**Weimar Republic**

The period between the Empire and the Third Reich, known as the Weimar Republic, lasted only 14 years and yet was one of the most politically difficult and changeable phases that the Germans had to endure. The office of Reich Chancellor alone changed back and forth between 13 incumbents in 20 terms of office. After the end of the First World War, there were power struggles between the political left and right, which in 1920/21 led to bloody street fights and culminated in the so-called Kapp Putsch of arch-conservative forces and the Spartacist uprisings of the extreme left. After the situation had calmed down somewhat, the invasion of Belgian and French occupation soldiers (Ruhr occupation) from 1923 onwards shook the population, which had been shaken by war and internal unrest. Towards the end of the Weimar Republic, street fights between left and right finally increased again and the economic situation of the people became more and more unbearable, not only in Germany in 1929, due to the world economic crisis with raging inflation and impoverishment of many millions of people. Finally, in 1933, the National Socialists profited from this decline, holding out the prospect of a promising new beginning for the Germans. For the police, who repeatedly found themselves between the fronts of violent extremists and had to endure the harassment of the Ruhr squatters, the Weimar period was one of the bloodiest they had ever experienced.