

6a) Democracy in Germany only lasted a short while and there were many reasons why democracy failed, one key cause of the failure of democracy was nationalism, but it was not the only reason why it failed, ~~because~~ so it would be unfair to say that nationalism was of great importance. Nationalism was only one failure in a line of many and this essay will discuss these failures.

Nationalism did play a key role in the failure of the Weimar democracy, as the new democratic government was rocked by a man, Hitler, who appealed to the people. Hitler was a nationalist and his Nazi government followed a nationalist dictatorship, meaning that when Hitler came to power in Germany, so too did nationalism. But as stated above, nationalism

was important in the failure of the Weimar democracy, but not the only reason for failure. Many other reasons equal Nationalism as a cause for the ~~the~~ failure of the democracy.

The Weimar democratic government had two main weaknesses which lead to its demise. Proportional voting, which lead to coalitions in the Government. Splits in coalition parties due to differences of opinions led to great unrest within the democratic government, and also Emergency Powers, given to the president, meaning that he and only he could rule in times of emergency by decree, as stated in article 48. This was also another weakness as if the President ~~and~~ wanted to pass something through government, and it failed, he could declare emergency powers and go straight over

the senate.

Another key reason for the failure of the Weimar Government was the fact that there was a lack of democratic tradition in Germany at this time. The people of Germany were not used to democracy and because of the Great Depression, never got used to it. Some historians say that if the Great Depression hadn't occurred, it would have given the democratic government the chance to stabilise and the people would get used to it.

The treaty of Versailles was also a reason for the failure. As the first democratic government signed the treaty after world war one. The German people thought the treaty was unfair and resented the

democratic government for signing it. This was the 'stab in the back theory'; the people of Germany believed they were betrayed right from the start <sup>by</sup> this new government, thus the democratic government lacked public support.

The Weimar government was also being undermined by other groups, such as the judiciary <sup>and the legal system.</sup> These groups were against democracy from the start and favoured the new Nazi party and Hitler. It is said that this is why Hitler only got such a short <sup>prison</sup> sentence after the Kapp Putsch in Munich.

The Weimar democracy also failed because of economic pressures from the hyperinflation, the Great Depression and the need to pay ~~of~~ reparations after the loss in world war one. The people, again,

were angry at the Weimar government for the way in which they had to live. This also caused a lack of support for the new Government.

Finally, after world war one, Germany was suffering due to the defeat and had lost all morale and faith in their country. This is why Hitler and the Nazi's party appealed to them so greatly because he offered them the opportunity to once more be great. His charisma bought the people to him and his skills as an orator were brilliant. He was able to catch the minds and imaginations of the suffering citizens of Germany. Hitler also appealed to each group <sup>or class</sup> in Germany, making promises to the lower class, the middle class, the upper class, the young and the old. This broad range of followers

lead to the rise of the Nazi Government and the failure of the Weimar democratic.

As has been shown in this essay, Nationalism did ~~to~~ play ~~an~~ important role in the failure of the democratic government in Germany from 1918 to 1934, but it was not the most ~~x~~ important, all other factors discussed in this essay were ~~reasons~~ of equal importance to nationalism in the failure of the Weimar democratic government.