

Part One:

The Weimar Republic 1918–29

The origins of the Republic

1918 –
1919

The legacy of the First World War

Defeat in the Great War of 1914–18 left Germany broken and divided. The **Kaiser** was forced to **abdicate** as revolution toppled the government. A new government was needed to make peace.

Impact of the First World War on Germany

- 2 million soldiers dead, over 4 million wounded
- 150 billion marks in debt
- Shortages of food left 750,000 German civilians dead

'The German revolution', 1918

- Strikes and demonstrations across Germany (Stuttgart, Hanover)
- Workers' and soldiers' councils replaced local government
- October: naval mutinies at Kiel and Hamburg
- 7 November: Munich declares independence

Kaiser abdicates, 9 November 1918

- Ministers call for Kaiser to abdicate, army withdraws support
- Kaiser abdicates and goes into exile on 10 November
- **SPD** declares a new German Republic

Republic declared

- Chancellor Max von Baden hands over to Friedrich Ebert
- Ebert agrees to work with the army to keep out **communists**
- 10 November: **Reichstag** suspended, Council of People's Representatives named

Armistice signed

- 11 November: Ebert's government sign **armistice** to end fighting