**Section 2: the ‘golden age’ of the Weimar Republic, 1924-1928**

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| **Chapter 5** | **Chapter 6** | **Chapter 7** | **Chapter 8** |
| * Aug 1923 – Cuno government collapsed and replaced by Stresemann * Stresemann had 3 aims – end passive resistance, issue new currency (Nov 1923 under direction of Hjalmar Schacht) and balancing the budget (300,000 civil servants lost their jobs and no. of companies that went bankrupt went from 233 in 1923 to over 6000 in 1924) * April 1924 – Dawes Plan – loan of 800 million marks from the USA * industrial output grew after 1924 but didn’t reach 1913 levels till 1929 * 1928-29 the economy shrank * growth rates were unsteady * investments in new machinery falling by 1929 * advances made in chemical, car and aeroplane industries * inflation rate close to 0 * living standard rose and wages increased from 1924 * 1924 – new schemes of relief were launched * 1927 – real wages increase by 9% then further 12% in 1928 * 1925 – unemployment at 1 million and over 3 million in March 1926 through did fall after that * mining companies reduced workforce by 136,000 between 1922 and 1925 and further 56,,000 between 1925 and 1929 * plight of farmers worsened due to global grain surplus and price slump in 1925 and 1926 – late 1926 increase in farmers bankruptcies * 1928 – riots by famers in frost of foreclosure and low market prices * by 1929 – German agricultural production was less than ¾ of its pre-war levels * Aug 1929 – Young Plan led to debate of ‘freedom law’ in Reichstag | * 1924 – public assistance system which provided help for poor and destitute was modernised * 1927 – national unemployment insurance system introduced to prove benefits for unemployed * 1926 – state supporting 800,000 disable war veterans, 360,000 war widows and over 900,000 war orphans * taxes increase after 1924 * constitution gave women new legal and civil rights but Civil Code of 1896 remained * most popular women’s group in 1920 with membership of 900,000 was League of German Workers (BDF) – promoted traditional family values and maternal responsibilities * level of youth unemployment increased – 1925-56 17% of unemployed in 14-21 age group * 3 main youth groups – Wandervogel (set up in 1896 was non-political), Church youth groups and political youth groups (SPD and KPD founded one in 1925 – Bismarck Youth, linked to DNVP readied membership of 42,000 by 1928 – Hitler Youth with membership of 13,000 in 1929) * more than ½ million Jews in Germany – less than 1% of the population * Jewish publishing firms owed The Berliner Tageblatt and Frankfurter Zeitung * Theodor Wolff (editor of BT and driving force behind Liberal DDP), Walther Rathenau (leading member of DDP), Rosa Luxembourg, Hugo Hasse and Kurt Eisner all came from Jewish backgrounds * Rathenau failed controlled huge electrical engineering firm AEG until 1927 * Jewish banking families such as Rothschild’s, Mendelssohn’s and Bleichroders owned 50% of private banks * Jews owned 18% of banking sector and ½ of firms involved in cloth trade * made up 16% of lawyers and 11% of doctors * 9 of 38 Nobel prizes up to 1938 were due to Jews | * 1925 – Hindenburg appointed as President * two election in 1924 – showed greater support for Republican parties such as the SPD, DDP, DVP and Centre – over 61% vote pro-Republican in May and 67% in Dec * Nazi party got 6.5% in May and 3% in Dec * KPD support fell after 1924 * 7 coalition cabinets between Nov 1923 and March 1930 * only 6 of 23 cabinets between 1919 and 1930 had majority support in the Reichstag * 1926 – cabinet of Luther collapsed over dispute over flags * SPD remained largest party in the Reichstag – close links to trade unions – appealed to industrial workers * Centre Party – based on religious affiliations – no coalition government formed without them – leadership change in 1928 with Bruning showed growing drift to the right * DDP – liberal – in decline by mid-1920s – appeals to academics and professional groups * DVP – conservative – appeals to academics and industrialists – Stresemann part of this party * DNVP – conservative and nationalist – appeal to industrialists, professional groups and some industrial workers – 1928 loss support due to joining Luther Cabinet in 1926 and Marx cabinet in 1928 – Hugenburg made leader in 1928 and shift to the right confirmed * Nazi party – end of 1927 party had only 75,000 members and 7 deputies in the Reichstag – began to concentrate on Protestant north of Germany – rural votes were high * KPD – communist party – support in industrial and port areas like Ruhr, Saxony and Hamburg and in Berlin | * Locarno Pact in 1925 contained both Rhineland pact and Arbitration Treaties – eastern borders not recognised and Germany accepted into the League of Nations and won Nobel peace prize I 1926 – had established Germanys position as equal partner in diplomatic negotiations * Treaty of Rapallo – April 1922 – resumed trade and economic cooperation – diplomatic relations restored – outstanding claims for war damage dropped – Germany allowed to develop new weapons and train pilots in Russia * Treaty of Berlin in 1926 – renewed earlier treaty of Rapallo * Under TOV – military limited to 100,000 men, not allowed to have air force and navy prevented from using submarines and large battleships – Rhineland demilitarised * Ways to get around this – new fortifications built alongside Polish border – recruit to army for short periods with intensive training – army sponsored parliamentary groups * Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928 –with France and USA - state renounced use of offensive wars to resolve disputes * end of allied occupation by 1930 |