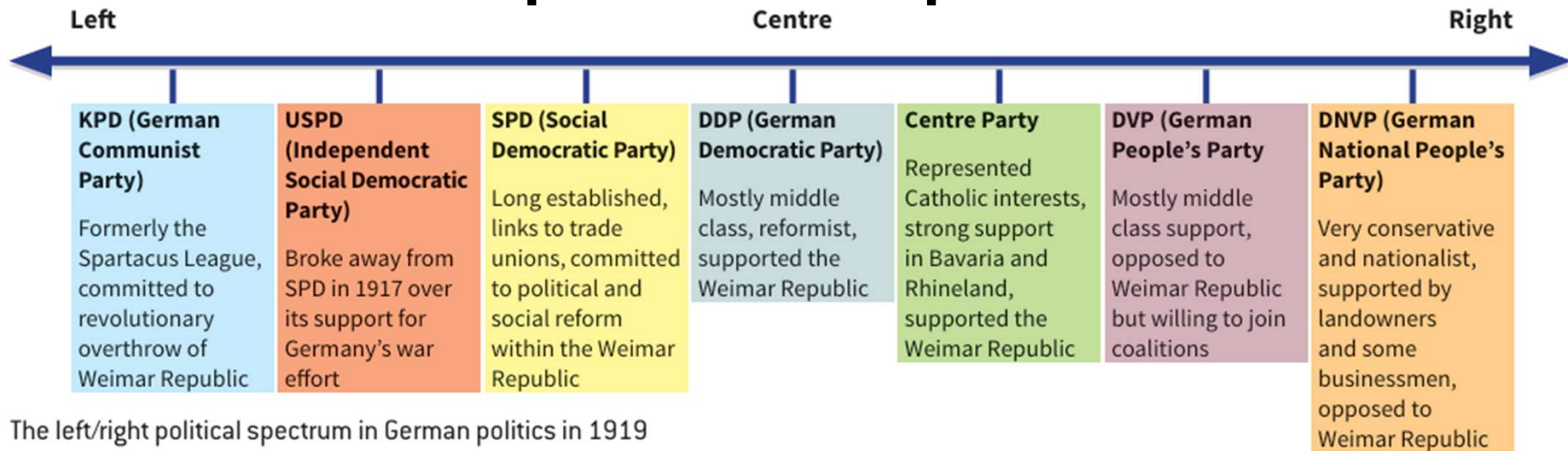


German political parties 1919



The left/right political spectrum in German politics in 1919

Socialist groups and parties in 1918

Spartacist League (later KPD)	USPD	The Social Democratic Party (SPD)
Founded: 1916, by a more revolutionary minority group from the SPD. The name was changed to German Communist Party (KPD) in January 1919.	Founded: 1917, by a breakaway minority group from the left of the SPD.	Founded: 1875, as a Marxist socialist party committed to revolution.
Leaders: Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.	Leaders: Hugo Hasse.	Leaders: Friedrich Ebert and Philipp Scheidemann.
Aims: Wanted republican government controlled by workers' and soldiers' councils, welfare benefits, nationalisation, workers' control of major industries, disbanding of the army and creation of local workers' militias. Opposed to First World War.	Aims: Wanted a republic with national Reichstag working with workers' and soldiers' councils, welfare improvements, nationalisation of industry, breaking up of large estates, reform of the army and creation of a national militia. Opposed to First World War.	Aims: Wanted moderate socialist republic with democratic elections and basic personal freedoms, welfare improvements and gradual nationalisation of industry. Wanted continuity and order. Supported Germany's entry into First World War.
Support: a throng of workers would often join them on their rallies and demonstrations in the streets.	Support: grew in strength during 1918 as war-weariness grew.	Support: Appealed largely to working-class voters and, in 1912, became the largest party in the Reichstag.
Membership: c. 5,000	Membership: c. 300,000	Membership: c. 1 million

A CLOSER LOOK

The main non-socialist political parties in the new republic:

Centre Party <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formed in 1870 to protect Catholic interests in the mainly protestant German Reich Had strong support in the main Catholic areas of Bavaria and the Rhineland Supported a democratic constitution 	German Democratic Party (DDP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A left-leaning liberal party, based on the old Progressive Party Most support came from intellectuals and middle class Supported a democratic constitution
German National People's Party (DNVP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A nationalist party, based on the old Conservative Party Most support came from landowners and some small business owners Rejected the democratic constitution 	German People's Party (DVP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A right-leaning liberal party, based on the old National Liberal Party Most support came from upper-middle class and business interests Opposed to new republic but willing to participate in its governments

Table 1 *The election results of January 1919*

Party	Number of seats gained
SPD	163
USPD	22
Centre	91
DDP	75
DNVP	44
DVP	19

Task 1.

Learn the key information on each party (including abbreviations) for knowledge test.

Task 2

KEY CONCEPT

The political 'right' and 'left', **nationalism** and **liberalism** are key concepts for the study of modern Germany.

a Define the following terms:

- Left-wing
- Right-wing
- Nationalism
- Liberalism

b Which groups in society are likely to adopt left-wing views or right-wing views?