

THE RISE AND FALL OF WEIMAR REPUBLIC

By Gamal Al-Banna

THE CONTENTS

The Preface :

The preface summarized the tragedy of Weimar in three acts. The First, and most important, although the shortest, is "Determining the Direction" This act has been ended by the assassination of Rosa Luxemburg denouncing the Rats, and adoption the parliament. The second illustrated the events till the death of Ebert which symbolized the "death" of the republic too. The third act pursued the rise of the anti-republic forces, particularly the Nazi till the death of Hindenburg-paradoxolly-the last vestige of the republic.

The author cited Bertold Brecht in his play "Night Drums", although Brecht himself denounced it afterwards, nevertheless, it draws a very realistic picture of the situation.

(p.p. 3-9)

PART ONE

GERMANY TILL THE WORLD WAR

Chapter (I) : The Political Evolution :

A very brief, but comprehensive, review of German political history, including the celebrated quotations from Caesar and Tacitus, a few lines about Clovis, Charlemagne, Fredric Barbarosa, Luther, thirty years war, the rise of Prussia. The great philosophers, Kant, Hegal etc. 1848 and the revolution, Bismark and Empire. The first world war.

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Chapter (II) : The Liberal and Popular Movements till 1848 Revolution :

The case of Weidieg and Buechner. The seven professors of Goettingen. The role of Marx and Die Neue Rheinische Zeitung.

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Chapter (III) : The Evolution of the German Socialist Movement up to the end of IXX Century :

The rise of Lassalle, his ideas, his work in German labour movement. His

communications with Marx and Bismarck. Gotha Programme, Erfurt Congress, Bernstein and the Revisionism, Rosa Luxemburg.

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Chapter (IV) : The Evolution of the German Socials Movement up to the First World War :

Under a key idea -the conflict between the thought and the fact- the author analyses the evolution of German socialist movement. Germany was not in need to Marxism, but Marxism by its own lure captivated many thinkers and agitators, and hence, the conflict which affected deeply the political German thinking.

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PART TWO

DETERMING THE DIRECTION

Chapter (V) : And So the War Began :

The resolution of 4 August a resolution of necessity, and the Social Democratic Party had no other alternative. Opposition of War.

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Chapter (VI) : The Revolution and The Republic :

The breakdown of the army. Spartacus letters. The Revolt of Keil Sailors. Prince Max of Baden negotiation with Wilson. Ebert took over the Government. A telephone contact with the Supreme Command.

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Chapter (VII) : Camps Polarized :

(A) The Officers and Soldiers Councils :

The officers, the elite, the disciplination, a portrait of the Junkers from "the last train from Berlin". A retreat without defeat. The soldier's councils, their attitude, they lacking political consciousness, efforts of the supreme command to dissolve the soldier's councils.

(B) The Bourgeoisie, The German Capitalism, the Universities :

(C) The left :

The Independent Social Democratic Party (USPD). Revolutionare Oblate. Spartakus Bund.

Rosa Luxemburg theses and Programme in detail "The best that a Marxist thought can offer".

Chapter (VI) : The Clouds Encircle the Social Democratic Party :

The evolution of the party from the days of Bebel and Leibnecht. Ebert, his background and ability as an organiser. Ebert and the independents, The Volks Beauftragten. Parliament or Rats, merits and shortage of each. Leibknecht opposition. "The National Congress 16/12-20/12 and Hamburg Points". Naval Division insurrections. Noske minister of War.

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Chapter (X) : The Curious Events of Bavaria :

About Bavaria. The spontaneity of Eisner. Tollery and Coffeehouse. Anarchist rule. The Communists. Freikorps rooted out the communists. White Terror. Munich, a nest of mutinies. The Beerhall Putsch.

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Chapter (XI) : The End of the Beginning :

The return to the democratic-multi parties' regime. Ebert missed the opportunity. A comparison between the German November Revolution and the Russian Mars Revolution.

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PART THREE

THE ENTANGLED MARCH

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Chapter (XXII) : THE END :

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