

Worksheet 7 – Hyperinflation, the Ruhr Crisis and the Beer Hall Putsch

Review: Lecture 3.6 (The Kapp Putsch)

In the previous lecture, Dr Nadine Rossol discussed the right-wing Kapp Putsch, its impacts, and associated threats to the still relatively new Republic.

- ✓ Why did the Kapp Putsch fail?
- ✓ What does the response to the Putsch tell us about the overall health of the Republic?

Recall: Lecture 3.7 (Hyperinflation, the Ruhr Crisis and the Beer Hall Putsch)

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

1. How, according to the lecturer, did Germany fund the war?
 - a) Through a loan policy
 - b) Exporting to Russia
 - c) By selling off its gold reserves
 - d) Foreign direct investment
2. According to the lecture, (apart from taking out loans) what can cause hyperinflation?
 - a) Raising interest rates
 - b) Contested elections
 - c) Increasing wages
 - d) Printing more money
3. How did farmers respond to hyperinflation?
 - a) Through panic buying
 - b) They emigrated
 - c) They sold as much as possible
 - d) They refused to sell their produce
4. What did the German government call on Germans in the occupy Ruhr to engage in?
 - a) Money laundering
 - b) Industrial sabotage
 - c) Passive Resistance
 - d) Active Resistance
5. Which chancellor is most closely associated with currency reform and dialogue around 1923?
 - a) Philipp Scheidemann
 - b) Gustav Stresemann
 - c) Hermann Müller
 - d) Adolf Hitler
6. Which offence was Hitler tried for after the Putsch failed?
 - a) He was not tried for anything
 - b) High Treason
 - c) Hate speech
 - d) Incitement to disorder

Analysis

7.
 - a) How did Germany eventually move out of the hyperinflation crisis, in mid-1923?
 - b) Why did French and Belgian troops decide to occupy specifically the Ruhr?

c) What was Hitler ultimately unsuccessful in the 'Beer Hall Putsch'?

Evaluation

8. Which was the most damaging of Germany's political crises in 1923?

Be sure to include the following:

- An **introduction** that provides an overview of the points you intend to make and your final judgement;
- A paragraph in which you **make your first point**;
- A paragraph in which you **make your second point**; (*and so forth...*)
- A **conclusion** which links back to the question, and which summarises your evidence and overall judgement.

Challenge:



Bundesarchiv bild 102-00344A - München, nach Hitler-Ludendorff Prozess (Hoffmann, 1942).

In the above image, Adolf Hitler is shown alongside other accused in his trial after the failed Putsch in Munich.

Which insights do you believe Hitler might have gained from his failures in Munich?

Glossary

- Hyperinflation – extreme economic inflation with prices rising at a very high rate in a very short time.
e.g. During the spell of hyperinflation, prices increased very quickly compared with wages.
- Default – fail to fulfil an obligation, especially to repay a loan.
e.g. Germany soon defaulted on its debts.
- Putsch – a violent attempt to overthrow a government.
e.g. Hitler's Putsch was ultimately a failure.
- Reactionary – conservative; right-wing..
e.g. Hitler's allies in the Putsch were reactionaries.

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