Read and Assess the following DBQ essays- Compare and contrast them.- Weimar Republic

1. Analyze the factors that contributed to the instability of the Weimar Republic the period 1918–1933.

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| Essay # 1  In the period follow WW1 a democratic government known as the Weimar Republic came to power. This part was split up and there were many different opinions on how much good they were doing for their country. The lack of confidence by the citizens, the introduction of quick dramatic change to Germany, and the emergence of the Socialist movements all contributed to the instability of the Weimar Republic.  Many citizens in Germany lacked confidence in the Weimar Republic and didn’t trust their judgment. For example Cara Zetkin commented that the monarchy will take back over through military force over the Weimar (doc. 3). This document shows the people lack confidence in the Republic. Also document 6 says that the German Republic does “not lead, but administer.” This shows how the document says the German Republic didn’t have good judgment and did not trust them to make decisions for the whole country. Even the chancellor of Germany, Prince Bulow says that Weimar is doing the country no good, and had allowed Germany to be “stabbed in the back” (doc. 9). But being the chancellor of Germany before the Weimar was established, he would have a sour taste for the German Republic, so document 9 could be biased.  Another reason for the Weimar’s instability came through the many dramatic changes they brought to Germany too quickly. For example, giving women the right to be represented in Parliament was established in 1919 (doc 2). Also just becoming a democracy so quickly after losing WW1 can cause instability. Document 1 quotes that if Germany didn’t embrace democracy it would “become a volcano of misery, always likely to erupt into civil wars” and “overnight we have become the most radical democracy in Europe” (doc 1). This shows how quickly the entire country was thrown into democracy and how it isn’t ready for that big of a change. However the document could be biased, due to the fact that it was written by a leader of the German Democratic Party.  The emergence of the socialist party also had an effect on the instability of the Weimar Republic. For example Joseph Goebbels a National Socialist Party member says “Weimar ideology itself helps us to destroy it” (doc 7). This statement clearly shows how the socialist party could contribute to instability of the Weimar. Adolf Hitler himself stated that if the Weimar leaders possessed the valiance, courage, and other qualities as his 400,000 SS men of the National Socialist movement then Germany would be above all the other nations (doc 11). On the contrary, this document could easily be biased because Hitler was the leader of the Socialist Party.  In conclusion, the Weimar Republic faced many challenges which contributed to its instability for 1918-1933. Things such as the lack of confidence in the Republic by its own citizens, the quick dramatic changes to the government and how it operated, and also the emergence of the Socialist Party.  489 words | Essay # 2  The Weimar Republic government of Germany established after World War I, lasted from 1918 to 1933. The after-math of the war, characterized by tremendous inflation and indemnities owed to the Allies, created a political instability that was the perfect environment for the rise of a totalitarian regime. The main factors that contributed to this instability were economic hardship and government incompetence, that facilitated the growth of political radicalism. A  The Weimar Republic was born an unstable government, hastily formed in the wake of war as it was. The main issue it faced immediately after its institution was the state of the economy. Ravaged by war and forced to pay outrageous indemnities, Germany’s finances were beyond destroyed. The government attempted to stimulate economy by printing more money, resulting in possibly the worst inflation modern history has witnessed. As Heinrich Mann declared, “The economy is collapsing more or less everywhere”, contributing to the instability of the Weimar Republic.    In addition, many felt that the Social Democratic Party was “unfit to govern”. Besides having been established with “overnight” suddenness, the government of the Weimar Republic was inexperienced. Before World War I, Germany under the First Reich has been a monarchy; the country had no experience as a “radical democracy” as the Troeltsch called it. Poor decisions like the one to print more money relieve the depression; characterize the misfortunate and incompetent Weimar Republic. On the other hand, the same sudden democratic changes had positive consequences for groups like women, who for the first time shared political equality with men. These positive consequences, however, are outweighed by the political instability the suddenness of the institution of the Weimar Republic caused.  Economic hardship and shaky government administration create breeding grounds for political radicalism. The Communist party gained a huge amount of votes during the depression, putting the stability of Germany and a great deal of Europe at risk. However, a different sort of political radicalism beat out the Communist Party in the form of the National Socialist Party. With the basic intent to destroy the Weimar Republic, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany, eventually resulting in the replacement of the Weimar Republic (Second Reich) with the Third Reich.  Weimar Republic’s instability was caused by factors that were direct results of World War I. Economic crisis and a hastily- formed democracy led to the rise of Hitler’s totalitarian regime. The Government of the Second Reich collapsed as a result of the condition of its formations.  405 words |
| \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ explicitly stated thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question   * Discusses a majority of the documents (documents 3, 6, 9, 2, 1, 7, 11).   \_\_\_\_\_\_Demonstrates understanding of the basic meaning of a majority  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Supports the thesis  \_\_\_\_\_\_Analyzes point of view (X3)  \_\_\_\_\_\_3 explicit groups | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ explicitly stated thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question  X Discusses a majority of the documents (documents 10, 1, 2).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Demonstrates understanding of the basic meaning of a majority  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Supports the thesis  \_\_\_\_\_\_Analyzes point of view  \_\_\_\_\_\_3 explicit groups |

**NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20PTS**

**Examples of ACCEPTABLE point-of-view analysis**

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| **ACC.** | **UNACC** | 1. *Adolph Hitler, in a campaign speech, is attempting to win the support of business executives for his party in the 1932 election.* |
| **ACC.** | **UNACC** | 1. *As a Communist, Zetkin is obviously in favor of Communism and therefore her statements must be* taken lightly (Doc. 3). |
| **ACC.** | **UNACC** | 1. *As a woman, Marie Juchacz was likely to support the Republic because it enacted female suffrage.* |
| **ACC.** | **UNACC** | 1. *Because Juchacz is a woman and a member of parliament, she is favorable toward the idea of wanting a new government (Doc. 2).* |
| **ACC.** | **UNACC** | 1. *Carl von Ossietzky, a dependable source, by profession of journalism, defends the Republic (Doc. 6).* |
| **ACC.** | **UNACC** | 1. *Goebbels’ speech to members of his own party is likely to be an accurate reflection of Nazi goals.* |
| **ACC.** | **UNACC** | 1. *In typical Communist fashion, Zetkin espouses a Marxist party line in calling for the overthrow of the bourgeoisie.* |
| **ACC.** | **UNACC** | 1. *Prince von Bülow was a chancellor and therefore he was biased (Doc. 9).* |
| **ACC.** | **UNACC** | 1. *Since Hitler was a master at propaganda and electoral campaigning, we cannot assume all he says is fact.* |
| **ACC.** | **UNACC** | 1. *This document is reliable because it is an excerpt from Juchacz’s speech (Doc. 2).* |
| **ACC.** | **UNACC** | 1. *Zetkin embodied this hatred of capitalism in an editorial that exposed her bias against capitalism by means of inflammatory language designed to bring about the revolution depicted in Grosz’s political cartoon.* |

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| Score: 5  The thesis of this essay is acceptable because it identifies three factors leading to instability in the Weimar  Republic from 1918 to 1933. The essay uses seven documents (documents 3, 6, 9, 2, 1, 7, 11). There are no  misinterpretations and the thesis is adequately supported. The essay contains one acceptable point-ofview  reference (document 9) and three acceptable groups. | The thesis of this essay is acceptable because it identifies three factors leading to instability in the Weimar Republic from 1918 to 1933. However, the essay uses only three documents (documents 10, 1, 2) and therefore did not earn credit for core points 2, 3 and 4. It provides no discussion of the point of view  presented in the documents, and there is only one acceptable group. |
| Score 5 | Score 1 |