



This poster was produced by the Nazis for the 1932 General Election. The writing says:

'Women! Millions of men without work. Millions of children without a future.'

1) How useful is this source for someone studying the effects of the depression in Germany?

You may want to discuss the context (what was happening at the time) and the origin of the source to answer this question effectively.

How did the Depression weaken the Weimar government?

Unpopular economic policies

The Weimar government seemed to have no idea how to deal with the affects of the Great Depression in Germany. The USA had stopped lending money and unemployment went up as factories closed down. One solution that the government could have used was to print more money, but the Weimar leaders knew that this would lead to inflation again so they did not choose this option. Instead the government decided to raise taxes and cut wages and unemployment benefit.

Presidential Rule

The Social Democrats decided to leave the government because they did not like the cuts in wages and unemployment benefit. The Chancellor therefore had to use ARTICLE 48, which allowed the President to rule without the Reichstag (Parliament). The President was the 84 year old General Hindenburg who was apparently controlled by business and army leaders.

The rise of the Nazis and the Communists

Many Germans were unhappy with the Weimar government because they felt that the government was not solving the situation. Many people turned to extremist groups instead. The COMMUNISTS said that the capitalist system was collapsing and only communism offered the answer. The NAZIS blamed the Weimar government, the Treaty of Versailles, the Jews and the Communists and promised to get rid of them. Political violence increased as the two groups fought running battles against each other.

Question - Explain, using evidence from each paragraph, how the depression made the Weimar government weaker.



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1) How useful is this source for someone studying the effects of the depression in Germany?

- ? Think about what the message of the source is - the Nazis can help the unemployed
- ? Think about why the Nazis have published this poster - they want to win votes at the election

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Presidential Rule

The Social Democrats decided to leave the government so the Chancellor had to use ARTICLE 48, which allowed the President to rule without the Reichstag (Parliament). The President was the 84 year old General Hindenburg, who was probably too old to rule properly.

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Question - Explain, using evidence from each paragraph, how the depression made the Weimar government weaker.

- ? Write about the things that the government did to solve the problems
- ? Write about how the government ruled and how weak the President was
- ? Write about the groups that Germans supported instead of the government