

History, Weimar and Nazi Germany

Lesson 10

Worksheet:

How far had the Weimar Republic recovered by 1929?

Mr McNally



Middle Class woes

The **economic** recovery of the **Weimar Republic** did not benefit everyone. The **middle-class** found little joy in this so called “**Golden Age**”. Many members of the middle-class were still suffering due to the loss of their **savings** in 1923, and this group failed to benefit from most of the changes.

White-collar workers did not benefit from the same wage rises as the **industrial** sector and they could not always access the benefits of the welfare policies. By **1928** almost 185,000 middle-class workers were unemployed and looking for work. Nearly half of these did not benefit from the **Unemployment Insurance Act**.



Rural anger

Germany's **agricultural** sector had been severely damaged by the First World War and was yet to fully recover. However, by 1923, the farmers found themselves as one of the industries not hugely negatively affected by **hyperinflation**. People needed food and they were able to trade their supplies.

However, by the mid-1920s, Germany was **trading** with other nations again and many imported foods from abroad were cheaper than the German alternative. The German farms needed to **modernise** to keep up with the growing demand and to compete with the prices. Yet, this cost a lot of money and many farmers go into huge debt because of this. Some farmers even lost their land.



Interpretation 1 - By a political historian

The years 1924-28 can rightly be called the 'Golden Years' of the Weimar Republic. Support for extremists groups had declined and the majority of people were confident in the Republic. Industrial growth was the key to this success and blue-collar workers had a much better quality of life.



Interpretation 2 - By a historian writing about the history of German agriculture

Not every sector benefited in the Weimar Republic as much as industry. The farmers found it difficult to match the prices of the foreign import. Many farmers who failed to modernise also lost their farms. The agricultural sector did not see any 'Golden Years'.



Glossary

Middle class - the social group between the upper and working classes, including professional and business people.

Golden age- A period of prosperity.

White collar workers - A white-collar worker is a person who performs professional, desk, managerial, or administrative work.

Blue collar workers - A person who works in industry/manual labour.

Agricultural- The farming industry.

Modernise - Installing modern equipment or adopting modern ideas or methods.



Interpretation Questions

1. What does Interpretation 2 tell you about the 'Golden Years' of the Weimar Republic?
2. Why did farmers "find it difficult" in the years 1924-29?
3. What does it mean by "farmers needed to modernise"?
4. How does the view in Interpretation 1 differ to Interpretation 2?
5. Challenge question: Which Interpretation do you agree with the most? Use your own knowledge to help you explain.

P - I agree with Interpretation ... more than Interpretation ...

E - This is because it states ...

E - This links to my own knowledge because ...

L - Therefore, i agree with Interpretation ... more than ...

