

Weimar Prussia, View this item. Title ; Weimar Prussia, the illusion of strength ; Prussia (Germany)--Politics and government ;

History of Prussia The Saargebiet was administered by the League of Nations until The Rhine Province became a demilitarised zone. These losses separated East Prussia from the rest of the country, now only accessible by rail through the Polish corridor or by sea. Since the Germans had not been invited to the peace conference taking place in Versailles and because the Allies had deliberately kept the terms of the treaty from being made public prior to presenting them to the German delegation, many Germans feared that the Allies were preparing to demand even harsher peace terms. In particular, it was thought that the French would seek to annex the Rhineland. Some prominent politicians, particularly in the Rhineland and including Mayor of Cologne and future German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer , called for Prussia to be broken up into smaller and more manageable states. Both the Reich and Prussian governments in Berlin were dominated by traditionalist sentiment and strongly opposed the dissolution of Prussia. Essentially, apart from its territorial losses and having its government placed on a democratic footing, Prussia continued unchanged. It remained by far the largest state of the Reich, with more territory and people than the other states combined. Democratic bastion[edit] During the years of Hohenzollern rule, Prussia and its predecessor, Brandenburg had been synonymous with authoritarianism. In contrast, Prussia was a bulwark of democracy during the Weimar Republic. The restrictive Prussian three-class franchise was abolished shortly after Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated. Power now passed from the Junker landowners and great industrialists to "Red Berlin" and the industrialised Ruhr Area " both with working-class majorities. Prussia now became a stronghold of the left. Unlike in other states of the German Reich, majority rule by democratic parties in Prussia was never endangered. Nevertheless, in East Prussia and some industrial areas, the National Socialist German Workers Party or Nazi Party of Adolf Hitler gained more and more influence and popular support, especially from the lower middle class. Otto Braun, a Social Democrat from East Prussia, served as Prussian minister-president almost continuously from to A capable leader, he implemented several trend-setting reforms together with his minister of the interior, Carl Severing , which were also models for the later Federal Republic of Germany FRG. For instance, a Prussian minister-president could be forced out of office only if there was a "positive majority" for a potential successor. This concept, known as the constructive vote of no confidence , was carried over into the Basic Law of the FRG. Largely because of this provision, the centre-left coalition was able to stay in office because neither the far left nor the far right could possibly put together a majority. Prussian coup[edit] Main article: Reich Chancellor Franz von Papen got President Hindenburg to remove the elected Prussian state government under Otto Braun on the pretext that it had lost control of public order. After this emergency decree, Papen appointed himself Reich Commissioner for Prussia and took control of the government. This made it easy for Adolf Hitler to assume control over Prussia in the following year. Establishment of Nazi rule in Prussia[edit] Main article: As part of the deal, Papen was formally appointed minister-president of Prussia in addition to his role as Vice Chancellor of the Reich. Four weeks later 27 February , the Reichstag was set on fire. Six days after the fire, the Reichstag election of 5 March strengthened the position of the Nazi Party , although they did not achieve an absolute majority. His police beat and harassed the other parties especially the Communists and Social Democrats , and only allowed the Nazis and Nationalists to campaign relatively unmolested. The new Reichstag was opened in the Garrison Church of Potsdam on 21 March in the presence of President Paul von Hindenburg , who had long since descended into senility. In a propaganda-filled meeting between Hitler and the NSDAP, the "marriage of old Prussia with young Germany" was celebrated, to win over the Prussian monarchists, conservatives, and nationalists and induce them to vote for the Enabling Act. The act was passed on 23 March , legally granting Hitler dictatorial powers. In April , Papen was visiting the Vatican. With this act, Hitler was able to take power decisively in Germany, since he now had the whole apparatus of the Prussian government, including the police, at his disposal. By almost all Prussian ministries had been merged with the corresponding Reich ministries. Dismantlement of Prussia[edit] Main article: The federal state

governments were now controlled by governors for the Reich who were appointed by the Chancellor. Parallel to that, the organization of the party into districts Gau gained increasing importance, as official in charge of a Gau the infamous Gauleiter was again appointed by the Chancellor who was at the same time chief of the NSDAP. Some changes were still made to Prussian provinces after this time. Other redeployments took place in , involving cessions of Prusso-Hanoveran suburban municipalities to Bremen and in return the annexation of Bremian Bremerhaven to the Province of Hanover. Also Hanoveran Wilhelmshaven was ceded to Oldenburg. In redeployments involved the provinces of Saxony and Hanover and the Brunswick. However, most of this territory was not reintegrated back into Prussia but assigned to separate Gaue of the Nazi Germany. Abolition of Prussia With the end of National Socialist rule in came the division of Germany into Zones of Occupation , and the transfer of control of everything east of the Oder-Neisse line to other countries. As was the case after World War I, almost all of this territory had been Prussian territory a small portion of the land east of the revised border had belonged to Saxony. An estimated ten million Germans fled or were forcibly expelled from these territories as part of the German exodus from Eastern Europe. Prussia had ceased to exercise administrative functions in and these had now been absorbed into the administration of the occupying powers in their respective geographic areas of control. Elections in the Free State of Prussia and List of Prussian finance ministers Unlike its authoritarian pre-war predecessor, Prussia was a promising democracy within Germany. The abolition of the aristocracy transformed Prussia into a region strongly dominated by the left wing of the political spectrum, with "Red Berlin" and the industrial centre of the Ruhr Area exerting a major influence. During this period, a coalition of centre-left parties ruled, predominantly under the leadership of East Prussian Social Democrat Otto Braun. While in office he implemented several reforms together with his Minister of the Interior, Carl Severing , which were also models for the later Federal Republic of Germany. For instance, a Prussian prime minister could only be forced out of office if there was a "positive majority" for a potential successor[citation needed]. This concept, known as the constructive vote of no confidence , was carried over into the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany. Most historians regard the Prussian government during this time as far more successful than that of Germany as a whole. Similar to other German states both now and at the time , executive power was continued to be vested in a Minister-President of Prussia and laws established by a Landtag elected by the people. Ministers-President of the Free State of Prussia[edit].

Chapter 2 : Weimar Prussia, â€“ PDF Dietrich Orlow

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