

Worksheet 4 – The New Constitution

Review: Lecture 3.3 (The Spartacist Uprising)

In the third lecture of the unit, we discussed the impacts of the Spartacist Uprising in Germany’s fledgling republican democracy.

- ✓ What were the most important outcomes of the Uprising, as discussed in the previous lecture?
- ✓ Why might it be important to discuss the Spartacist Uprising In the context of the Weimar Republic’s early years?

Recall: Lecture 3.4 (The New Constitution)

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

1. What was the age of suffrage in the 1919 elections?
 - a) 24
 - b) 16
 - c) 20
 - d) 18

2. As well as voting, what else were women allowed to do for the first time in January 1919?
 - a) Stand in elections
 - b) Become judges
 - c) Open a bank account
 - d) Request a no-fault divorce

3. Who were the liberal Bourgeoisie most likely to vote for?
 - a) Liberal Democratic Party
 - b) Catholic Centre Party
 - c) Independent Social Democrats
 - d) German Nationalist People’s Party

4. Who succeeded Ebert as the Reichspräsident?
 - a) Hermann Müller
 - b) Max von Baden
 - c) Paul von Hindenberg
 - d) Adolf Hitler

Analysis

5. Copy out and fill in the following table:

a)

	Why do you think people voted for them?	How successful were they?
Social Democrats and Independent Social Democrats		
Liberal Democratic Party		
Catholic Centre Party		
German People’s Party		
German Nationalist People’s Party		

b) Briefly summarise the ‘pros’ and ‘cons’ of Article 48, which allowed the president to rule by decree.

Evaluation

6. **‘The new National Assembly was initially a successful democratic project.’**

To what extent do you agree with this assessment?

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.

Glossary

- Reichspräsident – (lit. "President of the Reich") the German head of state under the Weimar constitution, which was officially in force from 1919 to 1945.
e.g. He was replaced as Reichspräsident after his death.
- 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.