

- Effects of Versailles
 - Triggers political ripple
 - Hindenburg, Ludendorff, & Baden's plan = scapegoat
 - Political parties
 - NOTE: Prussian precedent
 - *Deutsche Zentrumspartei (Z)*
 - *Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (SPD)*
 - Nov 9, 1918,
 - Power transferred to Friedrich Ebert
 - Ger headed by provisional gov't
 - *Rat der Volksbeauftragten* =
 - Chaired by Ebert & Haase
 - Haase founder of *Unabhängige Partei Deutschlands (USPD)*
 - Consequence of moderate path = radicals bolt SPD
 - Form *Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands (KPD)*

The Weimar Republic

- All pre-war states join
- Weimar Constitution
 - Drafted in 1919
 - Creates "Federal Democratic Republic"
 - 181 Articles

— Part I = Frame of Gov't; Part II = Rights & Duties

• Part I – Frame of Gov't

— Executive Branch

• *Reichspräsident*

— Primary role = protection of German

— Promulgation of law

• *Reichskanzler*

— Primary role = head of cabinet

— Drafts laws

• *Reichskabinett*

— Department heads

— Legislative Branch – bicameral

• *Reichsrat*

— Represent states

— Primary role = oversight

• *Reichstag*

— Represents people

— Primary role = initiates all bills

— Judicial Branch

• Imperial court system remains

• Primary role = enforce of law

- Part II – Rights & Obligations
 - Individuals rights
 - Both genders = equal
 - Privacy
 - Free elections
 - Education
 - Liberties = “only limited by law”
 - Six major flaws
 - 1) Multitude of political parties allowed
 - 2) Army outside of government
 - 3) President power over legislation
 - Article 25
 - Article 48
 - Article 73
 - 4) Power of Chancellor
 - Article 53
 - 5) System = top heavy
 - 6) Biased judiciary
 - Major problems for Weimer
 - No legitimacy
 - Multiple party system

- Gov't only thru coalition
- Weakness of moderates
 - SPD = moderate-liberal left
 - Z = moderate-conservative middle class
 - *Deutsche Demokratische Partei* (DDP)
- Emergence of extremists (left & right)
 - On left = Radical Marxists (USPD & KPD)
 - NOTE: European Right different from US Right
 - *Deutschnationale Volkspartei* (DNVP)
 - Extremists threaten to pull Republic apart at seams
- Left moves first
 - 1918-19 Socialist Revolution
 - Origins = mutiny of sailors in Kiel in Oct 1918
 - Sailors join with unions, USPD & SPD
 - Adopt slogan "*Frieden und Brot*"
 - Nov 4th – seize Kiel
 - Spontaneous revolts breakout elsewhere
 - Worst = Bavaria
 - Remaining "princes" abdicate
 - Armistice derails revolution
 - *Rat der Volksbeauftragten* choose moderation

- Dec 1918, radicals bold SPD – form KPD
 - Leaders = Rosa Luxemburg & Karl Liebknecht
- KPD instigates *Spartakusaufstand* in Berlin
 - USPD & Unions join KPD
 - Threaten national revolution
- Ebert calls in *Reichswehr*
 - Groener & Hindenburg support Republic
 - Ebert-Groener Pact (1919)
 - Groener, sanctions *Freikorps*
 - *Freikorps* = formed by Kurt von Schleicher
 - *Reichswehr* & *Freikorps* brutally crush Communists
 - Two dangerous precedents set
- The Right moves - Kapp *Putsch*
 - Old military-aristocratic alliance joins w/ industrialists
 - Feb 29, Noske (SPD) orders *Freikorps* to disband
 - Units refused; march in Berlin
 - Luddwitz joins parade
 - March 10, Luddwitz refuses Ebert's command
 - March 13, Kapp (DNVP), Ludendorff, & others join
 - Launch *putsch*
 - Members of gov't flee

- Noske attempts to crush insurrection
 - Calls on *Reichswehr*
 - Calls on *Sicherheitspolizei*
 - Calls on workers
- *Putsch* fails
- *Reichswehr* = critical decision
- Significance of Left & Right revolutions