

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it." -George Bernard Shaw

# BECOME THE LEADER

Be elected President of the Weimar Republic

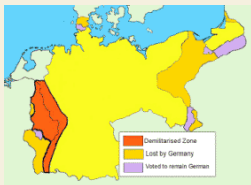
PRESIDENT OF WEIMAR  
REPUBLIC:  
Your Name Here  
TELEPHONE (123) 456-7890  
FACSIMILE (123) 456-7891

## Save the Troubled Weimar Republic

### THE BACKGROUND

The Weimar Republic was founded at the end of World War I, with Germany in a state of near-anarchy. The new government lacked support from the majority of the German people, many of whom identified it with the war defeat and with the "Versailles Diktat". Although it was a Republic, the kind of government the Allies would want to deal with, it was also the government of the former enemy and therefore not accepted on an equal footing. The reparations demands and other features of the Versailles Treaty, as well as the fear of a revived Germany, prevented normal foreign relations from developing and Germany was initially not allowed to join the new League of Nations after the war. Until 1923 Weimar Germany was an economic and social disaster. An agreement in 1924 (the Dawes Plan) provided huge loans to Germany to help pay reparations and restore a working economy. Thus the country went into a "golden era" until 1929.

The Weimar Republic was devastated by Wall Street Crash of October 1929 and the Great Depression that followed. Now America demanded payments from their early loans back from the Germans to assist its own faltering economy. After the Wall Street Crash, America gave Germany 90 days to start to re-pay money loaned to her. Therefore, an impoverished Weimar Germany became effectively bankrupt. Companies throughout Germany – though primarily in the industrial zones such as the Ruhr – went bankrupt and workers were laid off in their millions. The middle class whose economic fortunes were lost in the hyperinflation troubles of the early 1920s now lost their jobs and their hope.



### ASSIGNMENT

Into this political and economic storm your political party has been swept. You are to create a 45-90 second commercial supporting your party and its beliefs demonstrating that only you can provide hope for Germany's future. Then, you will present your party's candidate for the presidential election in 1932.

(45-90 second speech).



September 1928	650,000 unemployed
September 1929	1,320,000 unemployed
September 1930	3,000,000 unemployed
September 1931	4,350,000 unemployed
September 1932	5,102,000 unemployed

### Project Deadlines

- 1/31 (Hist) – Project Assigned
- 2/7 (Hist) - Work on Project
- 2/9 (MA1) - Storyboard in Media Arts
- 2/10 (MA1) – Film political party commercials
- 2/11 (Hist) - Speeches due
- 2/11 (MA1) - Begin filming
- 2/25 (MA1) – Film speeches on green screen
- 3/4 (MA1) – Final Project Due

Centre Party, DVP, NSDAP, KPD, SPD,