

Worksheet 2 – The German Revolution

Review: Lecture 3.1 (The Last Years of the War)

In the first lecture of the unit, we discussed the end of the First World War in Germany, including reasons why the Kaiser and his High Command were ultimately deposed.

- ✓ Why do you think organised opposition to the war started to become a serious problem in 1918?
- ✓ Have the protests of (particularly) urban women been overlooked?

Recall: Lecture 3.2 (The German Revolution)

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. According to the lecturer, what was the relationship like between Councils and local authorities?
 - a) It was very difficult
 - b) They did not get along
 - c) It was mostly cohesive
 - d) There was almost no communication
2. Where did the German sailors first decide to mutiny?
 - a) Cuxhaven
 - b) Kiel
 - c) Hamburg
 - d) Bremerhaven
3. Who announced the abdication of the Kaiser?
 - a) Wilhelm II
 - b) Georg von Hertling
 - c) Prince Maximilian of Baden
 - d) Friedrich Ebert
4. Who proclaimed the creation of a new 'German Socialist Republic'?
 - a) Sophie Liebknecht
 - b) Karl Liebknecht
 - c) Friedrich Ebert
 - d) Rosa Luxemburg

Analysis

5. On the **9th November, 1918**, Germany found itself in a situation where a previous apparently-stable **monarchist régime had been toppled**, and in its stead came two proclamations of a new Republic.
 - a) List the challenges faced by Germany on the evening of the 9th November, in order of the extent to which you believe they were a priority;
 - b) Justify your choices for each.

Evaluation

6. **Define and explain the popularity of the 'stab in the back' theory. Focus on how it was developed in the wake of the Armistice's signing.**

Be sure to include the following:

- a. An **introduction** that provides an overview of the points you intend to make and your

final judgement;

- b. A paragraph in which you **make your first point**;
- c. A paragraph in which you **make your second point**; (*and so forth...*)
- d. A **conclusion** which links back to the question, and which summarises your evidence and overall judgement.

Challenge: The 'stab in the back' theory, although deeply popular in Germany after the war and supported by many wartime military leaders, is now widely discredited by historians and believed to be anti-Semitic.

Can you think of any parallels between the 'stab in the back' theory and other pervasive, historical myths you may have encountered in your studies?

Glossary

- Cohesive – united and working together efficiently.
e.g. There was a sense of cohesion between striking workers.
- Republic – a country not governed by a monarchy.
e.g. Germany became a Republic at the end of the war.
- Reichstag – the German word for 'Parliament', which in Germany is now called the Bundestag.
e.g. There were very few dissenting voices from the Reichstag.
- Armistice – an agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting.
e.g. The Armistice was signed in November.