

CRISIS IN THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

1919 - 1933

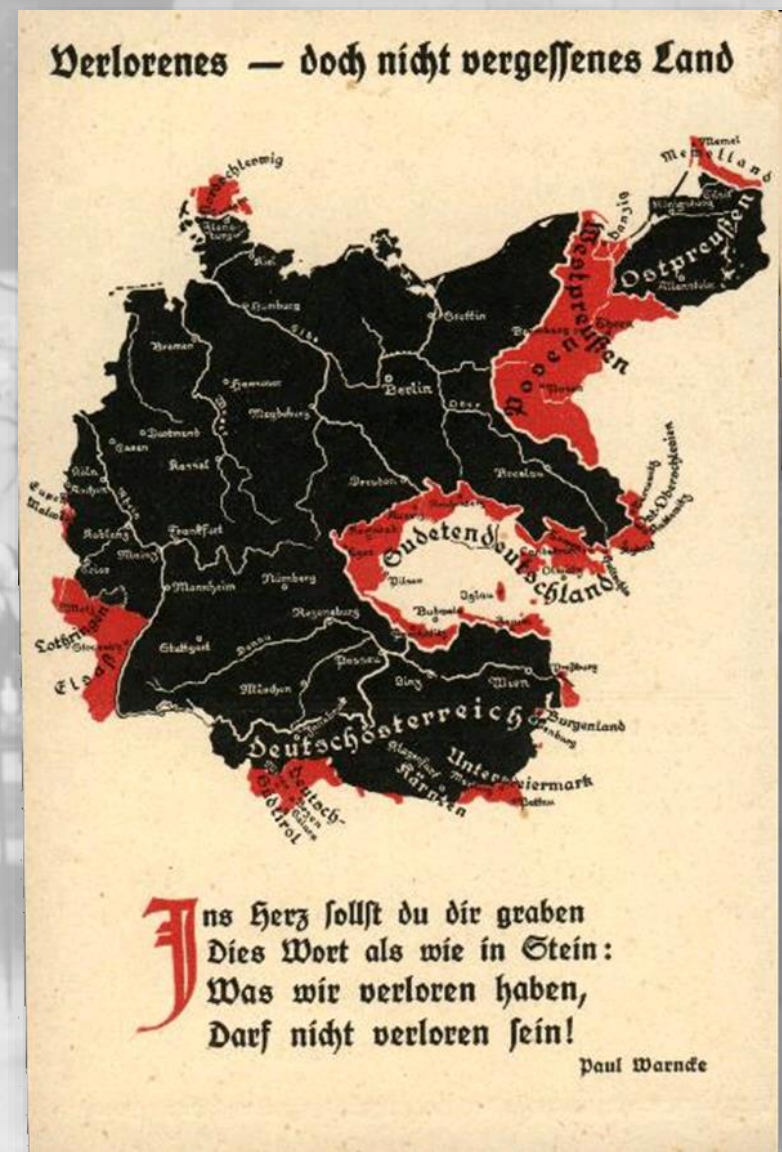
PERNET DR. WEBER KRIEBEL LUDENDORFF HITLER RÖHM WAGNER
FRICK BRÜCKNER HOFFMANN

1. German postcard about the Treaty of Versailles, published ca. 1919

“Lost– but not forgotten land”

“You must carve into your heart
These words, as in a stone:
What we have lost,
Should not be lost!”

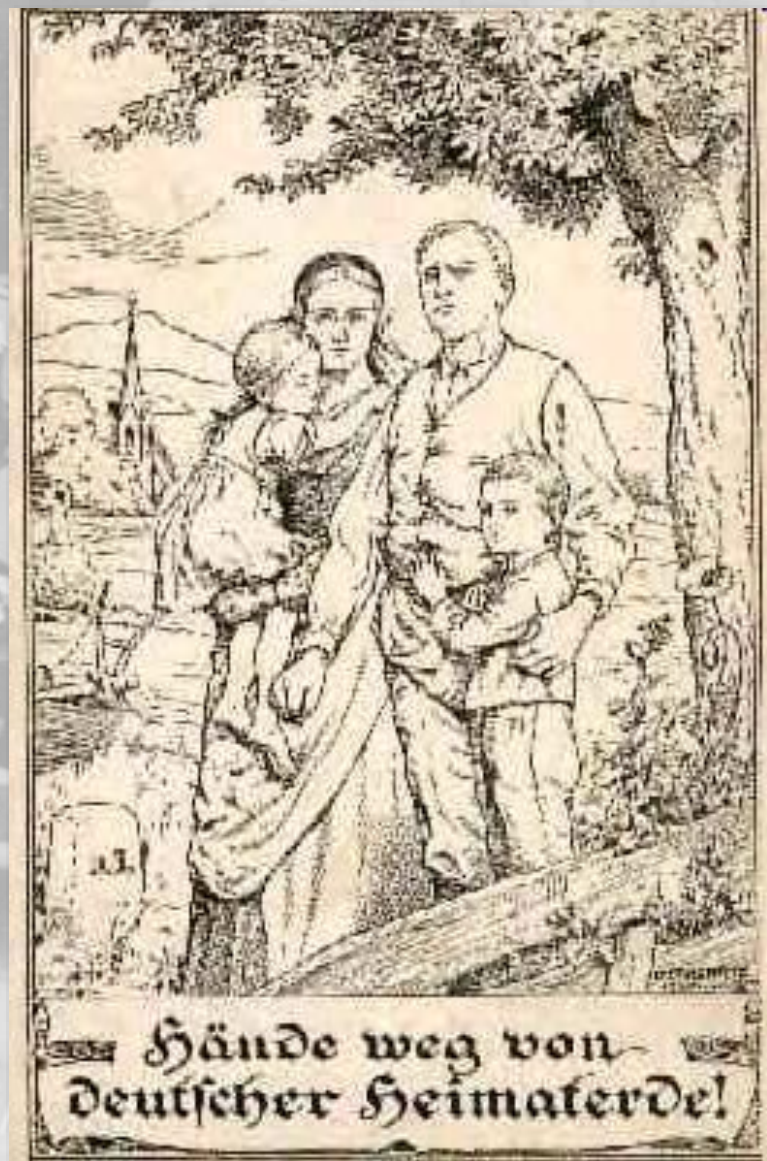
Paul Warnde



2. German postcard about the Treaty of Versailles, published ca. 1919



“Hands off the German homeland!”



3. German political cartoon about the Treaty of Versailles, published June 24, 1919

“Consolation”

“Just wait. When we have delivered up to 100 billion (Marks) then there will be something to eat again.”



„Nur“ nur, wenn wir die hundert Milliarden abgeliefert haben, dann gibt es wieder zu essen.“

4. German political cartoon about the Treaty of Versailles, published ca. 1919

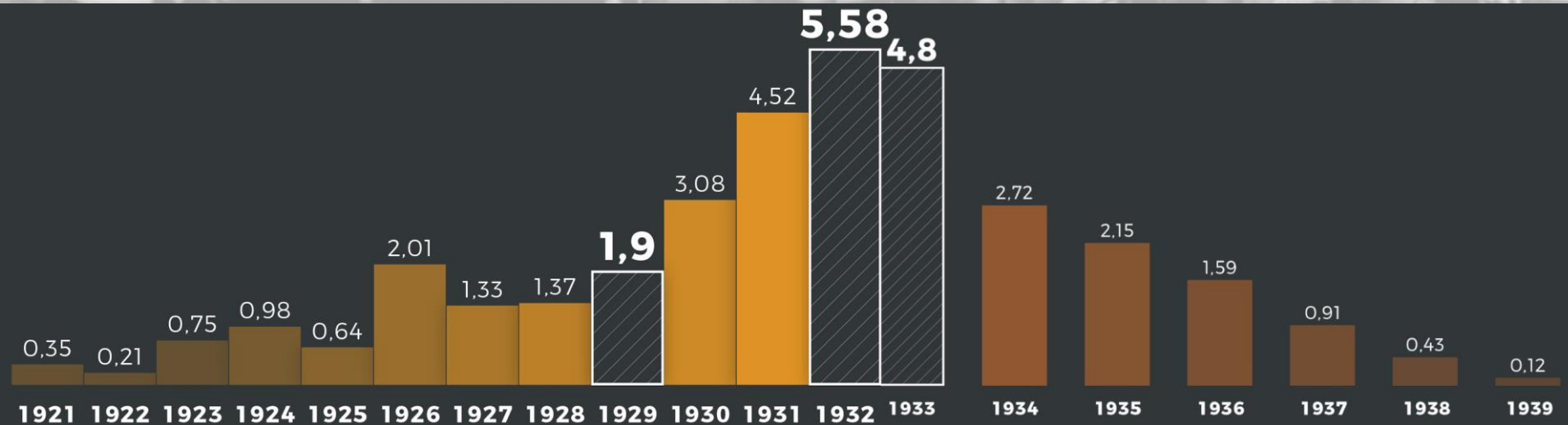
Background:

Part of Germany's war reparations from the Treaty of Versailles was that they had to pay Britain with coal.

“Coal is Bread”



5. Graph of German unemployment, in millions, 1921 - 1939



6. Photographs of unemployed Germans



“Hello!

I’m looking for work!

I can take dictation
and type. I have
French & English
speaking skills. I’ll
take any housework.
I can do anything
that requires an
attentive mind.”
1930

Small apartment of
an unemployed man.,
1932



7. Photographs of Germans



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-80027-0001-772
Foto: Röhner | 1927 ca.

“Attention
Unemployed
Haircut
40 pfennig
Shave
15 pfennig”
Berlin, 1927

““Poor unemployed
on a bench consume
their modest lunch
they got from the
soup kitchen”
Berlin, 1920



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-2003-002-22
Foto: Seiler | 1920/1929 ca.

8. German hyper-inflation period



"Wallpapering a wall with one-mark notes which are much cheaper today than wallpaper."

1923

Children playing with stacks of hyperinflated currency during the Weimar Republic.

1922



In late 1923, the cost of bread was 1 trillion marks. The price had continued to rise throughout the year.



Candidate #1

“In the economic sphere this... has proved to be an immense misfortune. The districts which were most important for the feeding of our people were lost and districts which have been treasonably alienated. And what did the Revolution not prophesy for us in the political sphere? One heard of the right of Self-Determination of Peoples, of the League of Nations, of Self-Government of the People. And what was the result? A World Peace, but a World Peace over a Germany which was but a field of corpses. Disarmament, but only the disarmament of Germany, with Germany looting its own resources. League of Nations, yes: but a League of Nations which serves only as the guarantor for the fulfillment of the Peace Treaty, not for a better world order which is to come. And government by the people - for five years past no one has asked the people what it thinks of the act of November of the year 1918: at the head of the [German] nation there stands a President who is rejected by the overwhelming majority of the people and who has not been chosen by the people. Seventeen million Germans are in misery under foreign rule... We have been rendered defenseless: we are without rights... Germany has been turned into a colony of the outside world.” – Speech in 1923

Promises:

- Emphasis on patriotism, pride in the past
- Replace weak leadership with new, decisive leaders
- Rebuild the army to protect against enemies
- Regain the land unfairly taken by the Treaty of Versailles
- Make sacrifices to fix the economy
- Put the state's welfare above that of the individual – when the country is great again, we will all prosper

Candidate #2

“Here we are now, halfway through 1929. And it is not as bad as it could have been, it is proven by the fact that in the past four weeks, the moments of greatest crisis, the unemployment rate did not climb as high as we had calculated given the world situation. And because of that, I hope that here in Germany it will be possible to work together to find a necessary international solution that will bring peace to the world and create a foundation to rebuild. So I must say that if this is not possible, ladies and gentlemen, the government has decided to protect-- not like they did in the last winter months-- not only to say that until now they have had no successes in foreign affairs or some other areas. Instead they can say that the way is clear and that we will eventually make it through this harsh winter.” --1929 speech to the Reichstag (German legislative assembly)

Promises:

- We've got to realize that there are no quick solutions to our problems
- Put people back to work— economic progress may still be slow
- Provide care for the poor, sick & elderly
- Avoid reckless spending— be cautious
- Act responsibly to protect democracy
- Be a good neighbor country; honor our obligations to treaties and debts