

# Recovery, Depression and Crisis

*A Half-Century of Crisis and  
Achievement (1900–1945)*



## Recovery and change

The Roaring Twenties

The Great Depression

The rise of dictatorships

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about social and political developments after World War I, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- What measures were taken to preserve peace during the interwar period?
- How did international relations develop during the 1920s?
- Why was this an important time for women's rights?



In order to contextualize the interwar period, use this timeline to recap previous key historical events.

Either press on a date or drag the pointer along the timeline to find out information about what happened in each year.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**







# The Treaty of Versailles

Following the end of World War I, a number of peace settlements were agreed, including the **Treaty of Versailles**, which was signed in June 1919. It contained two important points:



- Firstly, Germany accepted responsibility for starting the war. This was known as the War Guilt Clause.
- Secondly, Germany had to pay **reparations** to the Allies. In 1921, a figure of 269 billion gold marks was agreed (\$33 billion in today's currency).

This was an impossible amount for Germany to repay. Germany devalued the gold mark, leading to **hyperinflation**.

What were the effects of hyperinflation?



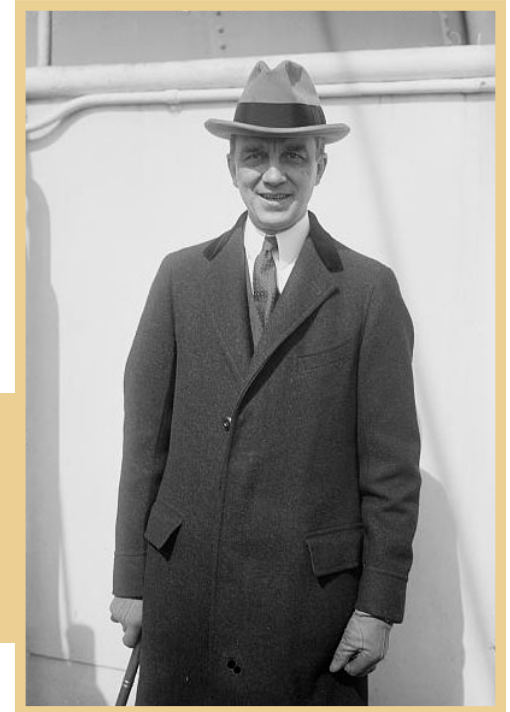
# The Dawes and Young Plans



It was apparent from the beginning that Germany could not make the reparations payments.

In 1924, the **Dawes Plan** reduced the amount Germany had to pay, and granted a loan of \$200 million for German recovery.

The **Young Plan** of May 1929 reduced the payments further and divided the yearly payments in two.



These plans, along with the introduction of a new currency by the German government, reduced inflation and brought economic stability back to Germany.



During World War I, eight million European soldiers were killed, seven million were disabled, and fifteen million were seriously wounded. Press on the tabs to learn about the steps taken during the 1920s to prevent another war from happening.

Press **start** to begin.

start





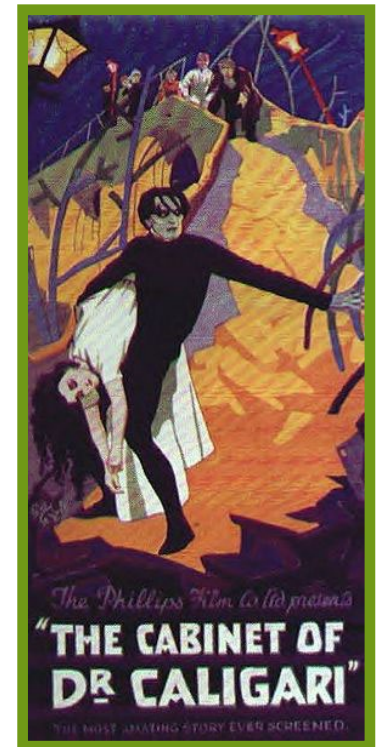
# A rejection of authority



After World War I, many people began to distrust traditional authorities. War veterans in particular blamed them for leading Europe into war in 1914, and thus held them responsible for the deaths of millions.

This distrust manifested itself in much of the art that was created in the 1920s. One of the best examples of this is the German film *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1919), about a doctor who experiments on a young man in order to make him kill other young people.

The movie was popular with many who felt the horrific story reflected the reality of war.



Can you think of any other artistic movements which reflected this attitude of distrust?





Read this passage about the fight for women's suffrage in the U.S. and select the correct word to fill each gap.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Like their U.S. counterparts, British suffragettes fought for the right to vote throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1903, **Emmeline Pankhurst** founded the Women's Social & Political Union. Pankhurst's suffragettes were famous for their **civil disobedience** and were blamed for causing riots.

When World War I broke out, British suffragettes paused their campaign to show their patriotism and to help with the war effort. During the last year of the war, women over 30 were granted the right to vote and in 1928, voting rights finally became the same for men and women.





Press on the different parts of the map to find out when women were granted the right to vote in some other countries.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





Can you match these events to the correct years?

Press **start** to begin.

**start**

