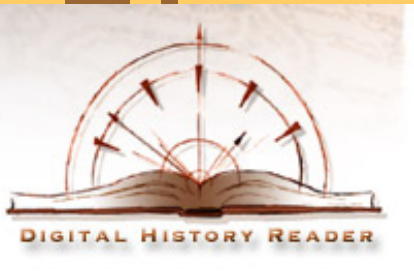


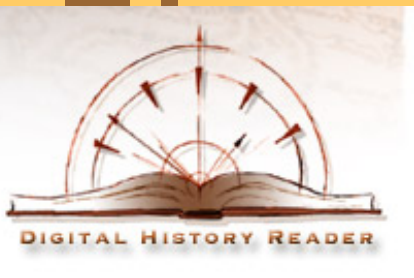
# The End of Optimism: The Great Depression in Europe

To what extent did economic crisis cause people in Europe to question the effectiveness and sustainability of democratic institutions, and how did these concerns, doubts, and fears translate into political action?



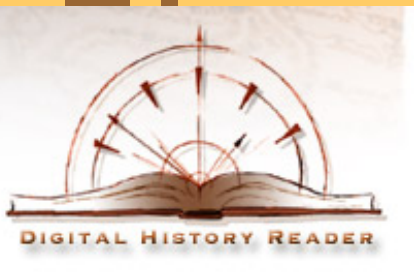
# The Coming of the Depression: Understanding the Context

- ◆ Disruption in world trade
  - Wall Street Crash, October 1929
  - Subsequent collapse of American financial system
- ◆ Depression was a global breakdown of economic systems.
- ◆ Common patterns of economic crisis:
  - Decreased trade
  - Cutbacks in production and consumption
  - Increased unemployment
  - Widespread deprivation/frustration
  - Radical political agitation



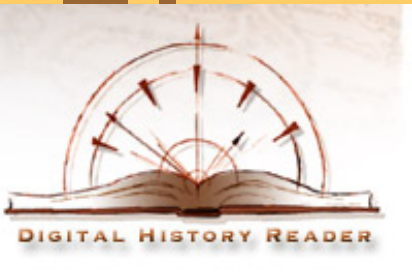
# Economic patterns and policy responses: Germany

- ◆ Economy was weakened by:
  - Post-WWI settlement (Treaty of Versailles)
  - Inflation of the 1920s
  - Extensive borrowing by central bank
  - Political instability of Weimar government
- ◆ German government responds by:
  - Cutting public services
  - Use of emergency powers to maintain order



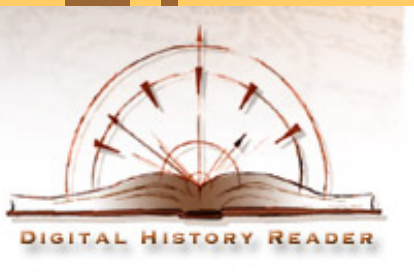
# Economic patterns and policy responses: Britain

- ◆ Economy was weakened by:
  - Persistent economic problems in 1920s
  - Shipping and banking weakened by collapse in world trade
- ◆ British government responds by:
  - Protecting industries (decreased trade)
  - Resisted calls for spending on services



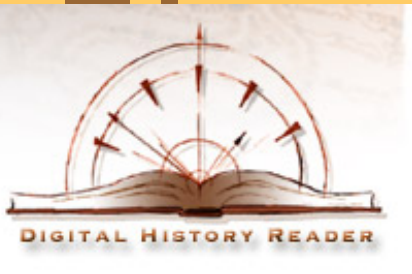
# Economic patterns and policy responses: France

- ◆ Economic patterns early 1930's
  - Modernization provided some partial immunity in the early years of depression.
- ◆ Economic patterns late 1930's:
  - Production and consumption begin to fall.
    - High unemployment
    - Economic suffering
    - Demands for political action



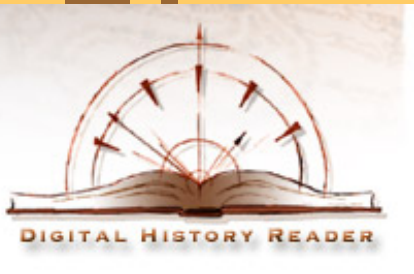
# Conditions, Actions and Motivations

- ◆ Economic Conditions
  - Unemployment/frustration/poverty
- ◆ Motivations and Actions
  - Demonstrations/strikes/protests
  - Political activism/elections/
  - Transforming political structures
    - Rise of new national governments



# Unemployment

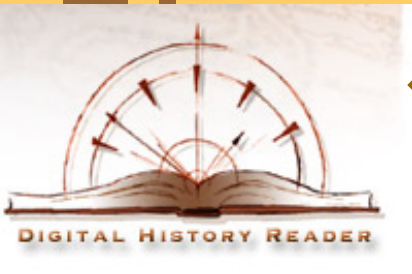
- ◆ Most visible sign of depression
  - Lines for food relief
- ◆ Statistical evidence of rising unemployment
- ◆ Radical activists called for immediate action to alleviate suffering of the people.





# Demonstrations, Strikes, and Protests

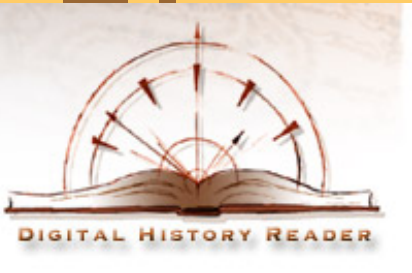
- ◆ Economic conditions provoked collective action.
- ◆ Collective action resulted in policy responses and political transformation.
- ◆ British experience:
  - Wave of strikes and protests
  - Severe government responses: arresting protesters and prosecuting organizers
- ◆ German experience:
  - Parties on the extreme right AND left organized protests
  - Challenged the legitimacy of the government
  - Public disillusionment in government
- ◆ French experience:
  - Mass protest of both left and right parties in Paris
  - Seen by many as a failed attempt to overthrow government





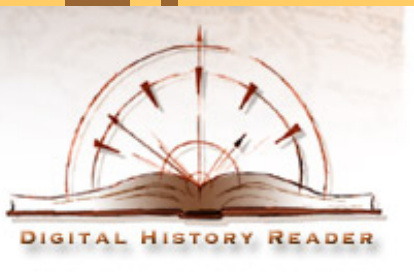
# Elections and Political Transformations

- ◆ Another measure of growing dissatisfaction with economic crisis
- ◆ In Britain:
  - Formation of National Government based on a coalition
- ◆ In Germany:
  - Increasing support for radical left and right
  - Hitler appointed head of National Socialist gov't
- ◆ In France:
  - Formation of a Popular Front Government
  - Sought economic recovery while avoiding radical solutions



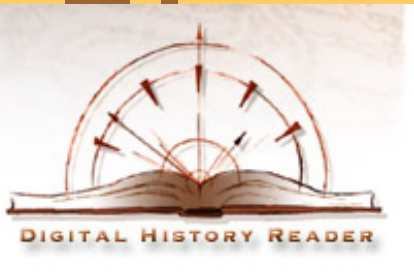
# The Historical Question

To what extent did economic crisis cause people in Europe to question the effectiveness and sustainability of democratic institutions, and how did these concerns, doubts, and fears translate into political action?



# Becoming Experts

- ◆ Students will work in groups of three members.
- ◆ Mission: collect, analyze and evaluate historical sources in order to become experts in one topic related to the changes in Europe caused by the depression.
- ◆ Topics are:
  - Unemployment: Causes, Comparisons, & Interpretations
  - Demonstrations, Reactions, and Protests
  - Crisis and Conflicts: Elections & Extremism

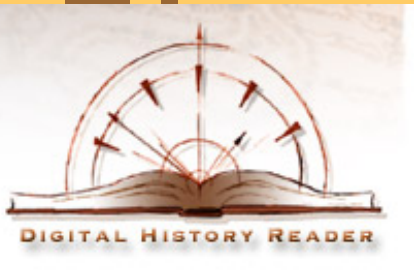


# The Investigation Roles

- ◆ Group leader -- facilitates discussion and reminds members to fulfill roles
- ◆ Navigator (computer driver) -- follows links and describes sources
- ◆ Notetaker -- records important notes and reflections of the group members

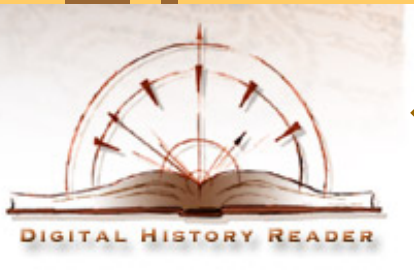


You will all be expected to know and teach this material to others.



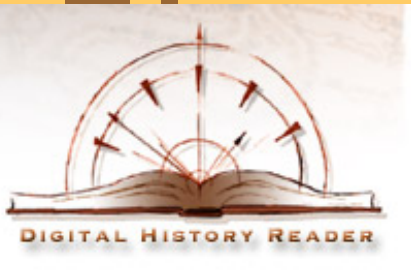
# The Task

- ◆ Visit the digital history reader located at:  
[http://www.dhr.history.vt.edu/eu/mod04\\_depression/index.html](http://www.dhr.history.vt.edu/eu/mod04_depression/index.html)
- ◆ Analyze the primary sources related to your area of expertise. Discussion is expected at ALL times.
- ◆ Create a PowerPoint presentation to teach a new group about your area of expertise. Two members in charge.
- ◆ Create 5 jeopardy questions related to your topic. One member in charge.
- ◆ Be prepared to present both PowerPoint and discuss and turn in jeopardy questions.



# Expectations for PowerPoint

- ◆ Written information should support the teaching of your expertise.
- ◆ Include images and text directly from the module to make connections for your audience and demonstrate your points.  
(Copy and paste)
- ◆ Each slide should have a clear title.
- ◆ Slides should relate directly to your topic and help answer the historical question.



(Sample Student Slide Using Text)

## Rising Discontent with Government

Large demonstrations invoked harsh government /police responses that were unpopular.

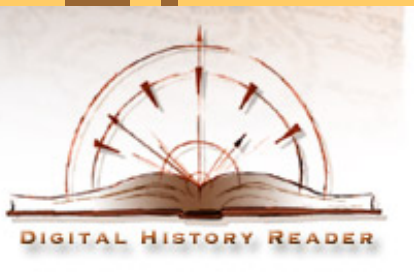
**"Police Attack Hunger March. Big Battle as Jobless Protest 'Means Test'," *Workers Age* November 15 1932**

....The operation of the "Means Test" has deprived any relief and humiliated hundreds of thousands more. Throughout their route, the marchers received demonstrations of the sympathy of the English working people. In London, about 50,000 workers turned out to cheer them and demonstrate along with them. The MacDonald "National"-Tory government immediately mobilized its forces of repression and called into action the entire police . . . Brutal attaches were launched on the jobless demonstrations,



Note the size of protest

Note the language: "forces of oppression" and "Brutal attaches"

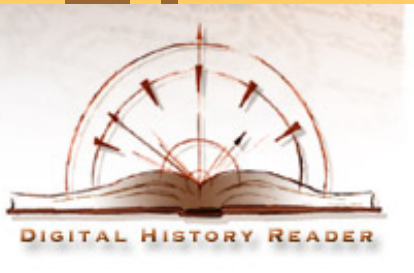
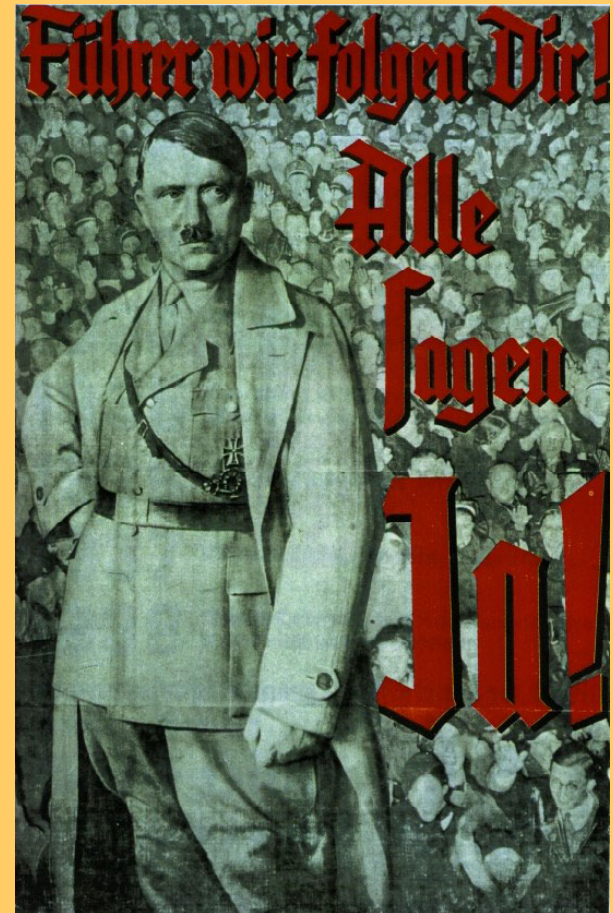




# (Sample Student Slide Using Image)

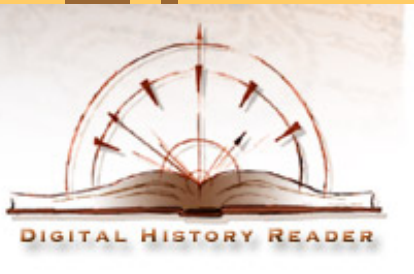
## Propaganda to Support Hitler

- ◆ National Socialist Party Poster - (circa 1932)
- ◆ Reads: “Leader we are following you! Everyone say yes!”
- ◆ People in Germany increasingly sought relief with radical extremists.
- ◆ Note all of the faces in the background lending support.
- ◆ Poster leads people to connect Hitler with order and control.



# Remember

- ◆ Thoroughly craft your PowerPoint presentation and 5 jeopardy questions.
- ◆ You will then be placed within teaching groups with members who depend on you and your expertise to teach them.
- ◆ Each group will be made up of an expert in each topic: (1) Unemployment, (2) Demonstrations, and (3) Crisis and Conflicts.
- ◆ Upon completing your presentation of each topic within your group, you will then complete individual narratives using the material you have learned to answer the historical question.



# Closure

- ◆ “What was the legacy of the changes wrought by the Great Depression in Europe?”

