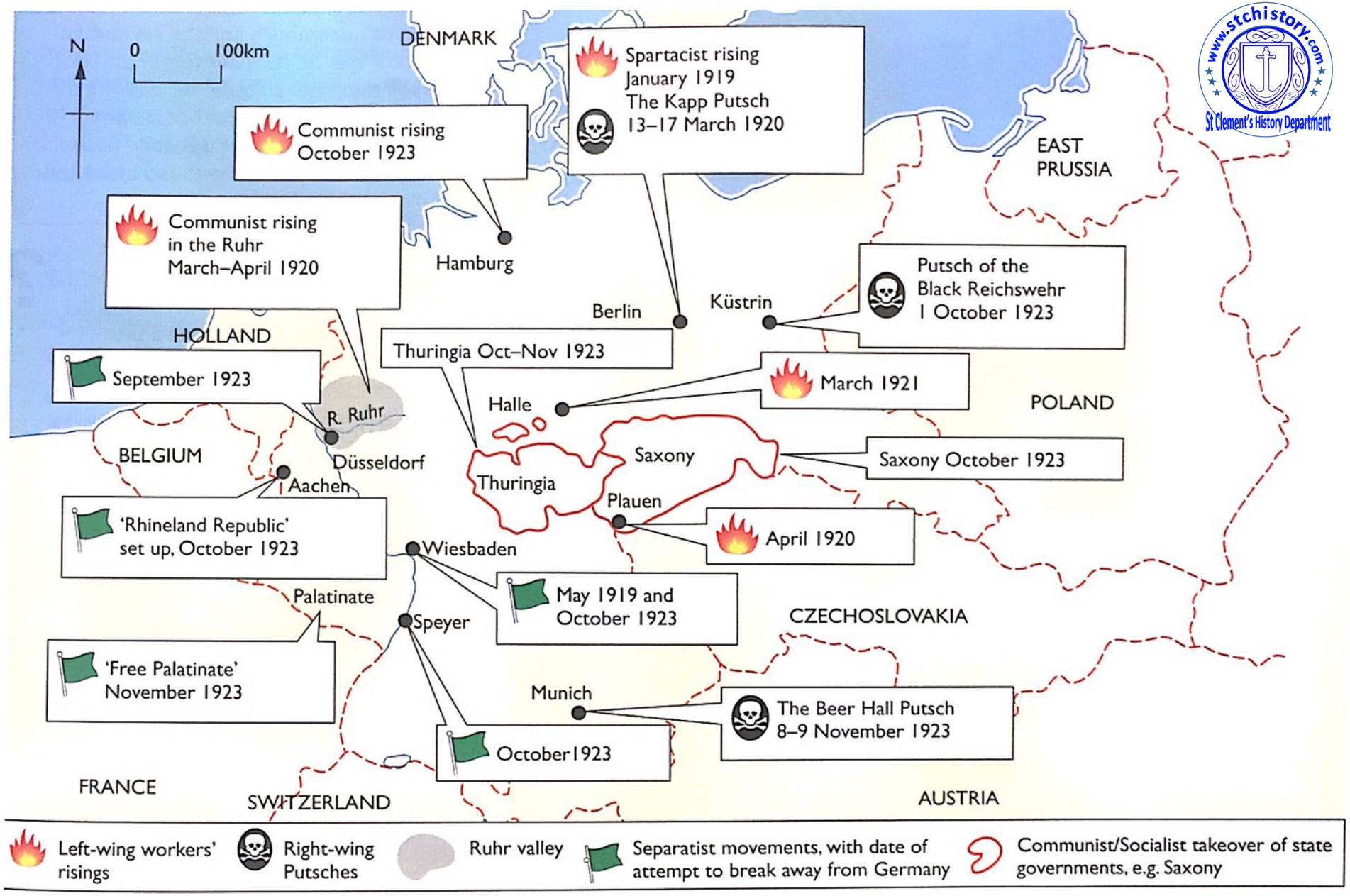
Spartacist Uprising (left) & Kapp Putsch (right)

Aim:
To know what happened in both of these uprisings and evaluate sources



What can you infer from this picture about the stability of the Weimar Republic?

What would you do if you were Ebert?

These first few months haven't been easy, the Reichstag is split, there are too many parties, and the extreme right and left parties have enough seats (20%) to be a nuisance!

To top it off, there are riots and rebellions all over Germany! They are saying they want a Russian style revolution in Germany, the Communists are getting support!

1) Make a deal with the Army

2) Make a deal with the Communist party

3) Allow Germany to turn communist?

What did Ebert do?

Ebert made a deal with the army leader, Groener, they would support the Weimar Republic against any revolution, Ebert would support & supply the army further, making him dependent on it, weakening the new republic further

The Spartacist Revolt (Left-wing)

Fact File:

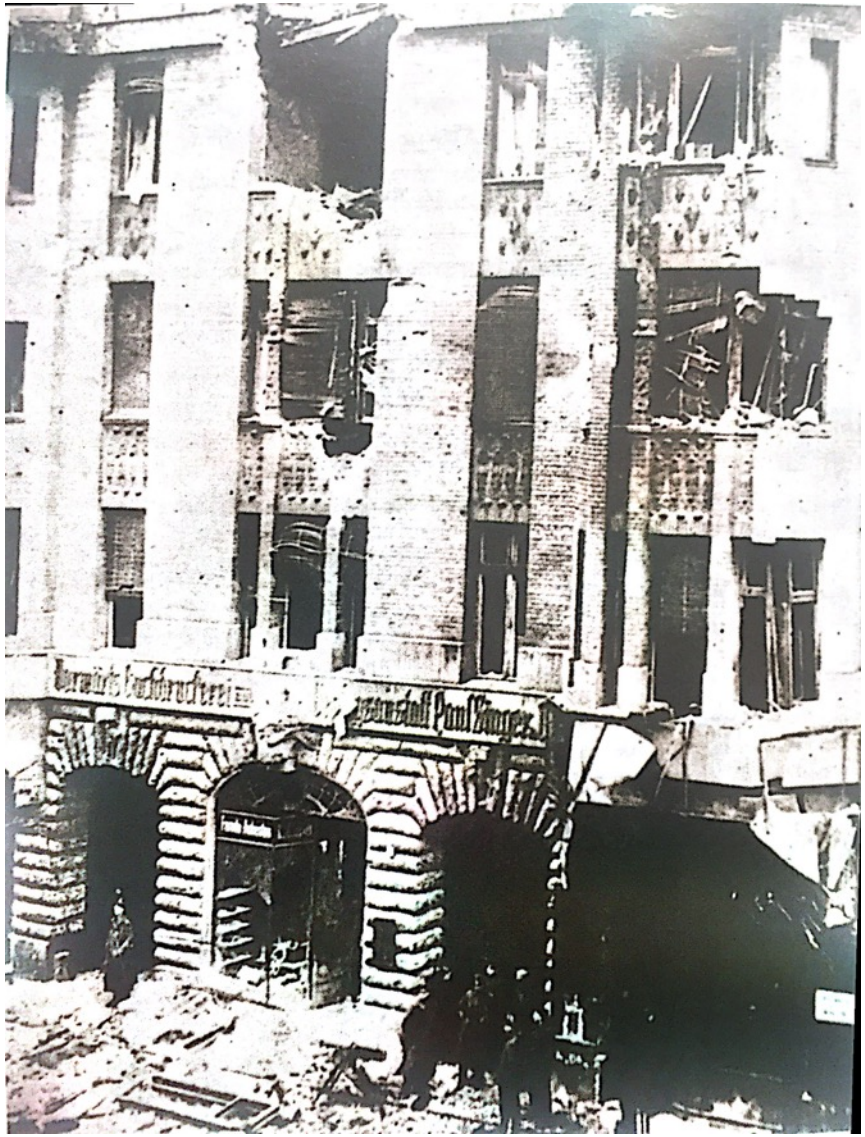
- Named after the Roman slave Spartacist who rose up against the Romans
- Led by Rosa Luxemburg (Red Rosa) & Karl Liebknecht
- **CAUSE:** Sparked by the sacking of a police chief in Berlin by Ebert
- Rebels called for uprising and general strike on **6 January 1919**
- **100,000** workers took to the streets
- Seized the government's newspaper offices
- Weimar government was losing control of Berlin!

What can Ebert do?

Ebert could call on the deal he's just made with the army, but they were in no shape so soon after the war, so he called on the **Freikorps**

Source D

A Spartacist poster from the 1920s. The Spartacist champion of the people slays the three-headed monster – the army, big business and landowners – considered by the extreme left wing to be oppressing the people.



The Freikorps in front of the captured communist newspaper offices in January 1919

The end of the Spartacist Rebellion:

- Freikorps - Thousands of soldiers returned from the war and had kept their weapons
- Many were right wing and hated the communists
- 250,000 were mobilised by Ebert

- The unarmed workers were no match for the Freikorps and were driven away by 13th January

- 16th January, Luxemburg and Liebknecht were arrested and killed, Luxemburg had been shot in the head and dumped in the canal

- The Left-wing communist rebellion had been shut down… for now…

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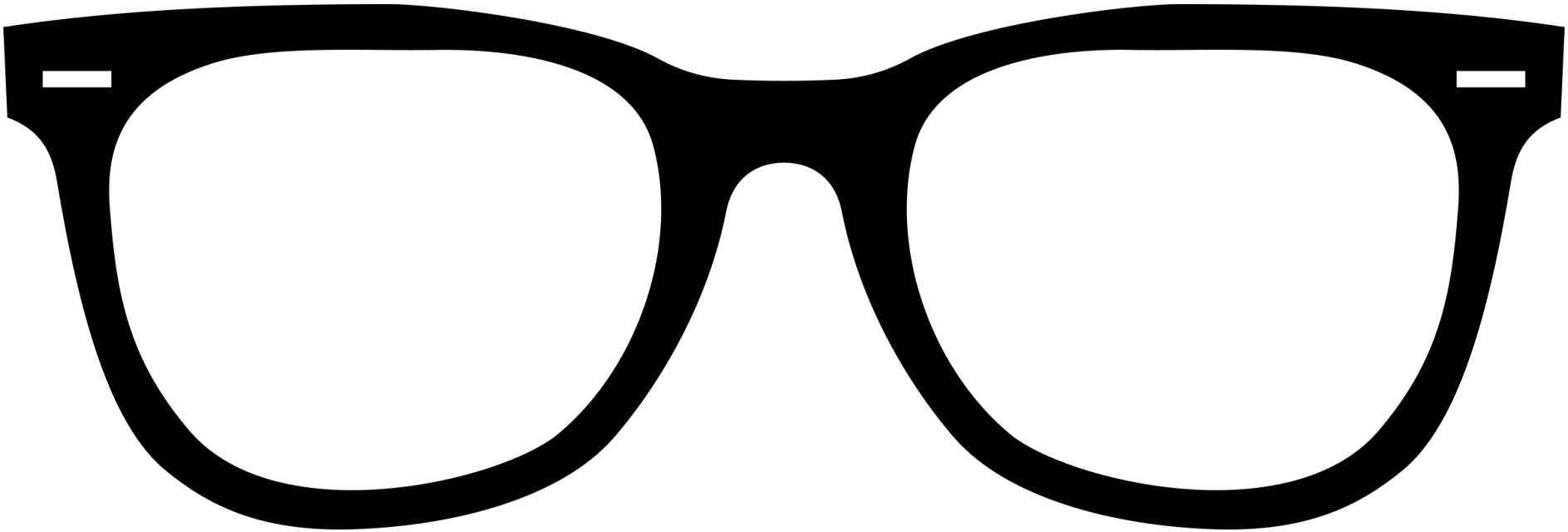


Interpretation task:

In the LEFT eye

- Draw what a member of the Spartacist Uprising might see in the streets of Germany
- Write around the LEFT frame what the Spartacists wanted

In the RIGHT eye

- What might a member of the Freikorps be looking at?
- Write around the RIGHT frame what about who the Freikorps were and what they did

The Kapp Putsch (Right-wing)

Having put down the Spartacist (left-wing) rising, what did Ebert have to deal with next in June 1919? Treaty of Versailles

As you know, this caused much **anger** in Germany, so unsurprisingly, there was another rebellion…

Main causes of the Kapp Putsch:

- Ebert was disbanding the Freikorps, they didn't feel this was fair after putting down the Spartacists
- Fear of communism
- Dolchstoss
- Severity & anger at Versailles

Could Ebert call on the Freikorps this time?

What about the actual army?

(Think back to Treaty of Versailles)

"Reichswehr does not fire on Reichswehr"

Fact File:

- Began March 13th, 1920
- 5000 armed Freikorps marched on Berlin and took control of the city
- Wolfgang Kapp was put forward as their politician figurehead
- Declared a new government and invited Kaiser Wilhelm II back
- **Ebert's actions:** Ebert's government fled to Weimar urging the Berliners to go on strike, which they did as they didn't want the Kaiser back
- Major services stopped (gas, electric, water, transport etc)
- Kapp was arrested after 4 days and the rebellion was over!

Further political violence:

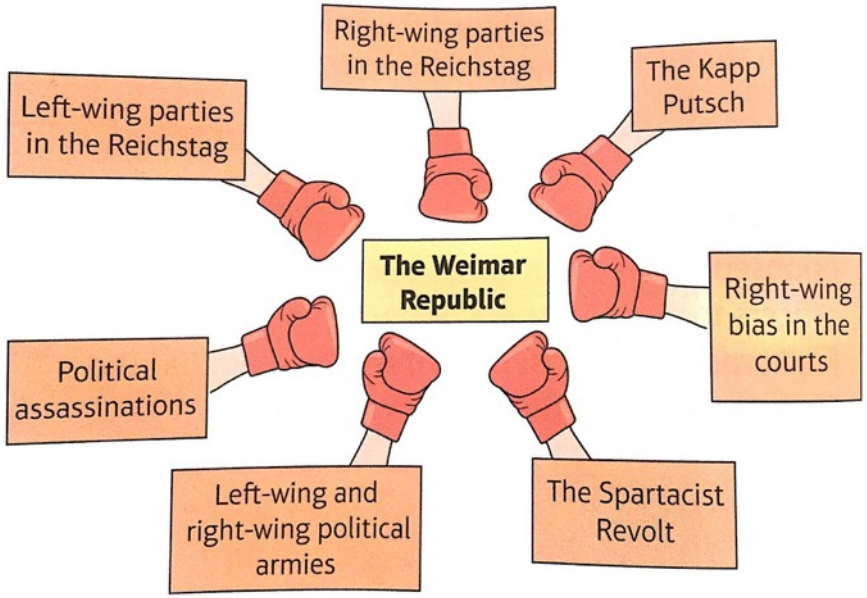
"Having successfully put down these rebellions, I thought we'd be able to get back on with rebuilding our country! But no, my councillor Hugo Hasse, Erzberger (who signed the armistice) and my foreign minister Rathenau have all been murdered! That is 376 political assassinations and to make it worse, the judges are not prosecuting those with right wing support!

It's just been one thing after another in these first 3 years, surely 1923 will be better for our new Republic??"

Copy this diagram,

Rank the challenges in order of most to least dangerous

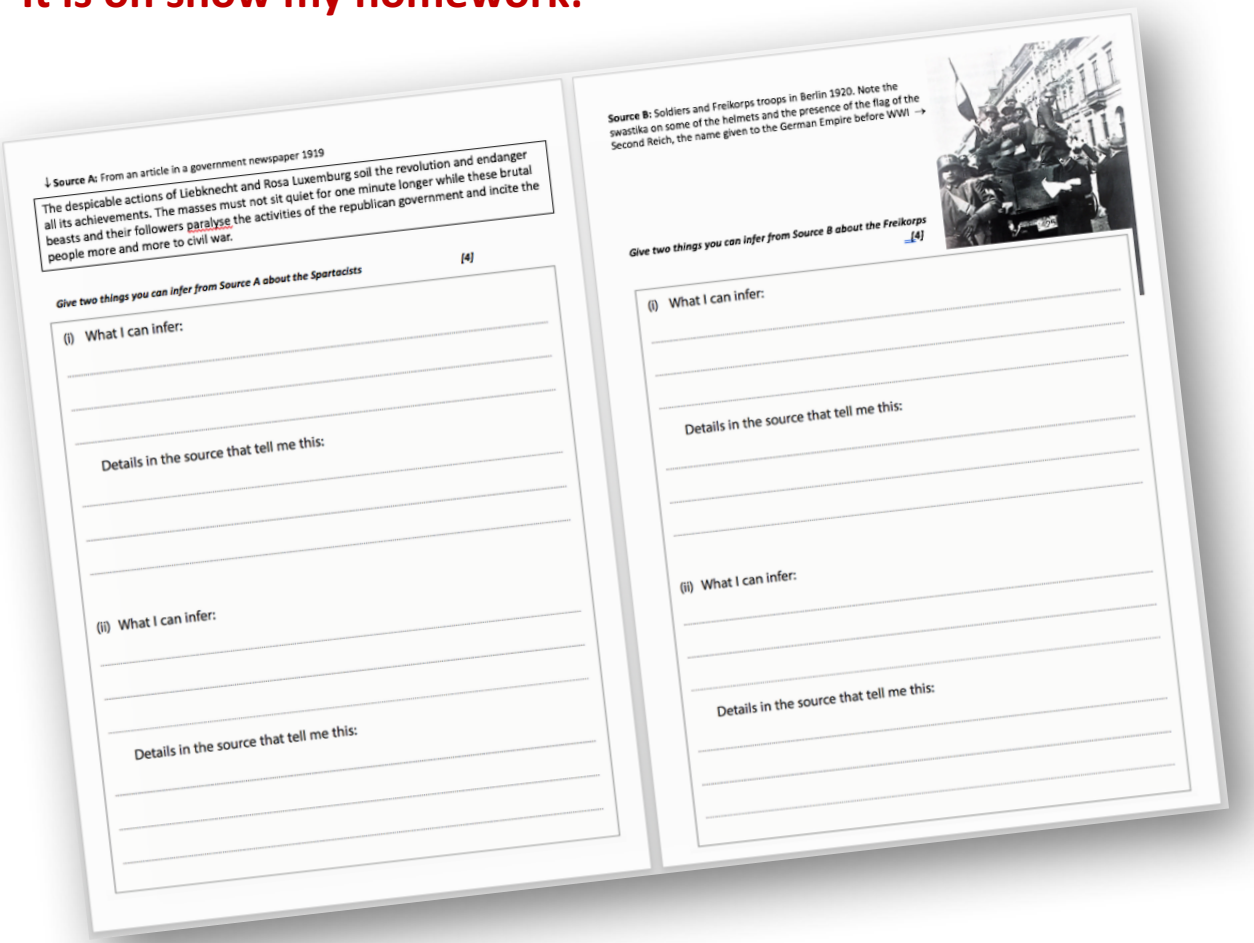
Early challenges to the Weimar Republic



Homework – Revise for your first Germany assessment

It will be on the Treaty of Versailles (12 mark essay) and 2 inference questions, as well as a key word definition test.

It is on show my homework:



↓ **Source A:** From an article in a government newspaper 1919

The despicable actions of Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg soil the revolution and endanger all its achievements. The masses must not sit quiet for one minute longer while these brutal beasts and their followers paralyse the activities of the republican government and incite the people more and more to civil war.

Give two things you can infer from Source A about the Spartacists **[4]**

(i) What I can infer:

Details in the source that tell me this:

(ii) What I can infer:

Details in the source that tell me this:

Source B: Soldiers and Freikorps troops in Berlin 1920. Note the swastika on some of the helmets and the presence of the flag of the Second Reich, the name given to the German Empire before WWI →

Give two things you can infer from Source B about the Freikorps **[4]**

(i) What I can infer:

Details in the source that tell me this:

(ii) What I can infer:

Details in the source that tell me this:

Remember the walk through guide to paper 3 in the GCSE section of our website: