**‘The collapse of the Grand coalition in March 1930 was caused by the economic depression, an event which was outside Germany’s control.’ Assess the validity of this view.**

By March 1930, the political situation in Weimar Germany had worsened with the collapse of the Grand Coalition which was triggered by the economic depression. The Wall Street Crash on 29th October 1929 in America led Germany into economic depression and although it may be argued that the problems associated with this were out of Germany’s control due to their lack of economic stability, it was the Dawes Plan of April 1924 which made Germany dependant on US loans.

Arguably, the Wall Street Crash which led to the economic depression in Germany was not within the vicinity of fault of the German government as it was an American economic crash that affected more countries than just Germany. Consequently, the Wall Street Crash led to economic problems within Germany including unemployment. Crucially, the vital concern of the government with the raising levels of unemployment was how to deal with it as parties on the right wasn’t to reduce unemployment benefits whilst parties on the left wanted to protect benefits and instead raise taxes. Crucially, this issue was not a problem until the economic depression caused by the Wall Street Crash, which led to the government in deadlock and as a consequence the collapse of the Grand Coalition.

On the other hand it may be argued that the government were to blame for the economic depression as the issues like unemployment were a problem before the economic depression and so in reality the depression only worsened problems that were already there. Unemployment was as at around 3 million in 1926 which is significant because it suggests that the economic depression is not to blame for the breakdown of the coalition as the main issue that led to the breakdown was unemployment but this was a vital problem before the economic depression.

Furthermore it was dependence of the government on the Dawes Plan signed in April 1924 that made Germany dependant on the US loans. Consequently, when the short-term loans were recalled the German economy wasn’t able to repay American leading them into the economic depression. Crucially, it may be argued that the Dawes Plan was the fault of the government as if they hadn’t signed it and hadn’t relied on the loans initially, then Germany may not have been so badly affected by the depression and the coalition wouldn’t have broken down. However it may be argued that dependency on the US loans was inevitable as Germany were in an economic crisis in 1923 due to the hyperinflation and as a result the only way out of it was the US loans.

Furthermore, the problems associated with the Grand coalition themselves were that it was made up of many parties of both right wing and left wing. And this meant that reaching decisions would always be an issue and evidence of this is the numerous time that both President Ebert and Hindenburg used Article 48 in order to pass laws as the governments failed to deal with problems. Crucially, the problems of coalition governments did not arise from the economic depression but from the Weimar Constitution which set out a system of proportional representation meaning that a party reaching a majority in the government was very difficult hence no government was forced without the combination of two or more parties. Therefore the breakdown of the coalition government in March 1930 was inevitable as event without the economic depression, the combination of many different parties with different ideologies would have led to disputes and a breakdown.

Controversially, it may be argued that the Grand Coalition was working very well compared to previous governments as it had been formed two years prior in 1928 and even though it was made up of many different parties, there was mutual ideologies between the parties as the coalition governments main aim was to reduce the rising number of support for extremist parties like the NSDAP. Therefore, the economic depression was the reason for the political differences and the subsequent breakdown and not their different party’s aims.

In conclusion, the collapse of the Grand Coalition in March 1930 was to an extent not just due to the economic depression as prior to the economic depression there were other issues that the government failed to deal with such as the leftover economic problems from the hyperinflation crisis or the problems arising from the Weimar constitution. However its’ fair to argue that the economic depression was the catalyst for the breakdown of the coalition government as this is what put the different ideologies of the parties to the forefront of the problems of the constitution as well as the issues associated with the depression which they were unable to deal with as a result.