The Unification of Germany, 1866-1871
Definition of a Nation

• A group of people with a common culture occupying a particular territory with the following shared bonds.

  – A sense of ethnocentrism – one’s own people is the most important to you.
  – Language.
  – History.
  – Religion.
  – Traditional homeland.
  – A sense of a common destiny.
The Poles are a **nation of people** in the late 1800s. Where are they?
State & Nation-State

- Definition of a **state** – a political unit that forms a federal government, boundaries & has sovereignty over a territory. (a country)

- Definition of a **nation-state** – a state whose territory coincides with that occupied by a distinct **nation** of people.
  - An independent govt. with a capital.
  - National boundaries.
  - Sovereignty.
What do the Poles have today?
Nationalism

• Definition of **nationalism**: 
  – A strong feeling of pride in & devotion to your **nation of people**.
  – A national consciousness.
  – Primary allegiance to one **nation-state** above all others.

• **Nationalism** was the most powerful idea of the 1800s.

• **Nationalism** unified the German kingdoms into a German Empire by 1871.
Wilhelm I, King of Prussia from 1861-1888
1st German emperor (Kaiser) from 1871-1888

Hohenzollern Dynasty
Otto von Bismarck

- Prussian.
- Conservative, monarchist, & nationalist.
- Skillful diplomat.
- Prime Minister for King Wilhelm I of Prussia, 1862-1888.
- Later Chancellor for the German Empire, 1871-1890.
- Believed Prussia should unite the different German kingdoms.
German Unification

- Verses are an appeal for the creation of a Greater Germany. A “Großdeutschland”
- “Deutschland, Deutschland, über alles, über alles en der Welt.”
- Bismarck did not want Austria included. He wanted a “Kleindeutschland.”
**Deutschlandlied, 1841 version**  
(German national anthem, 1922)  
http://ingeb.org/Lieder/deutschl.html

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deutschland, Deutschland über alles,</th>
<th>Germany, Germany above all,</th>
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<tr>
<td>Über alles in der Welt,</td>
<td>Above everything in the world,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wenn es stets zu Schutz und Trutze</td>
<td>When always, for protection,</td>
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<td>Brüderlich zusammenhält,</td>
<td>We stand together as brothers.</td>
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<td>Von der Maas bis an die Memel,</td>
<td>From the Maas to the Memel</td>
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<td>Von der Etsch bis an den Belt -</td>
<td>From the Etsch to the Belt -</td>
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The modern verses to Germany’s national anthem are different. Why?
Unify all the German-speaking populations of Europe in a single nation-state.
“über alles” – “before/over all”

Call to abandon former allegiances & simply be German
Frankfurt Assembly, 1848

• First elected parliament with reps. from the different German states.
• Proposed a unified German nation-state.
• Proposed a tri-color flag.
• Proposed a constitutional monarchy & kaiser.
• Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia refused the offer because of “divine right.”
“Prussia's boundaries . . . are not favorable to a healthy state life. The great question of the time will not be resolved by speeches and majority decisions . . . but by “iron and blood.”
Carl von Clausewitz

- Prussian general & strategist of the Napoleonic War,
- A military theorist who wrote *On War*, 1832.
- "War is the continuation of politics by other means."
Otto von Bismarck & “Realpolitik”

• Politics or diplomacy based primarily on power & practical factors, not on morality.

• Bismarck manipulated individuals & situations to achieve German unification under Prussian leadership.
Any similarities in their beliefs?
Bismarck set up three wars to achieve his political aim - the unification of Germany.
First two wars of German unification

• Prussia & Austria vs. Denmark – 1864.
  – Temporary allies annex parts of Denmark.
  – Dress rehearsal for Prussian army.

• Prussia vs. Austria & German allies – 1866.
  – Prussia wins in 7 weeks.
  – Prussia annexes lands of Austria’s German allies.
  – Prussia became the leader of German unification.
Military factors in Prussia’s victories

- Universal conscription – three years of active service.
  - Larger army.
  - Better trained army.
- Prussian army reserves based on local corps.
  - Faster to mobilize.
- More extensive railroad network.
  - Rapid movement of troops & supplies.

Helmuth von Moltke the Elder, Chief of Staff of the Prussian Army
Military factor in Prussia’s victories

- Prussians equipped with single-shot breech-loading rifles, while their enemies in the first two wars were still using muzzle-loading rifles.
German Railroads, 1861
Do they play a role in Prussia’s war plans?

The Railway came to Tradgardland 1856...
Impact of Industrial Revolution on War
Prussia moved 285,000 men over five railway lines & concentrated them in 25 days ... Austria has only one railway line & it will take her 45 days to assemble 200,000 men.
Austria’s German allies in war against Prussia
The North German Confederation, 1866-1871

3 southern German kingdoms not in the Confederation (yet)
Emperor Napoleon III of France

- Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte.
- Nephew of Napoleon I.
- President of the French Second Republic, 1848-1851 (74% of pop. vote).
- Coup d'état, 1851.
- Emperor of the Second French Empire, 1851-1870.
Emperor Napoleon III of France, 1851-1870

- Aggressive leader who wanted his uncle’s glory.
- Feared Prussia growing power. Europe.
- Wanted a war with Prussia.
Bismarck & The Franco-Prussian War, 1870-71

- Knew southern German kingdoms feared a French invasion.
- If France started a war, the southern German kingdoms would probably join Prussia.
A Problem in Spain early 1870

- Spain offered its vacant throne to the Hohenzollern Prince Leopold.
- Napoleon III objected to threat of being surrounded by Hohenzollerns.
- July 1870 Leopold declined the offer.
Napoleon III was suffering from gallstones
Napoleon III was suffering from gallstones
Bad Ems – a German spa
The Ems Telegram, July 1870

- The French ambassador delivered message to Wilhelm I at Bad Ems.
- Napoleon III demanded assurance there would be no more attempts to put a Hohenzollern prince in Spain.
- Wilhelm I refused; sent a telegram to Bismarck.
• Bismarck released an edited telegram -read like Wilhelm I insulted France.
• Napoleon III declared war on Prussia, July 1870.
The Franco-Prussian War, July 1870 –May 1871
North German Confederation + 3 southern German kingdoms vs. France.

What the southern kingdoms feared
Prussia & other German allies easily defeated France

- **Battle of Sedan**, Aug.-Sept. 1870
- French army of 104,000 encircled by Prussia & allies.
- French army surrendered.
- Napoleon III captured, went into exile in Great Britain.
Napoleon III surrendered to Wilhelm I September 1870 after French defeat at Sedan.
Brandenberg Gate, Berlin, Sept. 1870
"What a change through God's guidance"
German artillery at Sedan
Mitrailleuse – early French machine gun
French Chassepot bolt-action rifle
Prussia & other German allies easily defeated France

• Second French army of 180,000 surrendered at Battle of Metz, Oct. 1870.
• Paris revolted & overthrew Napoleon III's Second Empire.
• Third Republic declared.
  – Paris under siege for 130 days.
• Prussian army occupied Paris; victory parade through Arch of Triumph.
Siege of Paris, 1871
Krupp siege artillery bombarded Paris
Prussian Victory Parade, Paris, 1871
2nd German victory march in Paris, Aug. 1940
German Empire was Proclaimed, Jan. 18, 1871

- Ceremony in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles.
- Wilhelm I crowned emperor - "Kaiser" of the Second “Reich” (empire).
- Germany – now the major land power in Europe.
- France humiliated & wanted revenge.

It’s a good time to be German!
“The Proclamation of Wilhelm as Kaiser of the new German Reich, in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles”
Treaty of Frankfurt, May 1871

- France lost Alsace & Lorraine.
- France paid 5 billion francs in war reparations.
Area of France occupied until the war reparations were paid
Bismarck opposed the transfer of Alsace-Lorraine to the German Empire.

Knew it would create a French hatred of Germany.

Prussian generals convinced Wilhelm I it was necessary for defense.
The *Germania* statue - overlooks the Rhine River
Germania

“In memory of the unanimous victorious uprising of the German People and the creation of the German Empire 1870-1871.”
Kulturkampf - "culture struggle"

Bismarck’s policy to make Prussia secular & reduce the power of the Catholic Church in Prussia, 1871 - 1880.
A generation that has taken a beating is always followed by a generation that deals one.

I am bored. The great things are done. The German Reich is made.

Some damned foolish thing in the Balkans will provoke the next war.
Largest ancestry in U.S. counties is German (light blue) 
About 50 million claim German ancestry – 17% of U.S. pop.
Napoleon III, wife & son granted exile in Great Britain
Napoleon III & family buried in the crypt of St. Michael’s Abbey in the UK
Napoléon Eugène Louis Jean Joseph (Napoleon IV), Prince Imperial, 1856-1879
The Prince Imperial was a cadet at the Royal Military Academy in the U.K.
Zulu War, 1879, southern Africa
Prince Imperial’s mother petitioned Queen Victoria
to allow her son to go with the British army
While on a reconnaissance mission, he was ambushed and killed by Zulus.
• The tomb of the Prince Imperial
• By his father and mother