**The Munich Putsch**

November 1923, Hitler and 600 Nazis burst into a meeting. At gunpoint, Chief minister Von Kahr and army chief Von Lossow agreed to take over Berlin government. They told the police, in the morning Nazis and policed clashed. 1416 Nazis and 4 policemen died.

July 1914 - £1 = 20 marks November 1923 - £1 = 1.68 quintillion marks

**The hyperinflation crisis and events in the Ruhr, 1923**

The currency had been going down in value by inflation since 1914. The government started to print more money than it had, to pay off reparations and workers. The currency started to decrease rapidly.

France and Belgian troops invaded the Rhineland twice, in 1921 and 1923 when Germany failed to pay reparations. Germany needed this money to pay off war debts to the USA. The invasion was met by passive resistance (strikes and sabotage). Some workers were shot be French troops, reminding people of the war, strikers were seen as heroes and the government continued to pay them even though less goods were produced. This led to hyperinflation.

People with savings, on a fixed income or with pensions had nothing. Some did benefit –

* Businessmen were able to pay off debts easily
* Rise in prices helped farmers
* Foreigners could afford things others couldn’t.

**The Impact of the Treaty of Versailles (28 June 1919)**

Most Germans were horrified and embarrassed by everything, the treaty contained 440 clauses –

* Territorial terms- lost 13% of land, 6 million citizens, Germany was forbidden to reunite with Austria. Saarland administered by the League of Nations.
* Military terms- army limited to 100,000 men, forbidden to possess any tanks, heavy guns or aircraft. Only allowed ships bellow 10,000 tons, the Rhineland was demilitarised.
* Financial terms- £6,600 million fine, had to accept war guilt for all damage dealt in war.
* Political terms- Germany forbidden to join League of Nations, had to accept blame for war.

**The Sparticist Uprising**

Communist uprising / led by Karl Liebknecht+ Rosa Luxemburg. December 1918, founded the German communist party (KPD). In January 1919, communists began plans to overthrow Ebert. Government used Reichswehr and Freikorps to put the rebellion down. The leaders were captured + executed.

**The Kapp Putsch**

Weimar tried to shrink Freikorps, the Berlin Freikorps refused to comply. Led by Wolfgang Kapp, trying to form right wing government. The Reichswehr backed Kapp. Army refused to fire at Kapp’s men. Ebert called for a strike which trade unionists and civil servants supported so it all collapsed.

**Political Instability**

Weimar hated by communists, socialists, nationalists and army leaders. Faced constant threat from the right and left of politics.

**The Weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution**

Appointment of Chancellor- supposed to be leader of largest party, but Hindenburg triggered article 48 after 1930 to change this. System of voting- using proportional representation Reichstag Coalition Government- PR meant that it was hard to get majority, resulted in Coalition government. Power of the President- due to article 48, in any ‘state of emergency’ president could pass any laws, without Reichstag Frequent changes of government- nine elections, weak and unstable government

**The Weimar Republic**

Met for the first time in January 1919, in the town of Weimar. Germany became a republic after the Kaiser abdicated and fled. The provisional government made an agreement. It lasted from 1919-1933, led by two presidents, Ebert then Paul von Hindenburg.

The impact of the First World War