

CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE

Was the Weimar Republic doomed from the start?

This revision activity works best if you do it with a friend, and talk about it as you do it.

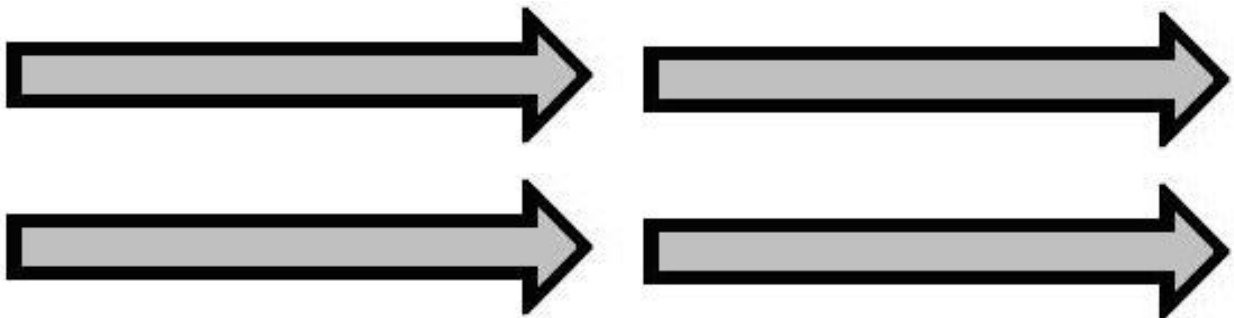
The bedrock of any answer to the question *HOW* something happened is understanding cause and consequence. This process can be represented like this:



with the causal link(s) shown by an arrow; the box on the left is the cause (an event that happened), and the boxes on the right are consequences (the event(s)/reaction(s) it provoked).

Below are boxes giving facts about the Weimar Republic. Cut the boxes up into cards and also cut out the arrows. Use your ingenuity and the arrows to make up as many 'action–reaction' flow diagrams as you can – you should be able to create hundreds of them.

Each time you make up a flow diagram, describe your reasoning, taking special care to explain *HOW* the links worked to create the result they did.



The British navy blockaded German ports during the First World War	The Kiel Mutiny (October 1918)	The Kaiser abdicated (November 1918)	The German army was demobbed in 1918; returning soldiers could not get a job
There was a Spartacist Communist revolution in January 1919	The Communist rebellions of 1919–20 were brutally crushed by the Freikorps	The Allies set up the democratic 'Weimar' constitution (1919)	A Bill of Rights gave freedom of speech, political opinion and religion
The new Republic had a number of weaknesses, including proportional representation	The Weimar Republic was weakened by many parties and coalition governments	All the judges and officials came from the Kaiser's time and hated the new Republic	Many Germans hated the new Republic because it had signed Versailles
German newspapers vowed that they would get revenge for the Treaty of Versailles	The <i>Dollstosslegende</i> said the army had been 'stabbed in the back' by 'November Criminals'	The nationalist 'Kapp Putsch' (1920) against the Treaty and the government	Rise of right-wing parties, which Hitler gradually assimilated into the Nazis
Assassinations — e.g. Erzberger (a 'November Criminal', 1921) and Rathenau (foreign minister, 1922)	Judges let off nationalist agitators and thugs with light sentences	In 1919 a Communist state was set up in Bavaria	In 1920, a Communist group called the Red Army rebelled in the Ruhr
In January 1923, Germany defaulted on its reparations payment	In 1923, France invaded the Ruhr	In 1923, the government called (and paid) for a general strike in the Ruhr	There was hyperinflation in 1923 — e.g. the price of bread rose from 1 to 200 billion marks
The value of the mark fell in 1923 — e.g. £1 rose from 500 marks to 14 trillion marks	In 1923, workers got their wages in wheelbarrows	In 1923, people on fixed incomes (pensioners, war widows) starved	In 1923, some speculators made a fortune
In Berlin in October 1923, Black Reichswehr rebelled, led by Bruno Buchrucker	In 1923, the Rhineland declared independence. Communist rebellions in Saxony and Thuringia	In November 1923, Hitler tried to take over the government of Bavaria in the Munich Putsch	Stresemann introduced a new currency (the Rentenmark)
The Dawes Plan (1924) reduced reparations and brought in American loans	Stresemann formed a strong 'Great Coalition' of moderate parties (SDP/Centre/DVP)	Stresemann introduced Labour Exchanges, unemployment pay and 3 million new houses	The years 1924–29 were a time of economic stability and prosperity
The years 1924–29 were a time of political stability	Stresemann started paying reparations and persuaded the French to leave the Ruhr	Stresemann signed the Locarno Treaties (1925) accepting Germany's borders set at Versailles	Stresemann got Germany accepted into the League of Nations (1926)