

Coins in the Classroom



Hyperinflation in Germany after World War I

Script

This PowerPoint presentation is designed to help students understand:

1. The definition and cause of inflation.
2. The history behind Germany's hyperinflation after World War I.
3. Events leading up to World War I.

Materials: Examples of large denomination German notes printed after World War I.

Slide 1 - Title page

Slide 2 - Definition of inflation.

Slide 3 – Definition of “hyper”.

Slide 4 – Definition of hyperinflation. (This is not legitimate and is meant to be humorous.)

Slide 5 – Definition of hyperinflation.

Slide 6 – This is a good time to lead a brief discussion on secret alliances. An analogy to the movie *West Side Story* comparing the alliances of the First World War to that of the Sharks and the Jets works well. This slide introduces the members of the Triple Entente.

Slide 7 – Prime Minister of France Clemenceau.

Slide 8 – King George V of Britain.

Slide 9 – Czar Nicholas II of Russia.

Slide 10 – Rasputin was brought in to advise the Czar and help relieve the symptoms of hemophilia in Alexi.

Slide 11 – Many Russians believed Rasputin had control over the royal family. There were even rumors that Rasputin was having an affair with the Tsarina. Members of the royal family murdered Rasputin.
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,731177,00.html>

Slide 12 – Members of the Central Powers.

Slide 13 – Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary. He led a very tragic personal life. His wife was assassinated and his son committed suicide. Franz Joseph died during the war.

Slide 14 – Kaiser Wilhelm II was blamed for starting the war.

Slide 15 – A photo of Arch-Duke Franz Ferdinand seconds before he was killed.

Slide 16 – Gavrillo Princip was captured immediately after killing the Arch-Duke.

Slide 17 – At the start of the war, the United States remains neutral but there is strong anti-German sentiment.

Slide 18 – Events that caused the United States to become involved in the war.

Slide 19 – Over 9 million soldiers were killed during the war. Much of the male population of Russia and France were gone.

Slide 20 – The war was suspended on the 11th month of the 11th day at 11:00 am.

Slide 21 – European leaders rejected most of President Wilson's suggestions at the Treaty of Versailles. It was decided that Germany would pay all of the expenses associated with the war.

Slide 22 – Germany's economy was in free fall after the war. Paying for the war was too much for Germany's economy to withstand.

Slide 23 – Germany printed large amounts of paper currency in very high denominations.

Slide 24 – Rate of exchange at the end of the war.

Slide 25 – Rate of exchange as inflation worsened.

Slide 26 – German workers lining up to receive pay.

Slide 27 – Woman burning money to stay warm.

Slide 28 – Money was used as wallpaper.

Slide 29 – Hyper-inflationary period through 1923.

Slide 30 – The denominations were so high and the currency so devalued, money no longer had meaning.

Slide 31 – Many historians believe that World War II was really an extension of World War I.