4. Instability 1924-1929

Politics:

* ¼ of the German people (24%) were still voting for anti-Weimar parties.
* Hindenburg was anti-Weimar establishment

Economics:

* High unemployment – 1928 there was 1,368,000 people unemployed. Never fell below 1.3 million in the whole period.
* Agriculture was in recession - By 1929, German agricultural production was at less than 3/4 of its pre-war levels.
* Dependancy on USA - l/term problem.
* Divided society – Mothers/Churches and conservatives.

Tie back – Question statement too strong – there is evidence of stability in this period. Dominant theme ?

2. Stability 1919-1924

Politics:

* All the revolutions failed – Rosa Luxemburg / Karl Liebknecht
* Constitution was established
* General support for Weimar such as strikes (notably Kapp Putsch) revulsion towards political assassinations (750,000 demonstrated against political assassinations in Berlin in 1922)

Economics:

* Recognise 1923 was a year of crisis, but, unemployment would be higher later in the 1920s.

Tie back – Question statement too strong – there is evidence of stability in this period. Dominant theme ?

1. Instability 1919-1924

Politics:

* Revolution attempts/Putsch’s/Communist Bavaria
* Assassinations – Walther Rathenau
* Treaty of Versailles

Economics:

* Reparations (£6 million)
* Hyperinflation (12 marks to the dollar, in 1919. Then 4.2 trillion marks to the dollar. 1923)
* Ruhr

Social: (Starvation / Invasion etc.)

Tie back – Question – correct there was serious initial instability

QUESTION:

‘A period of instability followed by stability’ How far do you agree with this view of Weimar Germany 1919-1929?

Conclusion:

Statement is correct to some extent, but, it’s too generalised. From 1919 to 1924 it WAS a period of instability but 1924-1929 cannot solely be seen as a period of stability.

3. Stability 1924-1929

Stresemann – ‘Golden Years’

Politics:

* Müller’s Grand Coalition (1928 – 76% support for pro-Weimar parties)
* No Putschs / No assassinations or attempts
* Locarno 1925 and entry into the League Of Nations 1926

Economics:

* End of passive resistance In the Ruhr
* Introduction of Rentenmark (1:1 trillion marks)
* Dawes Plan 1924 – Reparations 1 million gold marks a year until 1929, however afterward will increase to 2.5million gold marks.
* Young Plan 1929 – ease of reparations.

Social: Bauhaus movement / Jazz music and cabaret

* 60% decrease in homelessness
* 2 million houses were built and over 200,000 were renovated

Tie back – Question – correct there was serious later stability