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| **The Reich Constitution of 11 August 1919 (Weimar Constitution)**The German people, united in its tribes and inspired with the will to renew and strengthen its Reich in liberty and justice, to serve peace inward and outward and to promote social progress, has adapted this constitution. |  |

**Section One: Composition of the Reich and its Responsibilities** **First Chapter: The Reich and the States
Article 1**The German Reich is a republic. State authority derives from the people. **Article 5**State authority is exercised in Reich affairs by the government organizations of the Reich, based on the Reich constitution, in state affairs by the government organizations, based on the respective state constitutions. **Article 9**Insofar there is need for the formulation of standardized regulations, the Reich has the legislation over
1. welfare system
2. protection of law and order **Article 10**The Reich may, via legislation, establish principles for:
1. the rights and obligations of religious communities
2. the education system, including universities and scientific libraries
**Article 12**As far and as much the Reich does not make use of its right to legislate, the states are entitled to legislate. This does not apply to the areas in which the Reich has the exclusive right to legislate.
**Article 13**Reich law supersedes state law. If there are doubts or opposing opinions regarding if a state regulation harmonizes with Reich law, the respective Reich or central state authority may request, according to the specifications of Reich law, the Reich Supreme Court to decide in the matter.

**Second Chapter: The Reichstag (National Assembly)
Article 22**Members of parliament are elected in a general, equal, immediate and secret election; voters are men and women older than 20 years; the election is held according to the principles of proportionate representation.
**Article 23**Reichstag is elected to serve for four years.
**Article 25**The Reich president has the right to dissolve the Reichstag, but only once for the same reason. New elections, at the latest, are held 60 days after the dissolution.
**Article 33**Reichstag and its committees can demand the presence of the Reich chancellor as well as that of every individual Reich minister.
The Reich chancellor, the Reich ministers and their commissioners have the right to participate in sessions of Reichstag and its committees.
**Article 36**No member of Reichstag or of any Landtag may be persecuted by court at any time for statements he made in exercise of his mandate, in a vote, in parliament session or outside of the assembly.

**Third Chapter: The Reich President and Reich Government**
**Article 41**The Reich President is elected by the entire German nation. Every German who has finished the 35th year of his life is eligible.
**Article 43**The term of office of the Reich President lasts seven years. Reelection is permitted. The Reich President can be deposed by plebiscite, which has to be suggested by the Reichstag. This Reichstag decision requires a majority of two thirds of the votes.
**Article 45**When it comes to international law, the Reich is represented by the Reich President. He concludes alliances and other treaties with foreign powers in the name of the Reich. He accredits and receives ambassadors.
War can only be declared and peace only be signed by Reich law.
Alliances and treaties which relate to matters of Reich legislation require the approval of Reichstag.
**Article 47**The Reich President has the supreme command over the armed forces, in their entirety.
**Article 48**If a state does not fulfill the obligations laid upon it by the Reich constitution or the Reich laws, the Reich President may use armed force to cause it to oblige.
In case public safety is seriously threatened or disturbed, the Reich President may take the measures necessary to reestablish law and order, if necessary using armed force. In the pursuit of this aim he may suspend civil rights.
The Reich President has to inform Reichstag immediately about all measures undertaken which are based on paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article. The measures have to be suspended immediately if Reichstag demands so.
**Article 49**The Reich President exercises the right of amnesty.
**Article 53**The Reich chancellor, and, at his request, the Reich ministers, are appointed and dismissed by the Reich President.
**Article 54**The Reich chancellor and the Reich ministers, in order to exercise their mandates, require the confidence of Reichstag. Any one of them has to resign, if Reichstag votes by explicit decision to withdraw its confidence.
**Article 56**The Reich chancellor determines the political guidelines and is responsible for them to Reichstag. Within these guidelines every Reich minister conducts his policy independently, and is responsible to Reichstag.
**Article 59**The Reichstag is entitled to accuse Reich President, Reich chancellor and the Reich ministers at the Supreme Court, in the name of the German Reich, of having guilt-consciously having violated the Reich constitution or a Reich law. The move to accuse must be signed by at least a hundred members and requires the approval of the majority necessary to amend the constitution.

**Fourth Chapter: The Reichsrat**
**Article 60**To represent the German states in Reich legislation and administration, a Reichsrat is formed.
**Article 61**
Every state has minimum one vote in the Reichsrat. In case of larger states, they have one vote for every 700.000 inhabitants…No state may have more than two fifth of all votes…The number of votes will be newly established after every general census.
**Article 66**
Simple majority of the voters decides a vote.

**Fifth Chapter: Reich Legislation**
**Article 69**Law drafts proposed by the Reich government require the approval of Reichsrat. If Reich government and Reichsrat cannot agree, Reich government may still propose the law, but has to present the divergent Reichsrat opinion as well. If Reichsrat passes a law draft which is not approved by the Reich government, the latter has to present the draft, with its divergent comment, to Reichstag.
**Article 70**The Reich president has to sign laws which have been passed according to the constitutional process
**Article 72**The proclamation of a Reich law has to be postponed for two months, if one third of the Reichsrat members demand so. Laws labeled urgent by both Reichstag and Reichsrat can be proclaimed by the Reich president, disregarding the demand aforementioned.
**Article 73**A law passed by Reichstag has to be presented in a plebiscite, if the Reich president decides so, within the period of one month.
A plebiscite also has to be held if one tenth of the enfranchised voters demand a law draft to be presented
**Article 74**Reichsrat has the right to object to laws passed by Reichstag.
In case of an objection the law will be presented a second time to Reichstag. If an agreement between Reichstag and Reichsrat cannot be achieved, the Reich president may, within a period of three months, call for a plebiscite.
If the president does not make use of this instrument, the law is to be regarded as not passed. Has Reichstag decided against Reichsrat objection with a vote of more than two thirds, the Reich president has, within three months, either to proclaim the law as decided or to call for a plebiscite.

**Article 75**A plebiscite can override Reichstag decisions only if the majority of enfranchised voters participate.
**Article 76**The constitution may be amended by legislation. Constitutional changes become valid only if at least two thirds of the members are present and at least two thirds of the present members vote in favor of the amendment.
Decisions of Reichsrat regarding a constitutional amendment also require a two-thirds-majority. If, requested by referendum petition, a constitutional amendment shall be decided by plebiscite, the majority of the enfranchised voters is required in order for the amendment to pass.

**Sixth Chapter: Reich administration***Note: articles 78-101 are about taxation, trade, railroad and waterway administration, and post and telegraph administration*

**Seventh Chapter: Judiciary**
**Article 102**Judges are independent and subject only to the law.
**Article 108**In accordance with a law, a supreme court will be established for the German Reich.

**Second Part****: Basic rights and obligations of the Germans**

**First Chapter: The Individual**
**Article 109**All Germans are equal in front of the law. In principle, men and women have the same rights and obligations. Legal privileges or disadvantages based on birth or social standing are to be abolished. Noble titles form part of the name only; noble titles may not be granted any more.
**Article 110**Every German, in every state, enjoys the same rights and obligations as the respective state nationals.
**Article 114**The rights of the individual are inviolable.
**Article 115**Every German's home is an asylum and inviolable.
**Article 116**An action can only be punished if the action has been described as punishable by law, before the action was undertaken.
**Article 117**Privacy of correspondence, of mail, telegraphs and telephone are inviolable.
**Article 118**Every German is entitled, within the bounds set by general law, to express his opinion freely in word, writing, print, image or otherwise. No job contract may obstruct him in the exercise of this right; nobody may put him at a disadvantage if he makes use of this right.
There is no censorship

**Second Chapter: Life within a Community** **Article
119**
Motherhood is placed under state protection and welfare.
**Article 120**It is the supreme obligation and natural right of the parents to raise their offspring to bodily, spiritual and social fitness; the governmental authority supervises it.
**Article 123**All Germans have the right to assemble peacefully and unarmed; such assemblies do not require any prior notification or special permit.

**Article 124**All Germans are entitled to form clubs or societies. These regulations also apply for religious societies.
Every club is free to acquire legal capacity. No club may be denied of it because of it pursuing political, socio-political or religious goals.
**Article 130**Beamte serve society in its entirety, not a specific party.

**Third Chapter: Religion and Religious Communities.**
**Article 135**All Reich inhabitants enjoy full freedom of liberty and conscience. Undisturbed practice of religion is guaranteed by the constitution.
**Article 137**There is no state church.

**Fourth Chapter: Education and School.**
**Article 142**The arts, science and instruction are free.

**Fifth Chapter: The Economy**
**Article 151**The economy has to be organized based on the principles of justice, with the goal of achieving life in dignity for everyone. Within these limits the economic liberty of the individual is to be secured.
**Article 153**Property is guaranteed by the constitution
**Article 156**The Reich may transfer economic enterprises suited for nationalization into common property
**Article 157**Labor enjoys the special protection of the Reich. The Reich will provide uniform labor legislation.
**Article 159**The right to form unions and to improve conditions at work as well as in the economy is guaranteed to every individual and to all occupations. All agreements and measures limiting or obstructing this right are illegal.
**Article 161**In order to maintain health and the ability to work, in order to protect motherhood and to prevent economic consequences of age, weakness and to protect against the vicissitudes of life the Reich establishes a comprehensive system of insurances, based on the critical contribution of the insured.
**Article 162**The Reich advocates an international regulation of the rights of the workers, which strives to safeguard a minimum of social rights for humanity's working class.
**Article 163**Notwithstanding his personal liberty, every German is obliged to invest his intellectual and physical energy in such a way as necessary for public benefit.
Every German shall be given the opportunity to earn his living by economic labor.
In case appropriate job openings cannot be provided, he will receive financial support.
**Article 165**Workers and employees are called upon to participate, on an equal footing and in cooperation with the employers, in the regulation of wages and working conditions as well as in the economic development of productive forces. The organizations formed by both sides and their mutual agreements are recognized.