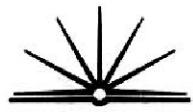




Q6.a)

Nationalism was a contributing factor to the failure of democracy in Germany (by) between 1918-1934. However, there were other factors that also contributed greatly to the fall of German democracy. Such as, the initial backlash of the Treaty of Versailles (T of V) as well as which enforced of very harsh punishments such as well as created great dissent amongst German society, as well as inbuilt constitutional flaws and the failure to eradicate the opposing opposition in German Society such as right wing forces undermining the terms of Weimar Constitution and German democracy. Further political economic upheaval in hyper inflation culminating in the Great depression proved to also contribute to the failure of German democracy. As such, through these factors nationalism proved to be a strong force among German society that



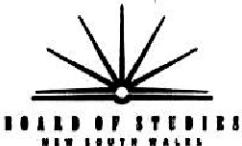
essentially allowed opposition to ~~plan~~ ^{reinforce} such as the Nazi party and eventually overthrow Gm democracy.

Thatsback the harsh terms of the treaty & created great dissent amongst the Gm people who blamed the Weimar Republic and democracy for the failure of the war. Gm society was steeped in authoritarian ~~is~~ ruling and a form of govt., was democracy, was foreign to the Gm society, and as such to the Gm society found it difficult to trust a ~~new~~ ^{good} form of govt. that appeared to have failed them in the war with the ~~impost~~ harsh terms of the treaty. The large sum of reparation payments proved to be ~~an~~ ongoing economic issue for the Weimar Republic (W.R) which culminated in hyperinflation and led to a great ~~amount of~~ increase in unemployment, further discouraging Gm people.



As such, extremist parties like the Nazis, played on the who were strongly nationalistic, played on the emotions of the treaty in order to continually attack the W.R and undermine its ruling. They used the nationalists the strong sense of nationalism to unite the German people under the banner and create strong opposition amongst German society against the W.R and democracy. As such, the harsh terms of the ~~Treaty of Versailles~~ allowed extremist groups such as the Nazis to ~~use~~ ~~to~~ ~~use~~ ~~use~~ instil a strong sense of nationalism in German people to undermine democracy and lead to its ultimate failure. As such, ~~nationalism~~ this ~~illustrates~~ illustrates nationalism was an important factor used by extremist groups to create dissent and ~~lead~~ lead to failure of democracy.

Furthermore, the W.R inability to remove the power and influence of elitist groups



such as the Nazis and the army, who were strong nationalistic groups and greatly opposed democracy - undermined the W.R authority and allowed these nationalistic groups to preserve power in society, greatly influencing the people. Historian R.b Bracher believed that in his book 'The Weimar republic' (1988) believed "the W.R failure to eradicate elitist groups allowed them to preserve their power and influence over society, thus contributing to failure of democracy". The govt. was of W.R belief in keeping down the army - powerful influence army proved to be a great force in Gm Society also and the W.R to attempt to keep them on side backfired. Illustrated in the Kapp Putsch of 1924. The Kapp Putsch was an attempted overthrow by right-wing groups, such as Th. nationalists, who disagreed with the govt's attempt to reduce the size of the army and disband Freikorps, which was



military clause in the Tof v. The govt. believed the Gm army would help them now like they did with the Spanish spartacists revolt in 1918. However, the Gm army was never for the Gm democratic democracy and allowed the right-wing nationalist groups ~~one~~ to attempt an overthrow of Gm the w.R. This led to the ~~the~~ President Ebert and the Cabinet fleeing Berlin. Thus illustrating the powerful influence nationalistic groups like the army and nationalists were in Gm society. It was only when the workers, backed by the civil service went on strike that the attempted overthrow failed and political order was restored. However, the Kapp Putsch was significant in demonstrating the great power nationalistic groups still had in Gm society ~~and~~ as well as proving the weakness of the w.R and essentially the democratic system. Historian Kolb believes the W.R failure to ~~to~~ foster the working class who believed



in democracy was a contribution that undermined the democratic system. It is believed that if the W.R. stored faith in the working class they may have overcome the hardship of the early 1920's and prospered well into the 1930's.

Moreover in built Constitutional flaws greatly contributed to the failure of the democratic system. Article 48 allowed the president great power in times of emergency, something which he used often. This created allowed for him to introduce new laws without the approval of the Reichstag. As such, this president Hindenburg used this clause to allow Hitler the position of chancellor, and thus putting into a nationalistic force in a high position of power. Thus, once Hitler was in the position of chancellor, he used Article 48 many times to gain power of over the govt. Such as, his combining of the



the position of chancellor and president, and the abolition of all other opposing parties in the Reichstag. As such, Article 48 proved to be a downfall for the democracy as it put nationalistic groups in power that had great support of the people. As such, nationalism did prove to be a contributing factor in the failed failure of democracy. Evident in the 1932 elections in which the Nazi party had a great increase in votes and winning more seats in the Reichstag.

Moreover, Proportional Representation allowed for many smaller parties to gain seats in the Reichstag without a large no. of voters. This contributed the instability of the govt. as there was never a clear majority in the Reichstag. Further allowing for nationalistic groups to gain seats in the Reichstag and have power in Gm society, undermining the democratic system.

Historians such as Goldi & Kolb believe

Question 6a

that "from the start [it] was too built for failure with the structural weaknesses and the inbuilt flaws".



(a.D)
Lastly, the Great depression in 1929-1933 greatly impacted on German society and ultimately led to the downfall of democracy. Poor economic foundations in the "good yrs" were built on foreign loans. Stresemann said "If America was to recall their foreign loans any economic stability would be lost". With big hyperinflation and occurring only yrs before and ~~big~~ ^{economic} recovery on foreign loans led for an unstable ^{economic} foundation & for the Great Depression. With unemployment increasing and the W.R economic instability & German people began to look to nationalistic groups such as the Nazis who preached "work and Bread". As such with great German society ~~had~~ putting greater faith in ext groups that preached nationalism. ~~the~~ ^{the} worse the G.D led to the eventual failure of German democracy. Some historians like Bracher believe if Germany were able to overcome these

Question 6a

economic crisis during the Great Depression they may have had a chance to prosper well into the 1930's.

As such, nationalism proved to be a significant factor in the failure of democracy as significant events such as the Kapp Putsch and the Great Depression led to German society working towards Nationalistic groups such as the Nazis who remained a strong force in society. Other factors such as inbuilt constitutional flaws greatly contributed to failure of democracy in Germany period 1918-1934.