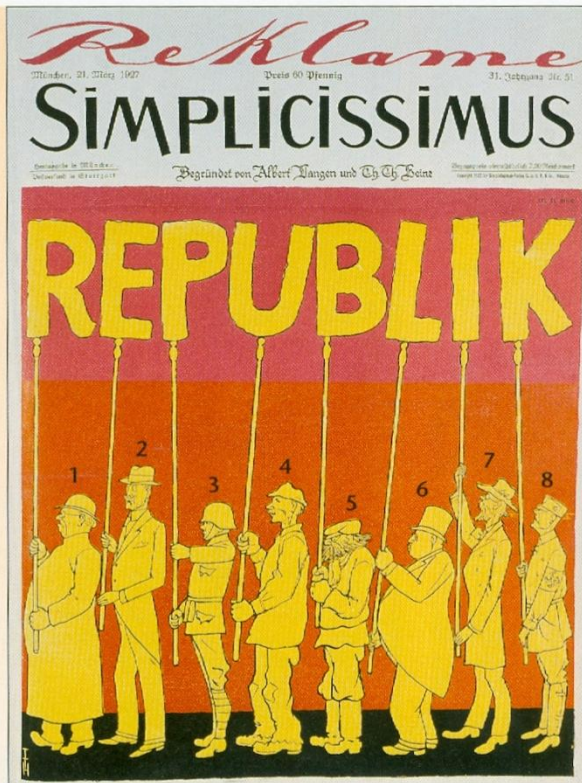


3

For and against democracy:
Supporting or fighting the new republic

SOURCE 1:
Who supports
the Weimar Republic (→)?

Caricature:
"Sie tragen die
Buchstaben der Firma
– aber wer
trägt den Geist?"



SPD
Social Democrats
Mostly working class
For the republic
Wanted social reforms to help
working people.

DDP
German Democratic Party
Mostly middle class
For the republic
Strong belief in individual
freedom

Zentrum
Centre Party
Roman Catholics
from all classes
For the republic
Supported the interests of
the Roman Catholic Church.

DVP
German People's Party
Middle class,
especially businessmen
Really monarchists, but came
to accept the republic. Wanted a
government to support
trade and industry.



DNVP
German National
People's Party
Middle and upper classes
Many officials and soldiers
Against the republic
For strong government
Monarchists and nationalists

a Against capitalist, monarchist and militarist thinking; revolutionary take-over of the state; nationalisation of industry and land; in favour of a soviet-style "democracy" (= party rule over the workers)

b A centralised state led by the party and its leader, all other parties banned; factory owners keep their factories, land owners keep their land, total control of the media; for a secular school system under the control of the party

c For the introduction of the monarchy, for a strong president, for a strong Prussian state, for a strong executive power, though not against parliament; against ~~nationalism~~ **nationalisation**; for a secular school system

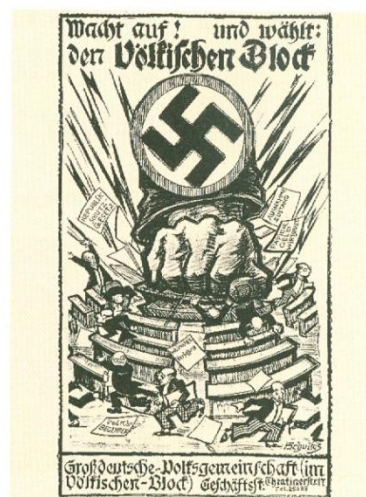
d Against capitalist, monarchist and militarist thinking; for peaceful and parliamentary reform of society; nationalisation of industry and land; secular school system



SOURCE 2:
Election poster of the Communist Party, 1932



SOURCE 3:
Election poster of the DNVP, 1932



SOURCE 4:
Election poster of the Nazis, 1924

Analysing election propaganda – the parties:

- 1 Interpreting a cartoon (Source 1)
 - a) Describe the cartoon and translate the caption (see the HISTORY SKILLS box).
 - b) Read the descriptions of the parties (a, b, c, d) and match the descriptions to the posters (Sources 2–5).
 - c) Match the figures in the cartoon to the appropriate parties (Source 1).
 - d) Where do the Communists and Nazis fit into the semi-circle below the cartoon? Give reasons for your choice.
 - e) Comment on the cartoonist’s message.
- 2 Analysing election posters
 - a) Describe the posters (Sources 2–5) by using the information in the HISTORY SKILLS box.
 - b) Find similarities (e.g. the use of the hands) and differences.
 - c) Find evidence in Sources 2–4 that the parties are “enemies of democracy”.
 - d) Compare these election posters to posters of today.
- 3 Comparing voting systems
 - a) Find out about the differences between the ‘proportional system’ and the ‘majority system’.
 - b) Assess how the proportional system helped a relatively unknown party (like the NSDAP).
 - c) Describe the voting system of the German Bundestag.

HISTORY SKILLS

Analysing election propaganda

The poster ... evokes feelings of ...
 arouses sympathy for ...
 appeals to voter’s feelings ...

deals with ...
 criticizes ...
 attacks ...
 contrasts ...

The characters ... stand for ... political ideas
 symbolize ... enemies ...



- (1) topic / message
- (2) images / characters
- (3) captions / slogans
- (4) symbols
- (5) colours



SOURCE 5:
Election poster of the Social Democrats, 1930



- Source 1**
- *Buchstaben* (here) the Constitution [ˌkɔnstɪˈtʃuːfən]
 - *Geist* feelings of loyalty; spirit
 - (to) *ban sth.* forbid sth. officially
 - *secular* [ˈsɛkjələ] not concerned with spiritual or religious affairs, of this world