# Worksheet 6 – The Kapp Putsch

# Review: Lecture 3.5 (The Treaty of Versailles)

In the previous lecture, we discussed the impacts of the universally-hated Treaty of Versailles in Germany. The treaty was signed on the 28th June 1919 at the Palais de Versailles, near Paris.

- ✓ Why was the treaty so despised by the people of Germany?
- ✓ The treaty was signed by two republican politicians belonging to the new postwar Weimar system of government. Why might this be unfortunate for the fledgling republic?
- ✓ Which clause or ramification of the treaty do you think was seen as the most unjust by Germans?

Recall: Lecture 3.6 (The Kapp Putsch)		
Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember		
a)	hich loosely-affiliated paramilitary The German Navy Spartacists	
a)	ter Berlin and Dresden, where did Bonn. Weimar	the German government flee to? c) Düsseldorf d) Stuttgart
co a)	onsiderable support of the Commu	pack under control (in places where they enjoyed the nists and Independent Social Democrats)? c) Through the mobilisation of troops d) Through wage increases
a)	hat was Walter Rathenau's positio Chancellor Finance Minister	on in government? c) Foreign Minister d) Defence Minister
a)	hat was Walter Rathenau's politica Communist German Nationalist	
a)	On the right In Moscow	n June 1922, that the 'enemy is'? c) On the left d) The elite

### **Analysis**

7.

- a) Why was the Army not particularly keen to react to the Putsch, as the Government would have wanted?
- b) How did the Kapp Putsch eventually come to an end?
- c) What does the lecturer cite as being an important lesson of the Mass Strike?

d) What was the national response to the assassination of Rathenau?

## **Evaluation**

8. 'The Kapp Putsch shows Germany to be as disunited as ever.'

To what extent to you agree with this statement?

Be sure to include the following:

- a) An **introduction** that provides an overview of the points you intend to make and your final judgement;
- b) A paragraph in which you make your first point;
- c) A paragraph in which you **make your second point**; (and so forth...)
- d) A **conclusion** which links back to the question, and which summarises your evidence and overall judgement.

<u>Challenge</u>: Hatred of Rathenau among Germany's right was **motivated in part by anti-Semitism**. Bolshevik Russia and a defeated Germany had sought closer diplomatic relations on largely pragmatic grounds, as Europe's two 'pariah states'. In the eyes of the far-right, however, Rathenau was an internationalist Jew and a **Bolshevik sympathiser**.

One of their chants, 'Knallt ab den Walther Rathenau! Der Gott-verfluchte Juden-sau!' [Knock down Walther Rathenau / The God-forsaken Jewish sow!], speaks to the intensity of this sentiment.

To what extent do you believe the growth of anti-Semitism in Germany around this time can be attributable to the terms of the Treaty of Versailles?

# Glossary

- Putsch a violent attempt to overthrow a government; a coup.
   e.g. The Kapp Putsch was an attempt to overthrow the democratically-elected German government.
- Bolshevik a Communist faction, mostly associated with the Russian Revolution. e.g. The far-right suspected a Bolshevik influence in Government.
- Pariah state a nation considered to be an outcast in the international community. e.g. Germany had become a Pariah state after the signing of the Treaty.
- Anti-Semitism hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group.
  - e.g. Anti-Semitic attitudes became more widespread in the interwar years.