Roles for Who Killed the Weimar Republic Mock Trial

IB History

**Instructions:**

Based on the activity on page 148 of Hite and Hinton’s Weimar and Nazi Germany, we are going to hold a trial to attempt to answer the question who is most responsible for bringing Hitler to power and undermining the democratic republic of Weimar Germany. To do this we will each have to take on a role (from below) and serve on the jury. The two charges that will be considered are:

1. Responsibility for fatally undermining democracy in the Weimar Republic
2. Responsibility for brining Adolf Hitler to power as chancellor

**Roles to be Represented**

Bruning

Bruning Defense (1-2 Lawyers)

Papen

Papen Defense (1-2 lawyers)

Hindenburg

Hindenburg Defense Attorney (1-2 lawyers)

Schleicher

Schleicher Defense Attorney (1-2 lawyers)

Prosecutor for Papen (1-2 lawyers)

Prosecutor for Bruning (1-2 lawyers)

Prosecutor for Hindenburg (1-2 lawyers)

Prosecutor for Schleicher (1-2 lawyers)

Jury Member

**Process**

Each of the four defendants will have to face a series of accusations from the prosecutor; will be allowed to construct their defense with the assistance of their defense team. The defendant will then face cross-examination from the prosecutor on his or her own. Each mini-trial will include:

1. Prosecutor statement where they make the case for the defendant’s guilt on each charge (Maximum 2 minutes per charge x 2 = 4 minutes).
2. Defense statement for the innocence of the defendant on each charge made by the defense attorney (Maximum 2 minutes per charge x 2 = 4 minutes)
3. One expert Witnesses can be called from each side and asked question by the attorneys.
4. (5 questions, each response limited to 60 seconds)
5. The Defense will then call the defendant to the stand for questions. (5 questions, each response limited to 60 seconds)
6. Cross examination of the defendant by the prosecutor (5 questions, each response limited to 60 seconds)
7. Closing statements by both Prosecution and Defense (60 seconds each)

Attorneys may present up to 3 pieces of evidence during their statement that must be shared with the court prior to the trial commencing. These will be displayed on the courtroom projector during their sides statement. During the transition from one element of the trial to the next, either side can request **one** 2 minute recess before the trial continues.

During each mini-trial the jury will evaluate each defendant using the table on the bottom of page 148. After each defendant has had his “day in court”, the jury will discuss and come to a consensus on who is most guilty of each charge. If a consensus cannot be reached, decision will be determined by a simple majority vote.

**Preparation**

To prepare both sides (and the jury) should review the events from 1930-1933 to evaluate the culpability of each defendant in the “death” of the Weimar Republic. While you may choose to expand the chronological scope to help build your case, please try to focus primarily on the events most relevant to the death of the Weimar Republic.

All parties may bring up to **one page** of notes with them as they take the witness chair or examine a witness.

Participants are encouraged to embody their roles and theatrical flair is encouraged ☺

All preparations must be completed when you come to class**.**

**Role Selected**

**Plan**

Bruning

Bruning Defense

Bruning Defense

Papen

Papen Defense

Papen Defense

Hindenburg

Hindenburg Defense Attorney

Hindenburg Defense Attorney

Schleicher

Schleicher Defense Attorney

Schleicher Defense Attorney

Prosecutor for Papen

Prosecutor for Papen

Prosecutor for Bruning

Prosecutor for Bruning

Prosecutor for Hindenburg

Prosecutor for Hindenburg

Prosecutor for Schleicher

Prosecutor for Schleicher

Jury Member

(Bruning understudy 1)

Jury Member

(Papen understudy 1)

Jury Member

(Schleicher understudy 1)

Jury Member

(Hindenburg understudy 1)

Jury Member

(Bruning understudy 2)

Jury Member

(Papen understudy 2)

Jury Member

(Schleicher understudy 2)

Jury Member

(Hindenburg understudy 2)