Exam and source questions will often ask you about the “1923 crisis” – that usually means both the invasion of the Ruhr and hyperinflation, as they are linked. You need to be able to describe what happened, why, and what effects it had on Germany. The next section looks at how far Germany was able to recover.

**Gustav Stresemann and Recovery from the 1923 crisis.**

Sorry, but it’s not enough to know what the crisis was – you need to know how far Germany recovered from it. Stresemann and the recovery from this crisis was one of the Weimar Republic’s greatest achievements.

### Gustav Who?

- Gustav Stresemann was made Chancellor (second in charge) of Germany in 1923.
- He was one of the most able politicians of the Weimar Republic.
- He faced several problems – Germany was on the brink of collapse, and groups like the Nazi’s were seeing a chance to take over.
- People were having to barter and swap things because money was worthless.
- He set out solve Germany’s problems.

### Problem | Stresemann’s solution | This was good because | But......
--- | --- | --- | ---
**French Invasion of the Ruhr** | • Stresemann sent the Ruhr workers back to work for the French | It meant that the workers were being paid again, helping the German economy and giving their families money | ....It was seen as a defeat – The government looked like they were giving in to the French. It also mean that Germany lost a huge amount of their steel production |
**Hyperinflation** | • Stresemann stopped the Government printing money  
• He scrapped the old Currency, the mark, and brought in a new one – The Renten (temporary) mark | It stopped hyperinflation and made German money worth something again. People were able to buy goods and be properly paid, increasing confidence. | ....The damage was already done; groups like the pensioners and middle class had already lost their life savings. Germans had gone through a year of misery and blamed the Government for it. The new currency was better, but never fully stable. |
**Destroyed German economy** | • Stresemann took out a huge loan from the USA called the Dawes Plan | It gave Germany an injection of cash to help its people and invest in its industry. The hope was that the money would help Germany get back on its feet | ... Germany started to recover, and production massively improved. Unemployment always remained a problem though. Germany also had to pay these loans back, and USA could call them in at any time, |
**Massive Reparations** | • The Dawes plan also restructured the Reparations payments, so that they were more affordable – less money each year, but paid for longer. | This gave Germany a bit more money to fund its recovery | The Reparations would not be fully paid until the 1980’s. Germany still could not really afford them. |
Other Countries don’t trust Germany

- Stresemann signs the Locarno pact, agreeing never to use violence to settle disputes again
- The Young Plan (1929) basically agreed to the terms if the TOV in exchange for another loan.

Brings Germany into European politics again. Countries are willing to talk to Germany and deal with her again. This leads to more trust, more help and more foreign money coming in.

... The Weimar Republic finally had to give in and accept the TOV. Many Germans hated the French and British still for the harsh peace terms.

Remember –

For the exam, it is important to be able to say how far Stresemann’s policies helped Germany recover. You need to know what this main solutions were, but also how well they worked and what didn’t work so well.

The “Golden Age” 1924-1929

It is really important to know that this period is known as the Weimar Republic’s “Golden age”. Stresemann’s policies managed to stabilise Germany and save it from the brink of collapse. As a result, people became happier with the Weimar Republic Government and less likely to support extreme parties like the Nazis.

Remember - an exam question about the “Golden Age” will usually ask something like “How far was this a period of recovering for Germany” or “1924-29 has been described as the Weimar Republic’s Golden Age – do you agree?”

It is important that you know why it was seen as a golden age, and that you know what problems still remained so you can give a balanced argument.

A Golden Age?

Politics in the Golden Age

- The Government started to become more stable, and between 1924 and 1928 there were far fewer elections held because of disagreements.
- People were no longer supporting extreme parties- Votes for Nazi’s and Communists went down.

But…..

- Hindenburg was elected President in 1925. He was openly against democracy and the Republic, and his election was seen as people voting for the old system of the Kaiser.
- No party could get a majority, so all governments were still coalitions, which often didn’t agree.

The Economy in the Golden Age

- The Economy started doing well in the Golden age thanks to Stresemann’s changes and the Dawes plan
- Production went to its highest level in decades.
- Germany became a leading exporter in the world for manufactured goods.

But…..

- It was all based on American loans…. Which could be recalled at any time. Oh dear.
- Unemployment was always a serious problem
- Big gap between rich and poor
- Farming and agriculture did very badly
**German Culture in the Golden Age**

- Culture was a big achievement of the Weimar Golden era.
- Artists began depicting everyday life in a way not seen before.
- German Cinema boomed, and movies like *Metropolis* became classics all over the world.
- Architecture was admired in this era.

*But...*

- Berlin became seen as sleazy and sex-obsessed.

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**Surviving Political extremists and several uprisings**, such as the Spartacists, The Kapp Putsch and Hitler’s Munich Putsch

**Surviving despite being hated** – Weimar Republic had to take the blame for losing the war and the TOV. It was hated by many, especially the army, but it survived.

**The Golden Age** – Production increased massively, and people became much happier with the Weimar Government.

**The Weimar Constitution** – ideas such as everyone being able to vote, free press and free speech were new to Germany and very modern

**Freedom** – The Weimar Republic allowed ordinary Germans (like Hitler!) to be involved in politics for the first time

**Recovering from 1923** – Stresemann’s policies such as the Dawes plan and Rentenmark managed to help Germany recover from near collapse in 1923

**Weimar Culture** – Art, cinema and nightlife thrived because the Weimar Constitution gave people so much freedom

**Improved relations with other countries** – Locarno pact, the Young plan and entry to the League of Nations made Germany more accepted abroad.