

## Key issue 2: The ‘Golden Age’ of the Weimar Republic, 1924-28

### KEY WORDS

- Left- Wing:** A political belief that promotes equality, high taxation for the rich, and the redistribution of wealth.
- Right- Wing:** A political belief that suggests that social orders and hierarchies are natural, they believe in tradition.
- Fascist:** Is a far right wing movement that believes in an authoritarian, national approach with a dictator in power.
- Rentmark:** Germany’s currency that was introduced in 1924.
- Dawes Plan:** An agreement between the USA and European countries, allowing for US loans to be given to European countries (especially Germany) in order for them to build factories and roads, and stimulate economy.
- Young Plan:** An agreement to reduce reparations, made in 1929 between Germany and the countries they owed money to after the First World War.
- Avant-Garde:** New and experimental ideas and methods in art, music or literature.
- Bauhaus:** A school of design originating in Weimar Germany, which focused on modern, simple and practical designs, rather than the more elaborate, ‘fancy’ designs of long ago.
- Culture:** The values, morals, traditions and attitudes of a group or society; it relates to the music and films people watch and listen to, the art they create, the buildings they design and the behaviour they display.
- Radical:** A very different or extreme idea or approach.
- Locarno Treaty-** Treaty with France and Belgium, Great Britain and Italy. Borders stay the same- friendship improved.
- League of Nation-** first worldwide intergovernmental organisation whose principal mission was to maintain world peace.
- Kellogg Briand Pact-** 64 countries agreed to keep their armies for self - all future disagreements by ‘peaceful means’
- Young Plan-** Reparations reduced from £6 billion to \$1.85 billion. Given longer to pay 59 years.
- Foreign policies-** Plans made with other countries
- Economic policies-** Plans made to do with money/jobs
- Social polices-** Plans made to do with living/working conditions
- German National Socilaist Workers’ Party (NSDAP)-** The Nazi Party
- KPD-** Communist Party
- Centre Party-** Represented the interest of the Catholic Church
- DDP-** German Democratic Party- a liberal pro republican part
- Rapollo Treaty-** allowed Germany to rebuild aircraft in the USSR- rebuilt relations with Germany & the USSR

### Essay Question

**‘Stresemann’s foreign policy had done little to improve Germany’s international position by 1929.’ Assess the validity of this view.**

### KEY INDIVIDUALS AND KEY GROUPS

- Gustav Stresemann:** A member of Germany’s parliament since 1907, he was briefly Chancellor in 1923 and became Foreign minister in 1924 -1929. He was involved in the Dawes and Young plan in 1923. 1934.
- Marlene Dietrich:** One of the most famous German actresses during German’s Golden Age in the 1920’s.
- Otto Dix:** One of the most famous German artists during Germany’s Golden age in the 1920’s.
- League of Nations:** The first world organisation made up of a variety of governments whose mission was world peace.
- Charles Dawes-** US Vice President- helped to set up the Dawes Plan
- George Grosz-** Artist/member of the Communist Party- showed impact of war- criticised government
- Otto Dix-** Painter
- Walter Gropius -** Founder of the Bauhaus movement/architect
- Fritz Lang-** Film producer
- Marlene Dietrich-** Actress
- Arthur Moeller/Oswald Spengles-** Political writers and critics of German democracy & Weimar Republic
- Erich Remarque-** Anti- War writer- wrote ‘All quiet on the Western Front.’
- Hjalmar Schact-** Reich Currency Commissioner.

### Source Question

*If we compare the present position with that of four years ago, we see a very great advance in regard to the economic development of the country as a whole. The standard of living of the masses of the people has risen, and in the case of the great part of the working class has again reached or surpassed the pre-war level.*

From a report of the Commissioner of the Reichsbank, 1928.

**With reference to this source and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of this source when looking at the success of economic recovery in the late 1920s.**



# Key Events Timeline

**KEY:**

Social

Political

Economical

Foreign

**The Dawes Plan (1924)**

It was named after the American Charles Dawes, he organised the loans to help bring economic stability to Europe. Germany borrowed money off the USA to pay reparations and rebuild Germany. German people once again had jobs and wages to spend.

**1924- Public Assistance system**

**Hitler is released from prison after Munich Putsch and his trial (December 1924)**

Hitler decided the Nazis could only get in power if they gained the vote.

**Stresemann died of a stroke. (1929)**

**The Young Plan (February 1929)**

Reparation payments were reduced to £2.2 billion and Germany was given longer to pay.

**The Wall Street Crash (October 1929)**

The US economy collapsed, the result was that the loans from the USA dried up and America had to recall their loans.. It caused a global depression.

The Rentenmark replaced the Reichmark in order to stabilise the economy (1924)

**Frederick Ebert dies (1925)**

**Hindenburg became president (February 1925)**

**The percentage of votes for the Nazis decrease (1924- 1928)**

Nazis had 5% of the votes in 1924, they were very bitter towards the Weimar Government because they signed the Treaty of Versailles. By 1928 the Nazis only received 2% of votes because Germany was more financial stable and enjoying the Golden Age.

**The end of Allied occupation**

1924

1924

1928

1929

1930

1925

1926

**Locarno Pact (5<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October 1925)**

Germany accepted the terms of the Versailles Treaty as they affected Western Europe, for example he accepted that the Rhineland was to be demilitarised permanently. At the same time the French and Belgians agreed not to invade German territory again.

**Mein Kampf was published (18th July 1925)**

Hitler wrote his book about Anti-Semitic views whilst in prison. It became very popular and was a piece of propaganda for Nazi views.

**Germany joins the League of Nations (9th January 1926)**

It was a peacemaking organisation they originally weren't allowed to join. It restored Germany as a 'great power' and boosted Germany's pride.

**Kellogg Briand Pact signed 1928- 64 countries agreed to keep their armies for self - all future disagreements by 'peaceful means' .**

**The Golden Age (Throughout the 1920's)**

Under the Kaiser there had been strict censorship. When censorship was removed under the Weimar government, painters, writers, musicians and architects reveled in the new freedom- particularly in cities such as Berlin. Clubs and cinemas thrived. German art and architecture became internationally famous.

**The Great Depression takes over Germany (1930)**

The Depression had huge impact on Germans because Germany depended on loans from the USA and because it all still owed reparations to the Allies. German business could not pay back the recalled loans so went bankrupt. Millions of Germans lost their jobs. There were 6 million unemployed by late 1932. The mood of optimism in Germany disappeared.