

Issues Facing the Weimar Republic

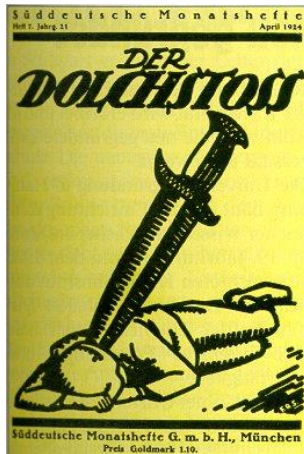
Source 1

Today German honor is being carried to its grave. Do not forget it! The German people will, with unceasing labor, press forward to re-conquer the place among the nations to which it is entitled. Then will come vengeance for the shame of 1919. – quote from German newspaper, located in Koppel S. Pinson, *Modern Germany: Its History and Civilization* (1954)

Source 2

Lingering at the window was a luxury because shopping had to be done immediately. Even an additional minute meant an increase in price. One had to buy quickly because a rabbit, for example, might cost two million marks more by the time it took to walk into the store. A few million marks meant nothing, really. It was just that it meant more lugging...People had to start carting their money around in wagons and knapsacks. – George Grosz, *A Little Yes and a Big No: The Autobiography of George Grosz* (1946).

Source 3



Political cartoon claiming the Army had been stabbed in the back by the government (referred to as the “November criminals”).

Source 4

The German Commonwealth is a Republic. Political authority is derived from the People. - The Weimar Constitution, 6 February 1919.

Source 5

I have often listened to the debates with real concern, glancing often rather timidly to the gentlemen of the Right, fearful lest they say to me: ‘Do you hope to give a parliamentary system to a nation like this, one that resists it with every sinew in its body? Our people do not comprehend at all what such a system implies.’ One finds suspicion everywhere; Germans cannot shake off their old political timidity and their deference to the authoritarian state. - From a speech by Hugo Preuss, the liberal lawyer who headed the Commission that drew up the constitution, to the Weimar Assembly, April 1919.