

WORKSHEET 3

How did Germany emerge from the First World War?

This worksheet should help you understand Source 1 on page 10.

The statements in the first column summarise different problems created by the war for Germany.

- a) In the second column write your own explanation of how the war had created this problem.
- b) In the third column write why this problem might make Germany unstable.

Use the information on page 10 of your textbook to help you.

Problem	How did war lead to this problem?	Why might this make Germany unstable?
Some German people faced starvation.		
German people were bitter and angry.		
The German government was weak.		
There was anarchy and violence on the streets.		

WORKSHEET 2 (continued)

4. These two photos – Sources 3 and 4 – are to be included in your guide as typical of the kinds of scene your traveller might see in Germany. Write a description of each photograph explaining what it shows and what it tells you about life in Germany.

SOURCE 3



SOURCE 4



Why did the Kaiser abdicate?

Use this worksheet for the Task on page 11.

Below are various factors which led to the abdication of the Kaiser.

You must include each factor in your answer. However, first of all you have to work out how they relate to one another. Write them in the correct place on the flow diagram. Then use the completed flow diagram to write your own account. Try to explain it in the way you might to an elderly servant who is very confused by the whole train of events.

armed workers and soldiers roaming the streets were making the country ungovernable

the army and navy mutinied.

getting rid of the Kaiser was a condition for peace.

the Social Democrats were afraid of extremists taking over.

soldiers and workers' councils were set up all over Germany, and there was a general strike in Berlin.

the Kaiser was blamed for the war

The Kaiser took Germany into the war so when Germany was defeated . . .

and . . .

Members of the armed forces wanted peace, but they were not sure that the Kaiser would agree to peace despite the desperate situation of the German army, so . . .

Other groups protested in other ways:

Germany was facing anarchy:

and . . .

So they forced the Kaiser to abdicate.

Was there really a revolution?

Use this worksheet for the Task on page 14.

One question that historians ask about this period is: how far was there really a revolution in Germany?

- There are various reasons for calling the events of 1918 a revolution. These include:

[Describe why the change of government was revolutionary.]

- There was also much talk about revolution. For example:

[Describe an example of your choice.]

- However, there are also reasons for thinking that the events of 1918 were not a revolution because:

[Describe how the Social Democrats tried to stop extremist revolutionaries taking control.]

- Historians therefore disagree about whether the events of 1918 should really be called a revolution. The view of the writer in Source 10 (on page 14) is:

[Explain whether he thinks there was or was not a revolution in Germany and his reason for thinking this.]

- I agree/disagree with him because:

[Explain your own view and the reasons for it.]

A real revolution . . . or not?

Sources 1–4 give you different views on the revolution.

SOURCE 1 Imanuel Geiss, a German historian writing in 1968

“ According to many textbooks, a revolution is said to have taken place in Germany in November 1918. Indeed there was turbulent change of governments in that period, there were revolutionary noises all over the place, but once the dust had settled, it soon emerged that precious little had changed in Germany.”

SOURCE 2 Golo Mann, a German historian writing in 1958

“ The move in October towards parliamentary government was followed in the first days of November by a feeble revolution from below, a military strike. The Social Democrats wanted to save the monarchy in some form or another, [but] when the revolutionary movement gained the upper hand they had no choice but to approve it.”

SOURCE 3 A. J. Nicholls, a British historian writing in 1968

“ The Kiel Mutiny was the first of a chain of revolts which spread across Germany in the next few days and finally disrupted the German Empire. It is common to stress their unpolitical nature. Nevertheless, the revolution did not take place by accident. The Independents had been agitating in Germany for an end to [the war], the freeing of political prisoners, an end to restrictions on public expression, better food and working conditions, and really democratic government. In the context of Germany in 1918 this was a revolutionary programme. [The Independents were left-wing Social Democrats who at first served in Ebert’s government, but left it in December 1918] ”

SOURCE 4 W. L. Shirer, an American historian writing in 1959

“ In November 1918 the Social Democrats might have [created] a lasting democratic republic. But to have done so they would have had to suppress the forces which had [supported the Kaiser] and which would not loyally accept a democratic Germany: the landlords and other upper classes, the magnates who ruled over [industry], the free corps, the officials of the civil service, and above all, the military. This the Social Democrats could not bring themselves to do. ”

1. According to Source 2, what was the attitude of the Social Democrats to the changes taking place in Germany?

2. Do Sources 3 and 4 agree with Source 2 about the Social Democrats?

3. Put Sources 1–4 in order on this scale:

	Yes	←	Revolution?	→	No	
Suggests there was a revolution.						Suggests there was not a revolution.

4. Explain why historians can disagree about this issue.

Reactions to the Treaty of Versailles

Use this chart to help with the Task on pages 18–19.

1. Look at Sources 1–8. Match each source with a caption. Write the correct caption into the chart in column 1.
2. In column 2 write the country that the source comes from.
3. In column 3 summarise what impression this source gives you of the Treaty or of the people who drew it up.
4. In column 4, if you think the source is critical of the Treaty summarise what it is criticising.

Source number and caption	Country	Impression of the Treaty	Criticism
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Did the Constitution make the Republic weak?

1. In one colour, draw lines to connect the sources which you think agree with each other.
2. Along the line explain what they agree about.
3. In another colour, draw lines to connect the sources which you think disagree with each other.
4. Along the line explain what they disagree about.

SOURCE 1 E. J. Passant, a British historian writing in 1959

“ The test of every constitution is the way it works. The Weimar Constitution had its dangers in a country sharply divided in political opinion, and quite unaccustomed to the ‘give and take’ of democratic politics. ”

SOURCE 2 D. Peukert, a German historian writing in 1987

“ The success or failure of the Constitution would depend on whether the political forces operating within it were prepared to exercise their rights according to the Constitution or whether they would actively seek to undermine it. ”

SOURCE 3 H. Heiber, a German historian writing in 1966

“ It was, of course, a compromise. As a whole, it was thoroughly serviceable, and given a more favourable political development, it would doubtless have served its purpose. However, circumstances did not take a favourable turn. ”

SOURCE 4 A. J. Nicholls, a British historian writing in 1968

“ Whatever problems faced the Weimar Republic, they were not attributable to the democratic nature of the Constitution, which was a brave statement of liberal and democratic principles, and for this it deserves to be honoured. ”

WORKSHEET 9

A *year of crisis!*

Use this chart to help you with the Task on page 23.

Complete the chart below to summarise the information in Source 3.

Action	Which crisis it dealt with (it might have helped with more than one)	How it helped
Calling off passive resistance		
Recalling old worthless money		
Getting rid of left-wing state governments		
Restarting reparations		

The Great Inflation

1. The Great Inflation affected different people in different ways. Complete this table using Sources 1-11 on pages 24-25 of your textbook.

Source number	Person/people	Is the inflation having a good or a bad impact on them?	If bad, how serious is the impact?	How are they coping?

2. Of the people in your table, who would you rather have been? Explain your choice carefully.
