



The Position of Women in the Weimar Republic

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Abstract: *Following the arrival of the Weimar Republic¹ in Germany, women were least entitled to the citizenship rights that were at that time in Europe. Therefore, the advent of this republic significantly changed the role of women. Many women were rebuffed after World War I. Higher education programs for women were opened. Women participated in the polls. Equality between men and women, as well as maternity and maternity protection requirements were included in the constitution. However, women's parliamentary representatives did not have all parties (only the Nazi party) to increase the weekly pension and the livelihood of insured women, not all of them passed. The Weimar Republic was a government that German women had been waiting for years and centuries. German women were among the first women in Europe who were able to vote and participate in the parliament.*

Keywords: *Weimar, New woman, Germany.*

INTRODUCTION

In Germany, before the nineteenth century, young women lived under the economic and disciplinary authority of their fathers until they were married. They had a social and economic status, compared with their husbands. Many German families were poor and women were forced to work. This trend continued until the First World War. After the defeat of Germany during the First World War, German women tried to reconstruct their country in the same manner as men. The Weimar Republic was a launch platform for women, so that in 14 years, women made remarkable progress in all fields including legal rights. Their example was to give women the right to vote in 1918, as well as to give citizenship rights in 1920, but the Weimar rule was short.

¹ The Weimar Republic is essentially a term historians have invented for the historic period between the end of the First World War and the coming of the Nazi government in Germany (1933-1919). It should be noted that the official name of this government, as before, was the German Empire Was. The name of the government has been removed from the city in Germany

The role of German women in the Weimar Republic



Figure 1: (a) German woman were burning money to warm home - crisis 1929², (b) German woman wearing American dress and 1925 new brigade³

At the same time, women's withdrawal from the home area accelerated to enter the gloomy world of consumption. Although women were fired at the end of the war, they were recruited into the workforce in the 1920s. The shortage of men in the aftermath of the war led to the loss of many women from the hope that they would one day play the role of a spouse and mother in the heart. Women were registered to work in heavy industries such as driving, working in mines and factories. Between 1907 and 1925, the number of women workers in the community fell by 200%. This transformation created a completely new generation of single young women who were more or less free from the tensions of their homes and households with their consumable income. Of course, these revenues often cost fashion and makeup, yellow magazines and cinema, and other sports and leisure activities (Storer, 2003). This created a new culture in Germany, which brought many dissidents. Agriculture accelerated further, at that time 44% of the German farmers in the Bavaria region were women. The Women were livestock and did agriculture in the absence of men (Boak, 2013). However, Weimar was not a big leap for women's liberation, and they still had a diminutive presence in Parliament. Motherhood was still considered as their most important social role. Contradiction was forbidden, and women workers were still less than men (Zolling, 2016). In the 1925 Census of Weimar, over 2.4 million women (one third of women's population in Germany) were considered as wage earners. Many women lost their wartime jobs after serving soldiers. The government decided to return women who did not need the economy, and women who were poor were obliged to receive a little money to go back home to get the men replaced. In the meantime, some employers were reluctant to expel women due to their low cost (Boak, 2013), and thus the government was opposed and tried to keep at least a few women in their favor. Women in Germany were also higher in education than in other countries. In 1918, the number of female graduates with a doctorate in Germany was 77%, which was much better than other countries (Boak, 2013). It was also lost in the German who had made the heavy and disgraceful contract with him.

Weimar took away the rivals in giving women the right to vote. In 1920-1920, the Weimar Republic gave women the right to vote. Although German women voted less than their all-male men, the Weimar Republic also had better statistics than most other European countries in terms of women's participation rates. In 1927, Reichstag represented 35 female delegates and in the Prussian parliament represented 40 delegates. While in Britain's 1924 election, only four women came to the House of Commons (Storer, 2003). In the November 1918 ballot, the majority of voters were women. Various groups including communists, liberals, and socialists who felt the danger of feminists were trying to find traditional assumptions about the interests of women through propaganda, maternal issues and religion (Sneeringer, 2003). However, there was no

² <http://www.fardanews.com/fa/news/56986>

³ <http://www.kubiss.org/hkk-20er-jahre/frau>

complete equality between women and men. Many parties did not fulfill their promises to women (Hoch, 1929). Although many new women were given to Weimar after the war, many of them were fired after.

The term new woman



Figure 2: A poster of a new woman symbol⁴

The new woman was a feminist idea that appeared at the turn of the nineteenth century, and had a profound influence on the society of that day in Europe. The term was first introduced by the English writer Henry James.

The phenomenon of "new woman" was the production of urban consumption culture, which was more devoted to large cities and not seen in the countryside (Storer, 2003). She was able to ride a motorcycle in the Weimar Republic, walking on a street with a socks (Harvey, 1997). Every time she wanted to leave the house, it was as if a transformation had taken place in Germany, and women had once joined a post-war society with a new model that was not at all the desire of men (Hoch, 1929). Over time, the German society was plunged into corruption. Girls, unlike the parents, used an inappropriate cover. After seeing strange women in the cinema, they liked to be like them for any reason, and they did not aim for their future life. Meanwhile, the influence of America on everyday life was also unaffected. Gypsy women shrugged themselves to imitate American culture and appeared on their own in assemblies. They corrected their hair as boys. This new generation of women who came to the field did not accept other restrictions. Interestingly, the young women who left home with their national duty and did not have children became increasingly enthusiastic (Storer, 2003). The German people were afraid that the emergence of a new woman would force women to abandon the traditional role of mother and wife. It turned out to be true that the German people were rightly concerned with the new woman. The girls at night at glamorous dresses showed abusive behavior and arrived late at night.

Some scholars argued that the new female personality was negative in Germany, because the German people did not have a good attitude to this issue and fought against it. Therefore, many political parties emphasized motherhood and demanded the return of women to the family center (Rozell, 2017). Therefore, the new woman was promoted to the media with negative stereotypes, which was a matter of concern for men. This icon was evident in many aspects of Weimar's culture, and it was clearly visible in films, novels, and even in artwork (Rozell, 2017). The German community needed a flip on women, which was achieved with the emergence of the Nazis in 1933 and prevented the advance of these thoughts (Bock, 2005). The Nazis were able to bring him back to her, but this Nazi attention was not endorsed by all the women and, as will be mentioned in the next chapters, there were many objections.

⁴ <http://www.antipasministries.com/other/article227>

Conclusion

Women did not feel completely free with all the services they received. Instead of being in the Weimar Republic, women were more likely to be assigned to jobs that were less benefitted than men (Boak, 2013). Of course, the changes and challenges faced by German women in the Weimar era were not specific to them. All countries involved in the war benefited from the work of women and ended the war with the great inequality between the two-state populations (Storer, 2003). So that after the end of the war, the government was less well-regarded and turned away again. Of course in Europe of that era, the Weimar Republic was an exception, and women were far better off. For the first time, a new woman emerged in Weimar, the only thing that separated her from working women was her focus on herself (Storer, 2003). Weimar's Day Woman was one of the most famous Weimar cultural symbols that separated from traditional roles. She could smoke, shorten her hair, as if she wanted all the rights that men had. The goal of today's woman in Germany was to prove that her sex is not the second degree in society with her work and behavior (Crew, 2016).

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