**To what extent did the inter-war period demonstrate a weakness of democracy in the face of strength from the dictators?**

Many countries were left in a state full of trouble and desperation after the First World War had ended. In a country such as Germany, there were a number of factors that contributed to the rise of fascism and Adolf Hitler: A great number of soldiers had fallen in the war, leaving their workplace uncontinued; the Treaty of Versailles left Germany in deep debt - with no chance of paying it back; The Weimar Republic had failed its purpose of a stable democracy, leaving people confused and angry with the government and furthermore the failure of capitalism, resulting into the Great Depression and economic instability. This situation left a fertile ground for Hitler to excite and manipulate the German population for his ideas, tricking the Germans into power and once he was in power, reinforcing his beliefs with cruel elements. The strengths of fascist dictatorships were not simply a result of a weakness of democracy, but furthermore also a lack of Diplomacy and economic weaknesses.

The Treaty of Versailles had a big impact on the German instability after WWI, as Germany was not invited to participate in the treaty and forced to accept any decisions made by the other countries. Clause 231 allowed the nations to decide over Germany’s faith. It was decided, that Germany is to give up parts of their territory to France, Belgium and Denmark. Germany had to accept the guilt of starting the war and pay an excessive amount of War reparations and restrict their Army to a limit of 100,000 soldiers. All these things contributed Germany’s frustration and their anger towards the rest of Europe, affecting the attitude of the German population. This represents a lack of Diplomacy towards Germany from other countries, creating potential for conflict and suffering within the country and against other countries as a result of frustration with the way they have been treated by the Treaty of Versailles.

Economically, Germany was in a great deal of suffering. They were unable to manufacture much, as their loss of working men returning to their workplaces after the war. This made it difficult for Germany to pay back their war debt. Germany’s initial solution was to print more money, this ultimately caused a disaster of a hyper-inflation. As the German currency became worthless, the people were unable to afford bread and other necessities , causing the population for major suffering. Hitler blamed the “november criminals for the inflation and gains admiration of certain groups and political parties within Germany. Moreover he promised the desperate population a way back into economical stability, which many people fell for and started to support the Hitler’s Party, the NSDAP

The Government of Germany after WWI was unstable and had to be re-elected almost every month; the population was frustrated and moreover very vulnerable due to the lack of a consistent government.The failure of the Weimar Republic was due in large part to the poor electoral system and the impact that the great depression had on the government and the stock market crash in the United States**.** Having only known a monarchy for the past 47 years after unification, and experiencing the failure of the Weimar Republic, German people developed hostility towards democracy itself, and many parties, rather than supporting the Republic, attempted to sabotage it. Hitler knew that they were looking for an authority that gave the people security within the country. The people felt betrayed and mistreated, Hitler took the opportunity to manipulate the vulnerable population, as they believed anything if he found scapegoat in the Jewish population to blame their miserable situation on. He made them feel reassured in their disappointment and gave them a direction to focus their anger, bringing the people back together.

A series of factors and events have contributed to giving Hitler the opportunity of reaching ultimate Power in Germany and start the second world war. The desperate German population and the disappointment the Weimar Republic had brought with it, along with it, making the german population biased negatively against democracy, open for a clear authority. Hitler seized all these open doors and manipulated the German population, allowing him to reach total power and force his population to act under his will. Hitler had many supporters within Germany who shared his way of thinking, however he had many contestants, whom were not to express their opinion freely in order to avoid heavy punishments such as being sent away for death camps.