Reichswehr/334371>

³³ Academic.oup.com. (n.d.).
<https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/40697/chapter-abstract/348421339?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

c. Possible Collaboration with the Foreign States Against Far-Left Revolutions

The West was an enemy of Germany, but they feared the spread of communism in Europe much more than the threat of a stable Germany. For instance, the West actively supported anti-communist forces in the Russian Civil War, as they feared that the existence of one powerful communist state could severely upset the delicate balance of power in Europe. Now that the Soviet Union had practically been fully established, this had already come true. However, a possible Russo-German partnership where the two countries are ideologically aligned would prove to be the worst of the liberal democracies of the West's fears. Thus, in the face of total destruction against a wholly communist, far-left power, requesting support from the non-communist powers in the west may be an option. Of course, this should only be seen as a last resort, as that type of support may bring with it further demands from said foreign powers. However, one must still keep in mind that the popularization and growth of radical ideologies in Europe is something that especially Britain's foreign policy is adamant on completely avoiding and preventing.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Weimar Republic was in an extremely fragile state as of 13 February 1919, politically, socially, and economically. Thus, it falls upon the Cabinet of Ministers' hands to ensure that before anything, the republic survives. There doesn't exist any concrete end-goal for the period in which the Cabinet will be active, apart from mere survival. Foreign powers and inner radicals, from the left *and* right, would like to see Germany moulded to fit their visions and personal gains and ideologies, and before anything, *that* has to be prevented. Throughout these years, the Cabinet will face many crises,

complications, and perhaps imminent destruction, and they will be expected to come up with fast, decisive, and effective solutions to mend a broken nation, and ensure that it successfully transitions into the social, democratic, and united republic that they have envisioned.

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