

Nazism and the Rise of Hitler

Source Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Germany, a powerful empire in the early years of the twentieth century, fought the First World War (1914-1918) alongside the Austrian empire and against the Allies (England, France and Russia.) All joined the war enthusiastically hoping to gain from a quick victory. Little did they realise that the war would stretch on, eventually draining Europe of all its resources. Germany made initial gains by occupying France and Belgium. However, the Allies, strengthened by the US entry in 1917, won, defeating Germany and the Central Powers in November 1918. The defeat of Imperial Germany and the abdication of the emperor gave an opportunity to parliamentary parties to recast German polity. A National Assembly met at Weimar and established a Democratic Constitution with a federal structure. Deputies were now elected to the German Parliament or Reichstag, on the basis of equal and universal votes cast by all adults including women. This Republic, however, was not received well by its own people largely because of the terms it was forced to accept after Germany's defeat at the end of the First World War.

Q1. Against which of the following, Germany fought the First World War?

- a. England
- b. France
- c. Russia
- d. All of these

Ans. (d)

Q2. Reichstag is the other name for:

- a. German Judiciary
- b. German Parliament
- c. German University
- d. None of these

Ans. (b)

Q3. What were the initial gains made by Germany?

- a. Making Germany a powerful empire
- b. Occupying France and Belgium
- c. Defeating the Central Powers
- d. Establishing a Democratic Constitution

Ans. (b)

Q4. How were the deputies of the Reichstag appointed?

- a. On the basis of total votes caste excluding women
- b. On the basis of Universal Adult Franchise
- c. On the basis of federalism
- d. On the basis of majority in Parliament

Ans. (b)

Q5. A National Assembly met at Weimar established a:

- a. Military Tribunal
- b. Spartacist League
- c. Democratic Constitution
- d. War Tribunal

Ans. (c)

Q6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): The Weimar Republic had to sign the humiliating Treaty of Versailles.

Reason (R): In the Weimar Republic, both the communists and socialists became irreconcilable enemies.

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Ans. (b)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The war had a devastating impact on the entire continent both psychologically and financially. From a continent of creditors, Europe turned into one of debtors. Unfortunately, the infant Weimar Republic was being made to pay for the sins of the old empire. The Republic carried the burden of war guilt and national humiliation and was financially crippled by being forced to pay compensation. Those who supported the Weimar Republic, mainly Socialists, Catholics and Democrats, became easy targets of attack in the conservative nationalist circles. They were mockingly called the 'November criminals'. This mindset had a major impact on the political developments of the early 1930s. The First World War left a deep imprint on European society and polity. Soldiers came to be placed above civilians. Politicians and publicists laid great stress on the need for men to be aggressive, strong and masculine. The media glorified trench life. The truth, however, was that soldiers lived miserable lives in these trenches, trapped with rats feeding on corpses. They faced poisonous gas and enemy shelling, and witnessed their ranks reduce rapidly. Aggressive war propaganda and national honour occupied centre stage in the public sphere, while popular support grew for conservative dictatorships that had recently come into being. Democracy was indeed a young and fragile idea, which could not survive the instabilities of interwar Europe.

Q1. Who were the supporters of Weimar Republic after the First World War?

- a. Socialists
- b. Catholics
- c. Democrats
- d. All of these

Ans. (d)

Q 2. What was the burden imposed on Weimar Republic after the First World War?

- a. War guilt and national humiliation
- b. Financial loss by being forced to pay compensation
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. Become target of attack in the conservative nationalist circles

Ans. (c)

Q3. Identify the main problem faced by the Weimar Republic in Germany.

- a. The Weimar Republic had to sign the humiliating Treaty of Versailles.
- b. Hyperinflation made the German mark valueless and caused immense hardship for the common man.
- c. Both revolutionaries and militant nationalists craved for radical solutions which was not easy.
- d. All of the above.

Ans. (d)

Q4. Who became irreconcilable enemies in the Weimar Republic?

- a. Both the Communists and Socialists
- b. Both the Socialists and Democrats
- c. Both the Catholics and Democrats
- d. Both the Socialists and Catholics

Ans. (a)

Q5. What was the impact of First World War on the lives of soldiers?

- a. Soldiers faced poisonous gas and enemy shelling and witnessed their ranks reduce rapidly
- b. Soldiers lived miserable lives in trenches trapped with rats feeding on corpses
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. Soldiers became psychologically and financially unstable

Ans. (c)

Q 6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): Socialists, Catholics and Democrats came to be known as 'November criminals' and were targeted.

Reason (R): They became easy targets of attack in the conservative nationalist circles.

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Ans. (a)

Source 3

Read the source give below and answer the questions that follow:

The years between 1924 and 1928 saw some stability. Yet, this was built on sand. German investments and industrial recovery were totally dependent on short-term loans, largely from the USA. This support was withdrawn when the Wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929. Fearing a fall in prices, people made frantic efforts to sell their shares. On one single day, 24 October, 13 million shares were sold. This was the start of the Great Economic Depression. Over the next three years, between 1929 and 1932, the national income of the USA fell by half. Factories shut down, exports fell, farmers were badly hit and speculators withdrew their money from the market. The effects of this recession in the US economy were felt worldwide. The German economy was the worst hit by the economic crisis. By 1932, industrial production was reduced to 40 per cent of the 1929 level. Workers lost their jobs or were paid reduced wages. The number of unemployed touched an unprecedented 6 million. On the streets of Germany you could see men with placards around their necks saying, 'Willing to do any work'. Unemployed youths played cards or simply sat at street corners, or desperately queued up at the local employment exchange. As jobs disappeared, the youth took to criminal activities and total despair became commonplace.

Q1. How did Great Economic Depression start?

Ans. Great Economic Depression started when the wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929 and people sold their shares in a day due to the fear of fall in their prices.

Q 2. What was the impact of Great Depression on US?

Ans. The Great Depression had the following impact on US:

- (i) Values of shares dropped drastically and the national income of USA fell by half.
- (ii) Hundreds of American banks, factories, mining companies and business firms went bankrupt.

Q3. Mention the impact of the Economic Depression on Germany.

Ans. The Great Economic Depression had the following impact on Germany:

(i) The middle classes like salaried employees and pensioners found their saving wiped out due to the currency losing its value.

(ii) The large mass of peasantry was affected by a sharp fall in agricultural prices.