



Q6. a)

Nationalism was a contributing factor to the failure of democracy in Germany (by) between 1918-1934. However, ~~other~~ there were other factors ~~that~~ also contributed greatly to the fall of German democracy. Such as, the ~~bad~~ backlash of the Treaty of Versailles (T of V) as well as which enforced of very harsh punishments ~~and~~ as well as created great dissent amongst German society, as well as inbuilt constitutional flaws and the failure to eradicate the ~~opposing~~ opposition in German Society such as right wing forces undermined the ~~const~~ Weimar Constitution and German democracy. Further political economic upheaval in ~~hyper~~ hyperinflation ~~and~~ ~~the~~ culminating in the Great Depression proved to ~~also~~ ^{also} contribute to the failure of German democracy. As such, through these factors ~~nationalism~~ nationalism ~~is~~ proved to be a strong force among German society that

essentially allowed opposition to ~~reinforce~~ ^{reinforce} ~~planned~~ ^{planned} such as the Nazi party and eventually overthrow German democracy.

~~The~~ ~~harsh~~ The harsh terms of the treaty & created great dissent amongst the German people ~~who~~ who blamed the Weimar Republic and democracy for the failure of the war. German society was steeped in authoritarian ~~a~~ ruling and a form of govt., ~~was~~ democracy, was foreign to ~~the~~ German society, ~~and~~ as such ~~to~~ ~~the~~ German society found it difficult to trust a ~~new~~ ~~form~~ ~~of~~ ~~govt.~~ that appeared to have failed them in the war with the ~~imposed~~ harsh terms of the treaty. The large sum of reparation payments proved to be ~~an~~ ~~ongoing~~ ~~economic~~ ~~issue~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~Weimar~~ ~~Republic~~ (W.R) which culminated in hyperinflation and led to a great ~~amount~~ ~~of~~ increase in unemployment, further discouraging German people.

As such, extremist parties like the Nazis, ~~played on the~~ who were strongly nationalistic, played on the emotions of the treaty in order to continually attack the W.R and undermine its ruling. They used the nationalist ~~the~~ strong ^{sense} ~~feeling~~ of nationalism to unite the German people ~~under the hood~~ and create strong opposition amongst German society against the W.R and democracy. As such, the harsh terms of the ~~new~~ Treaty of Versailles ~~po~~ allowed extremist groups such as the Nazis to ~~be~~ ^{and} instil a strong sense of nationalism in ^{the} German people to undermine democracy and lead to its ultimate failure. As such, ~~nationalism~~ this ~~illustrates~~ nationalism was an important factor used by extremist groups to create dissent and ~~lead~~ lead to failure of democracy. Furthermore, the W.R inability to remove the power and influence of elitist groups

Such as the Nazis and the army, who were strong nationalistic groups and greatly opposed democracy - undermined the W.R authority and allowed these nationalistic groups to preserve power in society, greatly influencing the people. Historian E. H. Carr believed that in his book 'The Weimar Republic' (1988) believed "the W.R failure to eradicate elitist groups allowed them to preserve their power and influence over society, thus contributing to failure of democracy". The govts. use of W.R belief in keeping democracy the army a powerful force in German society and the W.R to attempt to keep them on side backfired. Illustrated in the Kapp Putsch of 1924. The Kapp Putsch was an attempted overthrow by right-wing groups, such as the nationalists, who disagreed with the govts. attempt to reduce the size of the army and disband Freikorps, which was

military clause in the Treaty of Versailles. The government believed the German army would help them now like they did with the Spartacist revolt in 1918. However, the German army was never for the German democratic democracy and allowed the right-wing nationalist groups to attempt an overthrow of the Weimar Republic. This led to the President Ebert and the Cabinet fleeing Berlin. Thus illustrating the powerful influence nationalist groups like the army and nationalists were in the German society. It was only when the workers, backed by the civil service went on strike that the attempted overthrow failed and political order was restored. However, the Kapp Putsch was significant in demonstrating the great power nationalist groups still had in German society and as well as proving the weakness of the Weimar Republic and essentially the democratic system. Historian Kolb believes the Weimar failure to ~~to~~ foster the working class who believed

in democracy was a contribution that undermined the democratic system. It is believed that if the W.R stored faith in the working class they may have overcome the hardship of the early 1920s and prospered well into the 1930s.

Moreover, its built constitutional flaws greatly contributed to the failure of the democratic system. Article 48 allowed the president great power in times of emergency, something which he used often. This ~~created~~ allowed for him to introduce new laws without the approval of the Reichstag. As such, this president Hindenburg used this clause to allow Hitler the position of chancellor, and thus putting in place a nationalistic force in a high position of power. Thus, once Hitler was in the position of chancellor, he used Article 48 many times to gain power ~~of~~ over the govt. Such as, his combining of the

also the position of chancellor and president, and the abolishment of all other opposing parties in the Reichstag. As such, Article 48 proved to be a downfall for the democracy as it put nationalistic groups in power that had great support of the people. As such, nationalism did prove to be a contributing factor in the failure of democracy. Evident in the 1932 elections in which the Nazi party had a great increase in votes and winning more seats in the Reichstag.

Moreover, Proportional Representation allowed for many smaller parties to gain seats in the Reichstag without a large no. of votes. This contributed the instability of the govt. as there was never a clear majority in the Reichstag. Further allowing for nationalistic groups to gain seats in the Reichstag and have power in German society, undermining the democratic system.

Historians such as ~~Kolb~~ Kolb believe

that "from the start Coy ~~1~~ was ~~too~~ built for failure with the structural weaknesses and ~~the~~ inbuilt flaws".

Lastly, the Great depression ^(G.D) in 1929-1933 greatly impacted on Gm society and ultimately led to the downfall of democracy. Poor ^{economic} foundations in the "good yrs" were built on foreign loans. Stresemann said "If America was to recall their foreign loans any economic stability would be lost". With ~~big~~ hyperinflation and occurring only yrs before and ^{the} recovery on foreign loans led for an instable ^{economic} foundation for the Great Depression. With unemployment increasing and the W.R economic instability Gm people began to look to nationalistic groups such as the Nazis who preached "work and Bread". As such with great Gm society ~~to~~ putting greater faith in ~~ext~~ groups that preached nationalism ~~Gm democracy~~ ~~the~~ ~~to~~ was the G.D led to the eventual failure of Gm democracy. Some historians like Bracher believe if Gy were able to overcome there

economic crisis during the Great Depression they may have had a chance to prosper well into the 1930's.

As such, ~~was~~ nationalism proved to be a significant factor in the failure of democracy as significant events such as the Kapp Putsch and the Great Depression led to GM society looking towards authoritarianistic groups such as the Nazis who remained a strong force in society. Other factors such as inbuilt constitutional flaws ~~to~~ greatly contributed to failure of democracy in any period 1918-1934.