

# The First Session of the National Assembly in Weimar (February 6, 1919)

## Abstract

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The national assembly was elected on January 19, 1919, and on February 6 it held its constitutive meeting in the National Theater in Weimar. The body met away from the capital because revolutionary unrest had made it appear too insecure. The national assembly met in this theater from February 6 to August 11. Its main tasks were to establish the separation of powers, to form a government, and to draw up a constitution. Friedrich Ebert, who had chaired the Council of People's Deputies, was elected president of Germany and Philipp Scheidemann, also a former people's deputy, was tasked with forming a government. On February 13, the so-called Weimar Coalition (SPD, DDP, and the Center Party) was founded. Soon it was put to the test, when the national assembly, under pressure by the Entente powers, signed the Versailles treaty on June 23 despite strong opposition inside the Scheidemann cabinet. Debates over the republic's future constitution were also passionate. The Weimar constitution, drafted by Hugo Preuss, was finally passed on July 31, and President Ebert signed it on August 11. This February 6 photograph offers a view inside the theater, in which the representatives met. Among them one can see several of the 37 female representatives to the body.

## Source

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Source: First session of the National Assembly in Weimar, February 6, 1919. Photographer: Robert Sennecke.

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