

## Teaching notes

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You can use this game as a revision activity, or to consolidate students' understanding of the key events in the inter-war period and the rise and fall of the Weimar Republic.

Print and cut out the domino cards on the following pages so that there are 15 cards in total.

- Working in groups of three, students should shuffle the domino cards, and deal three domino cards to each player. They should then place the remaining six cards in a pile, face down.
- To start, players should turn one card from the pile face up, and place it on the table.
- Players now take turns trying to match the events on their cards with the dominoes already on the table, placing their cards in a way so that at least one half of the domino is matched.
- There has to be a genuine connection between the cards, so students have to identify a chronological link, a consequential link or match similar factors, e.g. economic factors, etc.
- As each player places their card, they should make a statement which demonstrates the connection between the cards, and this connection has to be agreed by all the players before the card can be successfully placed.
- If a player is unable to make a match, they must pick up an additional card from the pile. The winner is the first person to successfully play all their domino cards.
- As an extension or plenary activity, students could spend some time looking at the domino groupings of other groups, and compare them with their own.

When the Kaiser abdicated in November 1918, Germany became a republic.

The new system of government was known as the Weimar Republic.

A new system of voting was brought in by the new constitution, known as proportional representation.

This meant that small and extreme parties could get a say.

The first Chancellor of the Republic was called Ebert.

In June 1919 the new government signed the Treaty of Versailles.

German nationalists were unhappy with this, and believed in the 'stab in the back' theory.

Many groups wanted to overthrow the government. The first attempt was the Spartacist Revolt in January 1919.

The Spartacists were led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.

They were defeated with the help of the Freikorps.

There was an attempt to overthrow the government in March 1920 with the Kapp Putsch.

The putsch was brought to an end by a strike by workers in Berlin.

In November 1923 there was a third putsch called the Munich Putsch.

This putsch was organised by Hitler and the Nazis.

The Munich Putsch failed because of poor organisation and lack of support.

As a result Hitler was given a short prison sentence. In prison he wrote a book called *Mein Kampf*.

The Nazis were angry about the War Guilt Clause which meant Germany had to pay reparations.

The reparations amounted to the equivalent of £6,600 million.

When Germany stopped paying their monthly payments, the French and Belgians invaded the Ruhr in January 1923.

This invasion was a major cause of hyperinflation.

The Weimar Republic responded by printing more money.

This made things worse until the crisis was solved by Gustav Stresemann.

Stresemann introduced a new currency, tied to land values. It was called the Rentenmark.

Stresemann also agreed to the Dawes plan, and Germany began to pay reparations again.

With American loans and the end of hyperinflation, Germany began to recover.

In 1926 Germany was allowed to join the League of Nations.

In 1929 Germany signed a second reparations deal called the Young Plan.

The German economy depended on foreign loans and was ruined by the Great Depression.

After the Wall Street Crash in 1929, America demanded that Germany repay their loans, causing trade and industry to collapse.

As unemployment rose to six million, the Weimar government collapsed, and this led to Hitler's ascendancy.