

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Culture and society

88 | Regional information | The birth of German democracy

Will Harry and Anna be able to break free from the time warp in Thuringia? This region has frequently influenced the course of history, for example, in Weimar. The small town was not only home to famous poets such as Goethe and Schiller, but it also served as the birthplace of Germany's first democracy, known as the Weimar Republic (1918-1933).

October 1918: As World War I came to an end, weapons workers and then even soldiers went on strike in Germany. The violent upheaval came to a head during the November Revolution, which saw the German emperor's abdication declared in Berlin. A short while later, the Social Democrat Philipp Scheidemann proclaims a republic from the Reichstag building's balcony. Initially, the politician Friedrich Ebert led an interim administration for the country shaken by famine and anarchy.

Early in 1919, elections for the National Assembly were held, and for the first time in Germany, women were given the right to vote, and turnout hit 83% – nowadays, turnout tends to be lower. But, due to violent disturbances, the elected National Assembly decides to depart from Berlin for the time being. They travel to Weimar, where the Weimar Constitution, Germany's first democratic constitution, is drafted in the National Theater.