

Lesson 1

Nationalism: A Force for Change

Vocabulary: These words will help you understand this lesson.



| Word/Term | Definition |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| nationalism | feelings of love and devotion toward one's country |
| Junkers | wealthy German landowners |
| Realpolitik | the politics of reality; making decisions based on what will best achieve a set goal, rather than what is ethically right or wrong |
| balance of power | even distribution of power among nations so that no one nation is able to dominate or conquer the others |
| ethnic minority | a group of people with traditions and a culture that is different from most people in a nation |
| dissent | a stated difference of opinion; opposition to or disagreement with a policy or program |
| Russification | government policy of forcing ethnic minority groups in Russia to adopt Russian culture and become more "Russian" |
| persecution | repeated threats and attempts to injure or harm a person or group because of differences in race, religion, or beliefs |
| citizenship | legal relationship between the inhabitant of a country and its government; in return for loyalty and duties, an individual receives rights and privileges |

Nationalism Unites Italy

Nationalism is a feeling of love or devotion to one's country. Countries that have strong nationalist sentiments usually have a common history and a shared culture. Nationalism involves deep emotional feelings of patriotism. Like a magnet, nationalism brought together the nation-states of 19th century Italy for the first time since the Roman Empire. From 1815 to 1848, the Italian people made several efforts to unite their peninsula and win their freedom from control by other nations. The unification of Italy was achieved through the will of the people and strong leadership.

Analysis:

1. Use the resources of your local library or the Internet. Refer to a map of Italy in the 1850s. How many different small states or kingdoms were there?

Since the time of the Crusades and the beginning of the Renaissance in the early 1400s, Italy has been the site of great wealth because of its location. It extends out into the Mediterranean Sea and served as the trade link between the East, Africa, and Europe. Some of its city-states became very rich and powerful as a result. City-states such as Florence, Venice and Milan had money, but they were too small to defend themselves against the attacks of other European nations. Spain, Austria, and France competed with one another for control of various Italian states. The largest of the Italian states in the early 1800s was the kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia. It adopted a constitution in 1848 to strengthen its government.

The beginning of modern Italian unification started in the kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia. It was led by its Prime Minister, Count Camillo di Cavour. Cavour became prime minister of the kingdom in 1852. He was a skilled diplomat. He encouraged other states in northern Italy to join Sardinia and take advantage of its prosperity. Cavour was able to unite the northern Italian states, but realized that he would need help to unite Italy's southern half. He started friendships with nationalist groups in the south of Italy.

One of the most popular and effective of these groups was the Red Shirts, led by a man named Giuseppe Garibaldi. Garibaldi had fought successfully to capture Sicily. He and his

forces wore red shirts. Cavour recognized that Garibaldi could help unite all of Italy. The two men agreed to unite their forces and work toward the goal of unification.

In 1870, the nationalists won the last remaining unconquered territory – Rome and the Papal States. This territory had been the domain of the Catholic pope for hundreds of years. It now became part of the nation of Italy. The Pope was allowed to retain control over Vatican City, 110 acres within the city of Rome. Vatican City remains a separate city-state within Rome's boundaries. The Roman Catholic Church still governs it today. In Italy, wise leadership and growing military strength led to the creation of a new nation. Rome was chosen as the new capital city of this united country.

Nationalism Unifies Germany

Like Italy, Germany did not exist as a nation in the early 1800s. Most people of the German states spoke dialects of German. They also shared a common culture and history. From the 17th century on, strong leadership, a strong military, and wealth made Prussia the dominant German state. It was the leader and driving force in the unification of Germany.

Prussia joined in the Industrial Revolutions of the 19th century. Its leaders saw the value of factories and trade. It contained the rivers and natural resources necessary for industrial development. Prussia soon became wealthy from its industries and trade. Its wealth and economic power were a great sense of pride for the Prussian people. In addition, its leaders were famous for the size and training of their standing armies. The Prussian military was respected throughout Europe. In 1815, the Congress of Vienna created the German Confederation. It was a loose union of thirty-nine Germanic states. It was not governed as one country, but its members had strong cultural ties.

In 1861 Wilhelm I came to the Prussian throne. Wilhelm was supported by Prussian **Junkers**, wealthy landowners who had great political power. They did not want any changes in the Prussian government unless the changes meant economic benefits for them. When they refused to provide Wilhelm with a budget to run the nation, the King sought the aid of a diplomat who would help him rule. He chose Otto von Bismarck, who became chancellor of Prussia in 1862.

Bismarck provided the strong leadership that Prussia, and eventually all of Germany, needed to unite under one flag. He ruled with the philosophy of **Realpolitick**, or the politics of reality. Bismarck’s opinion of human beings resembled that of Niccoló Machiavelli, the famous Renaissance author of *The Prince*. Human beings were greedy and not to be trusted. To Bismarck, the end justified the means. That is, it is all right to use any method to get there, as long as you achieve your goal. His goal was the unification of Germany under Prussian leadership. Bismarck used any means necessary to achieve that goal.

Bismarck ruled without the consent of Prussia’s elected parliament and made his own budget. The Junkers opposed him at first. They gradually realized that Bismarck’s policies strengthened Prussia and increased their wealth. Otto von Bismarck once stated, “It is not by means of speeches and majority resolutions that the great issues of the day will be decided.....but by blood and iron.” The phrase, **blood and iron**, came to symbolize the wars of unification that Bismarck used to create the German nation.

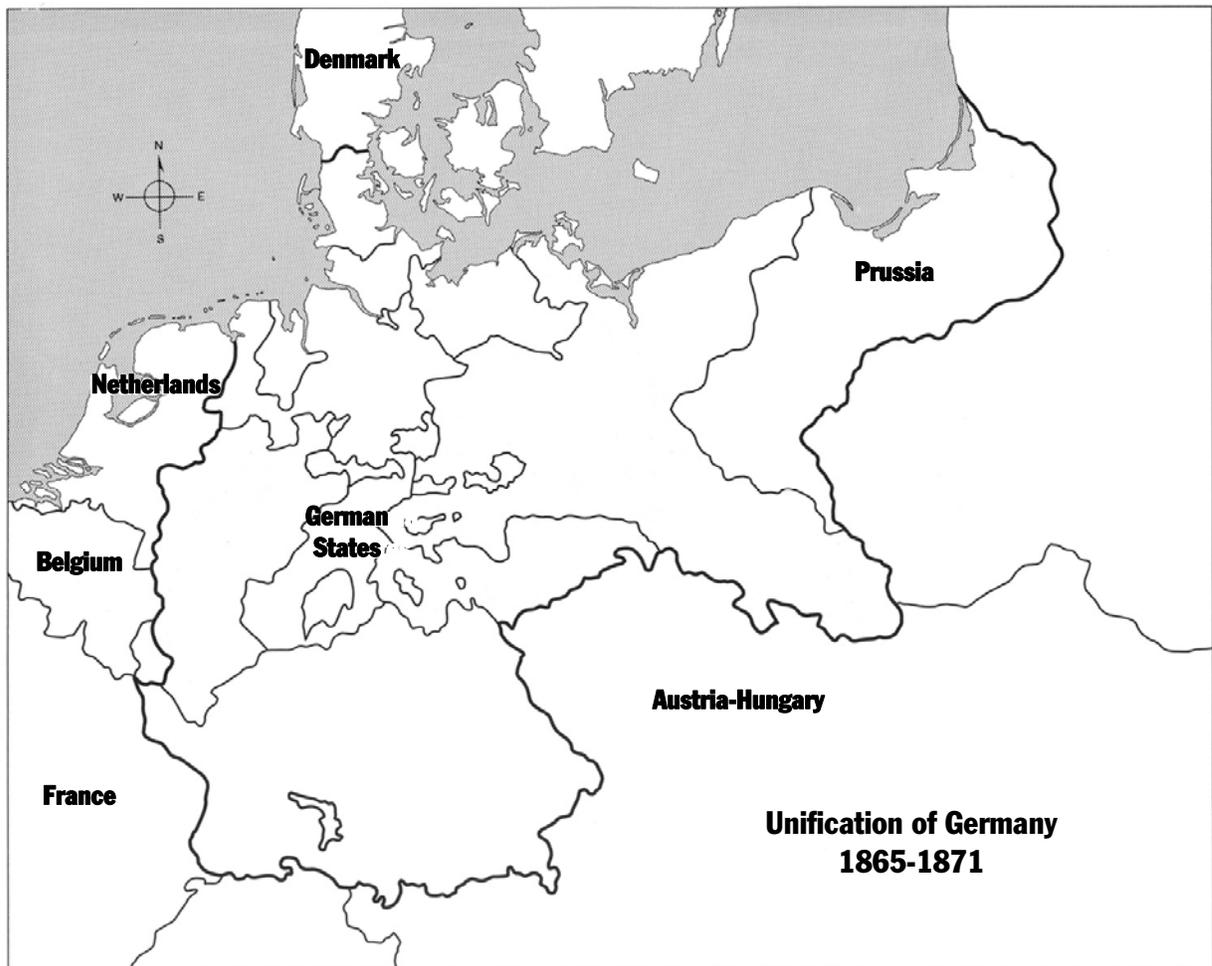


Otto von Bismarck

2. As you read the information on each of Bismarck’s wars, use the resources of your local library or the Internet. Then mark the map on the next page:
 - Draw stripes through the nations with which Bismarck went to war.
 - Draw a thick line around the territory that was added to Germany as a result of these wars of unification.

German Wars of Unification

In 1864 Bismarck used nationalist ideas to go to war with Denmark. Some German-speaking people lived in two states of Denmark. Bismarck allied Prussia with Austria, then invaded and quickly defeated Denmark. As a result, the provinces of Schleswig and Holstein were added as German states. This quick military victory greatly increased German pride and nationalist feelings.



The second war of unification, known as the Seven Weeks' War, took place in 1866. Bismarck wanted to show the Germanic states that Prussia was their leader. His forces invaded Prussia's recent ally, Austria. The Prussian army won quickly and easily with their superior training and military equipment. Austria was humiliated by its defeat. The states of East Prussia and West Prussia joined together for the first time. In 1867 the North German Confederation was formed. It was a union of states that traded freely with one another. Prussian industry dominated it.

The third and final war of German unification was against a foreign power – France. The Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871, was the most destructive of these conflicts. It was also the most significant. There were German people living in the French border provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. As had happened with Denmark, Bismarck wanted them to become German states. He also wanted to gain the loyalty of the southern German states. A good way to

increase nationalism is to create a foreign enemy. France became that foreign enemy. Bismarck tricked the French Emperor Napoleon III into declaring war on Prussia. German forces easily won this conflict. They had superior weapons and technology. The Emperor Napoleon III was actually taken prisoner with 104,000 of his soldiers at the Battle of Sedan. The war did not end however, until Prussian forces attacked the city of Paris and laid siege to it. Paris was blockaded and shelled with new industrial weaponry. No food or water was allowed into the city. France surrendered four months later.

The Franco-Prussian War had important results. First of all, Alsace and Lorraine became German states. Nationalism in the German states rose to a fever pitch. People were proud of their military and its victories. All of the German states accepted Prussian leadership. King Wilhelm I of Prussia was declared Kaiser, or emperor, of the Second Reich in 1871. (The First Reich had been the Holy Roman Empire of Charlemagne.) Germany was now a unified nation.

The war affected the nationalism of the French, too. Their nation had just suffered a humiliating defeat. The Franco-Prussian War united the French in a national hatred of Germany. Forty-three years later, this hatred would contribute to the start of World War I.

The new nation of Germany was large, militarily strong, and very wealthy. It upset the **balance of power** created by the Congress of Vienna in 1815. At its birth in 1871, Germany was already more rich and powerful than many other nations. In 1885, Bismarck called the Berlin Conference together to divide Africa into European colonies. Germany wanted to become an imperial power. This made older colonial powers such as Britain, France, and Russia nervous. The upset in the balance of power created a general state of tension among the powers of Europe. It would increase as the 19th century ended and the 20th began.

Nationalism as a Dividing Force

In the mid-1800s, there were three, large, multicultural empires in Europe: Austria-Hungary, Russia, and the Ottoman Empire. Nationalism brought the peoples of Italy and Germany together during this time period. At the same time, it divided larger empires. Different religious and ethnic groups lived within the boundaries of the large empires. They wanted their own nations and self-rule. The different religious and ethnic groups were not

loyal to the foreign powers that controlled them. As you read the information that follows, remember that these examples of divided nationalism led to the start of World War I.

Austria-Hungary

The Austro-Hungarian Empire was an aging empire. It was made up of two separate kingdoms and governments. An emperor was the official head of state. There were at least eighteen different **ethnic minorities** living within the borders of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They included Slovenes, Hungarians, Germans, Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Serbs, and Italians. These groups all spoke different languages and had different cultures. Some were Christian; others were Muslim. Most of them wanted to form their own nations. They joined the wave of nationalism that swept through Europe during the 1800s. However, the Austro-Hungarian emperor would not consider any ideas of independence or self-rule. Eventually some groups did get limited independence. Others, like the Serbs, used violence to free themselves.

Russia

By the turn of the 20th century, the Russian Empire had been ruled by czars for almost 400 years. In the mid-1800s it was ruled by the **autocratic** Romanov dynasty. In addition to Russians, the empire included Ukrainians, Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Fins, Jews, Turks, Armenians, Georgians, and Romanians. The Romanov Dynasty was an absolute monarchy. It did not allow **dissent**. Some of the ethnic groups in the Russian Empire wanted reforms. The Czar's answer was a policy of **Russification**. Russification attempted to force Russian culture on all ethnic groups. Children in all regions were forced to learn Russian in schools. They were not allowed to speak their native languages in public. Muslim and Jewish subjects of the empire were **persecuted**. Many Muslim villages were forced to convert to Russian Orthodox Christianity. Jews were forced to leave their homes. Although Russification was strictly enforced, it was unsuccessful. It strengthened the nationalism of each ethnic group and created hatred for the Czar. In part because of this situation, the Russian nation would not survive the experience of World War I.

Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire was an ethnically diverse empire ruled by Muslim Turks. The ethnic minorities in this empire included Greeks, Slavs, Arabs, Bulgarians, and Armenians. By the late 1800s, the Ottoman Empire was in decline and weak. Its location had economic and military importance. It connected the continents of Asia, Europe, and Africa. Its oil resources were important to the new inventions of the Second Industrial Revolution. Britain and France both tried to control the weak Ottoman rulers. Some ethnic groups in the empire wanted independence and a nation of their own. Greece had won its independence in the 1830s.

However, the empire tried to do everything it could to maintain control over its subjects. In 1856, guided by Britain and France, it granted equal **citizenship** to all people within the empire. The Turkish majority was angered by this action. They did not want change. They did not want to be controlled by Britain and France. The anti-ethnic feeling of some Muslim Turks led to massacres of Christian Armenians living within the borders of the Ottoman Empire. These massacres became the first genocide (the systematic extermination of a national or ethnic group) of the 20th century. You will learn more about the Armenian genocide in the next lesson. Like Austria-Hungary and imperial Russia, the Ottoman Empire ended after World War I.

3. In your own words, compose a definition of *nationalism*.

4. Explain how nationalism can be both a unifying and a dividing force?

5. What were three results of the Franco-Prussian War?

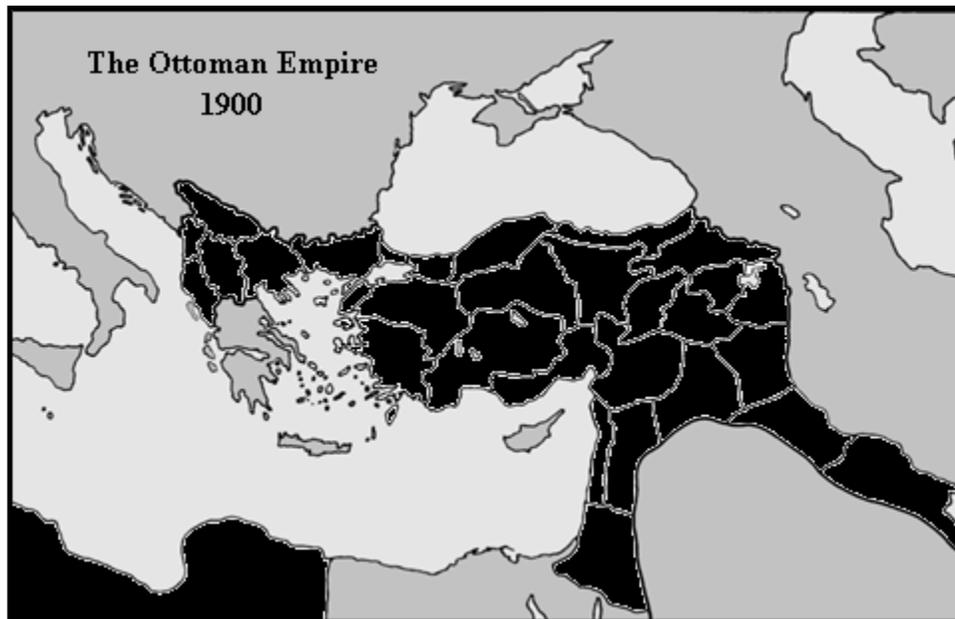
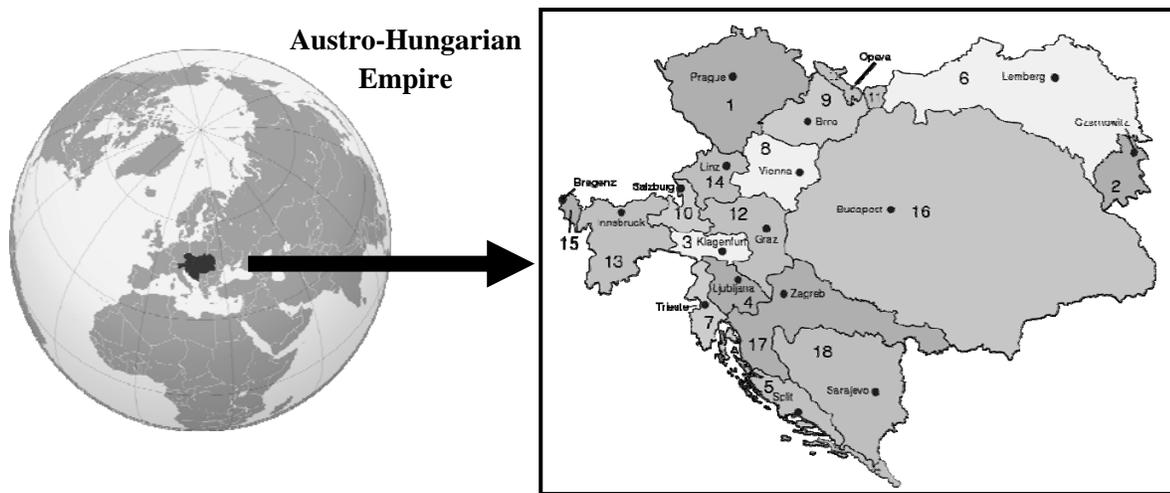
6. **Complete** the chart below, comparing and contrasting the goals and policies of each nation listed during the late 19th century.

| | Italy | Germany | Russia | Ottoman Empire |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|----------------|
| Goals: What did each nation hope to achieve, or what problems did they hope to solve? | | | | |
| Methods/ policies used to reach goals: | | | | |
| Evaluate the success of the methods used in reaching their goals: | | | | |

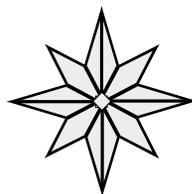
7. The role of great leaders can have an enormous impact on history. List the characteristics you think a leader should possess to earn the title of *great*.

8. Fill out details in the chart below concerning the *pros* or good things, about Bismarck’s rule, and the *cons*, or negative things, about Bismarck’s rule.

| PROS of Bismarck’s Policies/Methods | CONS of Bismarck’s Policies/Methods |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| | |



courtesy of Underlying lk



End of Lesson 1