*This podcast helps you to understand the origins of the Weimar Republic, including the abdication of the Kaiser, the armistice and the revolution of 1918–19.*

Good afternoon citizens of Germany. My name is Karl Zipplemann and I am here on the streets of Berlin. It is the 11th of August 1919 and today we mark a momentous moment. Like a phoenix from the flames Germany emerges as a new democracy. It hasn’t been an easy journey, but we’ve finally made it. Let’s take a look at how we got to this day…

It began with the end of the Great War in autumn 1918. A British naval blockade was starving our people at home and our army was broken. After the mutiny in Kiel in October and US President Woodrow Wilson’s insistence that he wouldn’t discuss peace until the Kaiser was removed, our leader, Wilhelm II, abdicated and fled to Holland on the 9th of November. Revolution had occurred and we needed a solution for what came next. By the 11th of November we had it in the form of our new German Republic and an armistice, ending the First World War.

The blockade was over and our men came back from the frontlines. However, there was still unrest and attacks on the new government. In January, faced with uprisings in the capital, Berlin, our President, Friedrich Ebert of the Social Democratic Party, moved the elections for the first Constituent Assembly to the town of Weimar, where it was more peaceful. It was here that the birth of our new democracy began. As the Social Democratic Party only managed to secure 163 seats in the election of January 1919, they formed a coalition with the Catholic Centre Party and the German Democratic Party. Coalitions seem to be the only type of government we can form at the moment, and we shall see what lies ahead for the future of the ‘Weimar’ Republic. But, that was then and this is now!

We can now see President Ebert emerging from the council chambers with his Chancellor Philipp Scheidemann and they are clutching the document which we have been waiting to see… the Weimar Constitution. Within this document the government have outlined the rules and basic principles to govern our great nation. We were given a glimpse of some of the proposed articles earlier today and now that it has been agreed, we can reveal what some of these are and what they will mean to the citizens of Germany.

* Article 22 – Reichstag delegates are to be elected by universal and secret suffrage, by all men and women over twenty in accordance with the principles of proportional representation
* Article 23 – The Reichstag is to be elected every four years
* Article 48 – If public safety and order are disrupted or endangered, the Reich President may take the necessary measures to restore public order

These will hopefully make for a fairer and more represented Germany. The question is, will this new government solve the problems left by the war? Time will tell.

Karl Zipplemann, *Das News*

*This podcast is from Hodder GCSE History, Dynamic Learning, and is copyright Hodder & Stoughton*

*This podcast helps you to understand the origins of the Weimar Republic, specifically the setting up of the Weimar Republic and the strengths and weaknesses of the new Constitution.*

The Weimar Republic had been established hastily after the Kaiser had fled Germany and power had been given over to a fledgling democratic government. Democracy was a new thing for the German people and some were sceptical about whether it could solve the problems Germany faced, such as the hardships following the end of the war, and establish a strong future for their country.

It is no wonder that some German citizens turned on President Ebert after the Weimar Constitution was announced in August 1919. It had been born out of speed and a desire to create stability at the end of the war. However, it had strengths as well as weaknesses.

Its first article that Germany was to be a republic and that political authority lay with the people was a strong start. It meant that elected representatives, and not one leader, would rule Germany. Another strength was Article 22, which gave twenty-year-old men and women equal voting rights. This was something that hadn’t yet happened in many other countries in the world and gave a strong message to the rest of Europe that Germany had changed.

The head of the new government had to have the support of most of the people in the Reichstag, which meant that one person would no longer be in charge of making disastrous decisions. This was coupled with the fact that, under proportional representation, all political parties in Germany would get seats in the Reichstag proportional to the number of votes they received. Proportional representation allowed for greater democracy, but it also meant that there was less of a chance of one party coming to power and driving through the changes that Germany needed to make it stronger. Proportional representation meant political stability was harder to achieve, and therefore also presents the first of a few weaknesses of the constitution.

Another clear weakness was written into the fabric of the constitution. Article 48 stated that, in an emergency, if the safety and public order of the Reich was in danger, the President could step in and make decisions without the Reichstag. This sounded like a good idea, as it would allow for public safety to be restored quickly. However, it relied on there being a strong President in charge who was willing to do what was necessary without compromising democracy. This was a big risk, which could only be put to the test in an emergency situation.

A final weakness was that Germans had little opportunity to understand how their new democracy really worked, and some were suspicious of it. Hugo Preuss, Head of the Commission which drew up the Constitution, freely admitted that ‘Germans cannot shake off their old political timidity and their deference to the authoritarian state’. In essence, he was saying the Germans needed a strong leader who would tell them what to do. This conservatism was evident in influential groups such as the civil service, the judiciary and the army, who mistrusted the new democratic system. Failure to gain support of these groups was a flaw of the new constitution.

*This podcast is from Hodder GCSE History, Dynamic Learning, and is copyright Hodder & Stoughton*

*This podcast helps you to understand the reasons for the early unpopularity of the Weimar Republic.*

Questioner: Hello my name’s Dirk Durdley and I want to welcome you to everyone’s favourite gameshow ***List of Three***,where the contestant has to list three facts about a period in time. This week we are looking at why the Weimar Republic was unpopular in its early years – focusing particularly on the Treaty of Versailles and the associated ‘stab in the back’ theory. Let’s begin with our first question. What made the Treaty of Versailles, signed on 28 June 1919, so unpopular?

Interviewee: Erm… Germany had to lose 13 per cent of its land and all its colonies, it lost nearly half of its resources like iron ore and, the harshest of all, it had to accept the blame for starting the war.

Questioner: Correct on all counts. Question two: What were three territories lost under the Treaty?

Interviewee: Oh this is an easy one, Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France, Danzig was created as a free city and West Prussia went to Poland. Try harder!

Questioner: Okay, let’s make this more interesting then. There is still time on the clock as we move to the next question. Can you guess which of these three words means ‘stab in the back’ and, for a bonus mark, what this referred to? Is it A: *Volksgemeinschaft*? B: *Dolchstoss* or C: *Diktat*?

Interviewee: Ooh, tricky one. It can’t be the first one because it has something to do with people. The German word for people is *volk*. C sounds a bit like dictator or dictated to so I’m going with B: *Dolchstoss*. And, for the bonus question, ‘stab in the back’ refers to the idea that took hold in Germany that politicians had stabbed the army in the back by agreeing to the armistice. This made the Weimar Republic, set up by these politicians, unpopular.

Questioner: Correct! And bonus point awarded. Question four: Name three non-territorial terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

Interviewee: Right. Well the first one I can remember is the easiest, the War Guilt Clause which was Article 231. It meant that Germany alone had to bear the responsibility of causing the war. Another one is that Germany’s army had to be restricted to 100,000 men and, finally, reparations were set at £6.6 billion.

Questioner: Very impressive. Now the final question for the star prize is: Can you list three German words which mean dictated peace, enforced peace and stab in the back, in that order?

Interviewee: Ouch! How long’s left?

Questioner: 15 seconds make it quick

Interviewee: Okay, erm, well that will be… *Diktat*, *Gewaltfrieden* and *Dolchstoss*!

Questioner: We have a WINNER!! Congratulations! Enjoy your winnings. Today’s star prize is a jet ski!

Interviewee: Awesome, but I don’t live near any water

Questioner: Oh well. Thanks for joining us and see you again for another ***List of three***.

*This podcast is from Hodder GCSE History, Dynamic Learning, and is copyright Hodder & Stoughton*

*This podcast helps you to understand the challenges faced by the Weimar Republic from the Left and Right before 1923.*

The Weimar Republic had not had the best start in life. It had ended a war that Germany lost, accepted the Treaty of Versailles and introduced high taxes for those better off in society to meet the high price of reparations. Now it was to face a new challenge: political violence. Political challenges to the authority of the Weimar Republic came from both the Left and Right Wing. First we will consider challenges from the Left, before looking at challenges from the Right.

One of the first groups who emerged as opponents to the new government came from the political Left Wing: the Spartacists.

Following the Russian Revolution in 1917, led by Vladimir Lenin, Russia had become the first country to adopt a communist system, following the teachings of Karl Marx. Some socialist groups in Germany, such as the Spartacist League, hoped that a socialist country could be established in Germany as well. Led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg the Spartacists, as they were known, sought to establish a state based on Communist ideals and, in December 1918, they staged demonstrations against the government, which eventually led to an attempt to seize control on 6 January 1919.

To combat the threat from the Spartacists, President Ebert made a deal with the new army leader, Groener, that if the army protected the Weimar Republic, then the army would be continually supplied and supported by Ebert. This action created another weakness for Weimar, that of being seen to be propped up by the army. This would come to haunt them later in the 1920s. But, for now, Ebert used the *Reichswehr* (regular army), and the Freikorps (paramilitary groups of demobilised soldiers), to put down the Spartacist Uprising and within days it was successfully ended. Liebknecht and Luxemburg were captured and killed. Further violence from the Left erupted in March and April, but these too were eventually put down.

On the other side of the political divide were threats from Right Wing groups. In 1920 Ebert now faced another challenge to his new democracy. This time it came from the Freikorps and a Berlin politician named Wolfgang Kapp. The Kapp Putsch (or revolt), in March 1920, came about because Ebert wanted to reduce the size of the army and disband the Freikorps. Without the support of the army this time, the government were forced to run away. In a last bid to save the Republic the President and Chancellor (Scheidemann) called on the people of Berlin to go on strike. The Putsch soon collapsed, but very few officers from the four hundred involved were punished.

There would be further clashes between the government and both the Left and Right, but none as serious as the Kapp Putsch or Spartacists Uprising. With roughly 370 murders having taken place between 1919–22, the Republic had finally got control. The final test to their authority would come in November 1923 from an ex- Austrian in a beer hall in Munich – the Munich Putsch, led by Adolf Hitler.

*This podcast is from Hodder GCSE History, Dynamic Learning, and is copyright Hodder Education*

*This podcast helps you to understand the challenges of 1923, including the reasons for and effects of the French occupation of the Ruhr, and hyperinflation.*

1923 became one of the worst years for Germany since the end of the First World War. Having only just managed to pay their first set of reparations in 1921, they failed to pay the second instalment in 1922. This led to military consequences and, between January and February 1923, 60,000 French troops marched into the Ruhr Valley; the industrial heartland of western Germany.

The reason for this was to seize the iron and steel factories and coal deposits that were being mined in that region, as compensation for the money not being paid in reparations. In response, the Weimar government instructed the workers to go on strike and to passively resist, meaning that they should not provoke the soldiers but also not do anything to help them. For eight months there were clashes between the workers, locals and French soldiers, resulting in 130 workers dead.

The worst wasn’t over. Germany’s biggest industries like Krupps, were based in the Ruhr and by not producing any goods the country soon began to suffer. Alongside this the government had continued to pay the wages of the workers on strike leading to a situation where more money was going out than was coming in! The government’s response was to print more money, which could also be used to buy imported goods from abroad, such as coal. As demand for food and other goods rose throughout Germany, prices rose.

The sharp rise in prices for goods and more importantly food, led to something known as hyperinflation. This is where the price of goods rose faster than inflation, resulting in ridiculous price rises in a short space of time. One example was where a boy was sent to buy a loaf of bread for the family, he stopped for forty-five minutes to pay a game of football and when he arrived at the bakery, he no longer had enough money for the loaf! In 1922 the cost of a loaf was 163 marks, but in November 1923 it had risen to 200, 000, 000, 000 marks.

Germany’s economic and social problems were solved when new chancellor, Gustav Stresemann brought in a series of measures, which stabilised the economy and allowed the country to grow in confidence at home and abroad. He ordered the workers in the Ruhr back to work, ending passive resistance. He introduced a new currency in September 1923 called the Rentenmark, which brought the currency back under control and borrowed money from America, under the Dawes Plan, which he could use to invest in Germany’s economic recovery and aid reparation payments.

These measures and the arrival of Gustav Stresemann began a period of stability and prosperity, hailed as Germany’s ‘golden era’

*This podcast is from Hodder GCSE History, Dynamic Learning, and is copyright Hodder Education.*

*This podcast helps you to understand the reasons for the economic recovery after 1924, including the work of Stresemann and the impact of American loans and investment.*

**Questioner:** Hello ladies and gentleman. Welcome to the Politics Show. I’m your host Phil Arkinstall and today’s guest is political expert Tony Klinkermann, who is here to talk to us about the abilities of German Chancellor Gustav Stresemann in the 1920s. Today we shall be asking him about the reasons for the economic recovery in the years 1924–29 and the part Stresemann played in this. Good morning Tony. First, I must say thank you for being on the show today and for allowing us to interview you.

**Interviewee:** That is no problem Phil. It is a pleasure to be here.

**Questioner:** Okay, let’s get on with the first question. We know that in 1923 Germany suffered from an occupation of the Ruhr region by French soldiers, and a serious case of hyperinflation. Can you describe to us what Stresemann did to improve the situation?

**Interviewee:** Yes. Well, it wasn’t easy. His first task when he became Chancellor in August 1923 was to deal with the Ruhr and the issue of reparations. He began by persuading the Ruhr workers to go back to work and ending the strike, agreeing to resume the payment of reparations. Coupled with this was the introduction of the Dawes Plan in 1924. This allowed a change in the reparations payment terms, which meant that Germany could pay back less money to begin with, and then the rate would increase over a period of four years to 2.5 billion marks a year. The Americans also promised to give Germany loans in order to rebuild industries, roads and businesses, which would then enable them to pay reparations to the French and British. By introducing the Dawes Plan and telling the workers to return to work, the French left the Ruhr.

**Questioner:** That was an impressive start. However, some politicians within the government criticised his actions saying that they were relying on American loans too much. Can you prove that he made the right decision?

**Interviewee:** It is true that it was a huge risk, but Germany was in a desperate situation. She not only faced an invading force, but had crippling bills to pay under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and needed to recover from the aftermath of the First World War. The decision he made allowed the country to grow. Germany entered boom years and was seen more favourably among the other countries. I think one reason Stresemann made the decision was because he needed to restore Germany’s international prestige.

**Questioner:** He also replaced the German currency to stem the economic tide. Why would that have an impact?

**Interviewee:** Well Phil, as you rightly stated at the start of our interview, the country was experiencing hyperinflation which destroyed the value of the German mark. In order to restore confidence the temporary Rentenmark was introduced, which was based on the value of property rather than gold reserves. The following year the Rentenmark was converted into the Reichsmark, a new currency backed by gold reserves. It boosted confidence in the currency and enabled faster economic growth. Having said that, not all sections of the economy benefited from growth. For example, famers experienced problems throughout the 1920s due to a worldwide agricultural depression and lack of modern equipment.

**Questioner:** Let’s move to the Young Plan. The Allied Reparations Committee asked Owen Young, an American Banker to investigate Stresemann’s complaints about the level of reparation payments. How did this plan help Germany?

**Interviewee:** The Young Plan reduced the amount they had to pay overall and extended the time they had to pay it to 59 years – so each year they had less to pay. The total figure was reduced to £1850 million compared to the original £6600 million. The bad news was that it meant they had to keep paying until 1988.

**Questioner:** 1988! That’s insane. What was Stresemann hoping for with that move? Surely, he knew that this was crazy?

**Interviewee:** Yes, it seems so. It was criticised by some right-wing politicians at the time. But like I said, it needed to be done. He took the tough path to solve the problem. By extending the period he was trying to buy some time.

**Questioner:** Well thank you for talking to us Tony. 1929 was going to be a good year for Germany until the Wall Street Crash in October 1929, weeks after Stresemann’s death. The American stock market crashed, and with it went the loans to Germany and their ability to pay back reparations. Stresemann had helped Germany, but was no longer around to wave his wand for a second time.

*This podcast is from Hodder GCSE History, Dynamic Learning, and is copyright Hodder & Stoughton*

*This podcast helps you to understand the impact on domestic policies of Gustav Stresemann’s achievements abroad. This includes the impact of the Locarno Pact, joining the League of Nations and the Kellogg-Briand Pact.*

Gustav Stresemann, was Foreign Secretary from 1923–29. His policies abroad would be the start of a new age for Germany’s international relations. He improved relations between Germany and France, which would earn him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1926. Alongside this, he also signed treaties and agreements which made Germany more respected around the world.

In 1925 the Locarno Pact was signed confirming Germany’s existing borders with Belgium and France. It was cleverly designed both to restore some international prestige to Germany, and also to please France, Germany’s greatest opponent. Stresemann realised that if France felt secure then maybe the French government would be more agreeable to change elements of the Treaty of Versailles.

In 1926 Germany joined the League of Nations – an international organisation established in 1920 to maintain peace. At first, Germany had not been allowed to join. However, in order for the Locarno Pact to come to fruition, Germany had to join. The granting of a permanent seat on the Council of the League of Nations in September 1926 returned Germany’s ‘Great Power’ status and also helped to bring about the Young Plan in 1929, which spread out the cost of reparations. However, not all Germans agreed with these moves. They believed that by supporting them they were accepting the Treaty of Versailles and, most importantly, the reparations bill.

In 1928 came the Kellogg-Briand Pact. This agreement was signed along with 64 other nations to solve all international disputes peacefully. All armies were to be used for self-defence only.

The domestic consequences of these foreign policy agreements meant that the French had to withdraw from the Ruhr, the Allies had to agree to the Dawes Plan and Young Plan and Allied troops left the Rhineland in 1927, five years earlier than planned.

For an ailing democracy in 1919, the country had come a long way in ten years. Although some people believed that the Weimar Republic had started badly, many were convinced that Stresemann had solved its problems and created a nation which could once again be proud. There would always be critics who felt like Germany had betrayed herself by allying with France and Britain, but when Stresemann died in October 1929, he did so with the thought that Germany would be a stronger economic and international power.

*This podcast is from Hodder GCSE History, Dynamic Learning, and is copyright Hodder & Stoughton*

*This podcast helps you to understand the changes in the standard of living in German society between 1924–9, including wages, housing and unemployment insurance.*

Questioner: Hello ladies and gentleman and welcome back to everyone’s favourite gameshow Q&A**,** where the contestant has to answer questions about a particular theme. This time around we are looking at the standard of living in Weimar society 1924–29. Let’s begin with our first question: In what areas of society did the standard of living improve?

Interviewee:Wages, housing and unemployment insurance.

Questioner:All correct! Question two: What had bankrupted the middle classes in 1923?

Interviewee:Oh this is an easy one. It was the hyperinflation caused by the invasion of the Ruhr, which led to many people losing their money as prices rose and inflation got out of hand. They didn’t benefit from the increased prosperity.

Questioner:Okay, remember the questions do get harder. Question 3: In which year did Germany’s workers see a 12 per cent rise in wages?

Interviewee:Ooh, that *is* a tricky one. Is it 1927?

Questioner:I’m afraid not. The correct answer is 1928. It made Germany’s industrial workforce the best paid in Europe. You have no more lifelines so the next mistake will end your turn. Onto question 4: Which of these professions saw a rise in unemployment: teachers, miners or farmers?

Interviewee:I definitely have this one. It’s teachers.

Questioner:Correct. That was very fast! Question five: How did Weimar deal with the shortage of houses?

Interviewee:Well … I think it was government investment, tax breaks and low-interest loans, which encouraged more houses and apartments to be built.

Questioner:Very impressive. For question six, tell me how many houses were built between 1924 and 1931? Was it one million, two million or three million?

Interviewee:I’m not sure. Erm…. Eenie meanie, miney 2 million!

Questioner:Wild guess?

Interviewee:Yep!

Questioner:Well it worked. You’ve got one more question left. Question 7: what did the Unemployment Insurance Law do in 1927?

Interviewee:Oh no. I have no idea. I really don’t. Gosh.

Questioner:I have to take that as your answer I’m afraid. The Unemployment Insurance Law meant that employees and workers made contributions to a national scheme for unemployment welfare. That means that, unfortunately, you have lost today’s game and leave with nothing. Remember folks. If you want to win the game revise, revise, revise. Until next time – goodbye.

*This podcast is from Hodder GCSE History, Dynamic Learning, and is copyright Hodder & Stoughton*

*This podcast helps you to understand the changes in the position of women in work, politics and leisure in Weimar society between 1924 and 1929.*

Questioner:Good evening and welcome to the ‘Twentieth Century’s Top 100 Female Role Models’ and today we are number 45, Marlene Dietrich. Marlene Dietrich, a German-American actress, was born in 1901 and was popular in German cinema during the 1920s and 30s. Her performance as *Lola-Lola* in the 1930 film *The Blue Angel* catapulted her to international fame. Our presenter today, Sam, believes that she could be seen as a role model for women of the time. Sam, women had seen changes to their position under the Weimar Republic. Do you think that Marlene Dietrich was a role model for these women?

Interviewee: I agree that women had come a long way under the new Weimar Republic. Look at what had happened since the war. The Weimar Constitution allowed women to vote, and introduced equal pay in the professions and equality in education. Women enjoyed much more social freedom, too. They could go out to bars unescorted and drink and smoke in public. Their fashions changed too – they wore shorter skirts, cut their hair short and wore make-up. All of this was to show greater equality with men. To me, the greatest achievement was being recognised as a voice in the political system. Did you know that the Republic had around 32 female deputies in the Reichstag? This was more than many countries at this time. I think that Marlene Dietrich, by playing strong, mysterious women in films, played a part in this changing perception of women’s role in society.

Questioner:An excellent point made. There have indeed been lots of changes. What are your thoughts on the number of women working outside of the home?

Interviewee: Well, this is something that didn’t change that much, although there were a growing number of women in new areas of employment such as the civil service, social work and teaching. But, Marlene was lucky to be able to manage a career and family – providing a great role model. She had been able to work her way up from theatre and dance shows until her first role in *The Little Napoleon*, which came out in 1923. She met her husband a few months later and had a daughter in 1924. It wasn’t easy for lots of women her age to combine career and family, as married women who worked were often criticised for neglecting their homes.

Questioner:Marlene’s personal story is fascinating and the lifestyle and fame she achieved before the Second World War was immense.

Interviewee: That’s right. Miss Dietrich moved to America in 1930 to continue her career, where she made films for great directors like Fritz Lang and Alfred Hitchcock. She died in 1992 in her Paris flat after an illustrious career on screen and in politics too.

Questioner:Well Sam, that was very interesting. Thank you for your time. Ladies and gentlemen there we have it. The wonder and glamour of Miss Marlene Dietrich. We hope you enjoyed number 45 on our list and we hope you catch us next week when we look at number 44: Mother Teresa. Good night.

*This podcast is from Hodder GCSE History, Dynamic Learning, and is copyright Hodder & Stoughton*

*This podcast helps you to understand the cultural changes in Weimar society between 192429, including developments in art, architecture and cinema.*

Host: Welcome to the Culture Show, where we look at a roundup of cultural highlights that have made an impact on German art. Over the course of the year we asked leading critics to comment on the greatest developments in culture. This week we’re asking our art and literature critics about culture in 1920s Germany. When the strict pre-war censorship rules were lifted there was an explosion of new developments in art, theatre, architecture, cinema and literature and Berlin replaced Paris as the new cultural capital of Europe. First off, let’s start with art. The art scene’s most notorious works came from people like Otto Dix and George Grosz. Art critic Anastasia has her insights to share with the programme on their new art form, which was called *Neue Sachlichkeit* – meaning ‘New Objectivity’.

Interviewee 1: This new art form was rooted around society at the time, trying to portray it in an objective way, with a focus on the reality of everyday life. It sometimes showed the more negative side of life.

Host: Some people have said that the art works were rather morbid; pictures of death and dying people from war. What do you have to say about that?

Interviewee 1: Ah. That is correct. The artists wanted to give people a realistic sense of what had happened to their lives since the war. George Grosz was wounded during the First World War and as a result of joining the Communist Party served time in prison. It wasn’t a particularly nice time for him, and his art speaks volumes. His friend Otto Dix had an equally traumatic time. A similar thing happened in the theatres, too. Theatre productions became more realistic to modern life and showed greater realism. Otto Dix and George Grosz wanted to encapsulate this spirit in paint.

Host: Thank you, Anastasia, for that assessment of the works of Otto Dix and George Grosz. Alongside the art scene, German culture changed with new innovations in architecture. A movement known as Bauhaus, meaning *School of Building*, arrived in Germany in the mid-1920s. Its creator Walter Gropius, wanted to design buildings and furniture with basic shapes and colours. This took Germans away from the elaborately decorated buildings that were a common feature in many German cities. Some of his designs have been blasted as unusual and bold, but here at the Culture Show we have given him a huge thumbs up for creativity.

Now let’s turn to cinema which saw a golden age. For example, Fritz Lang, the German director, produced the most technically advanced film of the decade in 1927 about a futuristic city where beauty and culture existed above a bleak underworld of mistreated workers. It was called *Metropolis* and set a new bar for future film releases.

Finally, literature too, was encouraged in this period. *‘Our faces are crusted, our thoughts are devastated, we are weary to death*’. These are the lines from Erich Remarque’s novel *All Quiet on the Western Front.* His moving anti-war novel describes the horrors of that conflict. We now have a piece from our cultural expert Mary.

Interviewee 2: There has always been a niche for works of literature like *All Quiet on the Western Front* and post-war Germany was a time which allowed authors to create anti-war messages. There had been so much said about how glorious war was from the Right Wing political groups, which made the experiences of war sound almost honourable. However, Remarque’s book was designed to describe the complete opposite. It was a remarkable piece of writing, which would eventually be condemned by Adolf Hitler and was one of the many books burned in 1933, after being classed as degenerate art.

*This podcast is from Hodder GCSE History, Dynamic Learning, and is copyright Hodder & Stoughton*