

Q6. GERMANY. 1918-1939.

A.)

The importance of nationalism, ~~and~~ requires all citizens to support the government, its beliefs and values and to promote a sense of national pride. Nationalism played a role in the failure of democracy in Germany, however many other factors contributed to this collapse including the inexperience of German democracy, ~~and~~ the past structures of government and the chaos occurring within the Weimar Republic. The initial stages of developing democracy in Germany had been intrinsically flawed and without the importance of nationalism brought out amongst the German society, democracy was likely to fail in the period of 1918-1934.

In the past Germany never really experienced democracy as it was governed by authoritarian policies <sup>(BESSER)</sup> and the citizens had no choice but to accept the rules governing their country. Faults in the key players of the Weimar Republic had also contributed to the failure of democracy. The abuse of 'Article 48' in which the head of state could rule by decree and overpower the majority had worked against its original purpose. Instead this act ~~was~~ had conflicted with the aims of democracy.

The structure of Weimar Government had also impacted on the failure of democracy as there were no clearly defined roles, that led to disorientation, confusing the public in their understanding of nationalism. After the first world war,

Germans felt as if they were betrayed by the government, which resulted in the 'stab in the back' theory.

Nationalism was hard to adapt to as this sense of mistrust had overcome the population and the failure of democracy ~~was~~ would ~~stay~~ have been based on this issue.

Furthermore, a sense of nationalism was harder to fulfil at the early stages of ~~the~~ democracy, when the end of war came with the Treaty of Versailles. Citizens of Germany felt the impact of the burden to carry out paying reparations. Economic strain had left many with a dissatisfaction with the government and as this issue escalated, more problems unfolded. The occupation of the Ruhr in 1923 had left the

government to make decisions that affected ~~all~~ all citizens. There was no nationalistic pride when taxes were increased and the government's spending was cut in order to balance out costs. ~~The~~ Additional problems contributed to the failure of democracy, governments spending to import supplies from the lost profits of the coal industry during France's occupation had led to more spending, and the printing of money. This act by the government had resulted in hyperinflation where the national currency was basically worthless.

This affected mainly those who were retired and people with fixed incomes.

Support for the government was low and it led to increase support for parties on the far right wing.

The conservative opponents had also affected the importance of nationalism as their conflicting views ~~for~~ with the democratic government had placed emphasis on other aspects aside from nationalism.

Increased support of these extreme parties including the NSDAP and KPD had also undermined the capability of democracy to fulfil the public's sense of national pride, as it caused many conflicts, social, political and economic difficulties.

The role of the democratic government had not been clear as well as their structure and ways of running the country. Flaws in their constitution had also affected the way ~~the~~ people voted. The proportional

representation system had been a key feature in the failure of democracy when there were no final agreements made between parties. This called for many elections and no party ever held enough votes to make changes.

These continuous mistakes of the Democratic government had undoubtedly impacted upon the German society's views on their government and their importance placed on nationalism. However it is important to consider that there were many other factors including the inexperience of democracy within Germany, structure of the government and most of all the continuing

problems which ~~not~~ affected ~~the~~  
all citizens in a time of  
social, political and economic  
turmoil.