

Economically Distressed Middle-Class Pensioners Sell Family Heirlooms at an Exhibition in the *Sportpalast* in Berlin (1923)

Abstract

The overall effect of the hyperinflation was not just a decline in living standards but also a severe disruption of the boundaries between social groups. For small pensioners [*Kleinrentner*] of the so-called *Mittelstand*, which was made up of civil servants, teachers, shopkeepers, and others, the situation was particularly catastrophic. For a period in 1923, the *Sportpalast* in Berlin was turned into a marketplace, where people sold off their household porcelain, silver, furniture, and anything else of value.

Source



Source: Impoverished pensioners selling family heirlooms at an exhibition in the Berlin Sportpalast, 1923. Photographer: Unknown. BA, Aktuelle-Bilder-Centrale, Georg Pahl, image 102-00084, available online on Wikimedia Commons:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_102-00084,_Berlin,_Sportpalast,_Verkaufsausstellung.jpg

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Recommended Citation: Economically Distressed Middle-Class Pensioners Sell Family Heirlooms at an Exhibition in the Sportpalast in Berlin (1923), published in: German History in Documents and

Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/weimar-germany-1918-1933/ghdi:image-4095>> [March 16, 2026].