UNIFICATION OF GERMANY

Learning Target: What role did Otto von Bismarck play in German unification?

Do-Now: Take out your homework.

Homework: None.
Anticipation Guide: Italian Unification

- **Directions:** Below is a series of statements that you will identify as true or false **before** reading. As you read through the passages, adjust your answers (if needed) and make sure to **support your answer with text evidence and supporting notes and vocabulary.**

- In the mid-nineteenth century, Italy was unified.
- At the Congress of Vienna, foreign leaders disagreed with the idea of a unified Italy.
- Leaders like Giuseppe Mazzini, Count Camillo di Cavour, and Giuseppe Garibaldi helped to unify Italy.
- Young Italy was a government society that was against revolution.
- Cavour’s diplomacy and alliance helped unify Italian provinces.
- The Red Shirts were unsuccessful at unifying Italy.
Prussia and the German Confederation

Directions: Complete the questions below based on the reading and the map.

◦ How did the Zollverein help to create a unified German state?

◦ How would Prussia help to create a unified German state?

◦ Look at the key of the map. Notice the added territory, but also pay attention to the nation-states used. Create a title for this map.
Otto von Bismarck, a conservative and a politician, was the leading force behind German unification. He became prominent in Prussian (a German state) politics in 1847 when he gave a conservative speech to the German Parliament (government).

The Prussian king, Wilhelm I, wanted to help the German territories industrialize like other European regions such as Britain that had already started industrializing. He chose Bismarck as prime minister of Prussia.

Bismarck was not like the liberals of the time who wanted revolution and more freedoms. Instead, he supported the King and his quests to unify Germany.
Bismarck takes Control

○ Bismarck believed that he should do whatever was necessary to unify the German states. This political philosophy became known as **Realpolitik**. **Realpolitik** is a way of making political decisions based on being practical instead of based on ideals.

○ Bismarck argued that Germany could only unify through a foreign policy called “**blood and iron**,” meaning through war and military strength. Bismarck expanded the size of Prussia’s army, which is a policy known as **militarism**.

○ After building the Prussian army, Bismarck went about uniting the German states via military force and involved Prussia in three major wars in his quest for German unification.

○ With the king’s approval, Bismarck declared that **he would rule without the consent of parliament and without a legal budget**. Those actions were in direct violation of the constitution.
“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.”

-Otto von Bismarck
Expanding Prussia

- Prussia and Austria formed an alliance and went to war against Denmark to win two Danish provinces, Schleswig and Holstein. These provinces bordered Prussia and were significant to building the empire.

- Denmark quickly gave up the territories. Prussia gained control of Schleswig and Austria gained control of Holstein.

- A quick victory increased national pride among Prussians. It also won new respect from other Germans and lent support for Prussia as head of a unified Germany. After the victory, Prussia governed Schleswig, while Austria controlled Holstein.
Bismarck purposely stirred up border conflicts with Austria over the newly acquired territories of Schleswig and Holstein.

The tensions provoked Austria to declare war on Prussia in 1866. This became known as the Seven Weeks War or Austro-Prussian War.

The Prussians used their superior training and equipment to win a devastating victory which humiliated Austria.

The Austrians lost the region of Venetia, which was given to Italy and they had to accept Prussian annexation of more German territory.

In 1867, the remaining states of the north joined the North German Confederation, which Prussia dominated completely which united the north, east, and western states.
Franco-Prussian War

- By 1867, a few southern German states remained independent of Prussian control. The majority of southern Germans were Catholics and resisted being ruled by a Protestant Prussia.

- Bismarck felt he could win the support of southerners if they faced a threat from outside. He reasoned that a war with France to gain the territories of Alsace and Lorraine would rally the south.

- France declared war on Prussia on July 19, 1870. The Prussian army immediately poured into northern France. Among the 83,000 French prisoners taken was Napoleon III (nephew of Napoleon I). Parisians withstood a German siege until hunger forced them to surrender.

- The Franco-Prussian War was the final stage in German unification and led Southern Germany to finally accept Prussian leadership.

- On January 18, 1871, at the captured French palace of Versailles, King Wilhelm I of Prussia was crowned kaiser, or emperor. Germans called their empire the Second Reich. (The Holy Roman Empire was the first.) Bismarck had achieved Prussian dominance over Germany and Europe “by blood and iron.”
Bismarck was an artist in statecraft as Napoleon had been an artist in war. Like Napoleon's campaign strategy, Bismarck's policy was never bound by fixed rules or preconceptions. While remaining aware of long-term goals and broad perspectives, he concentrated on the exigencies [needs] of the moment. . . . He did not only take into account the most obvious moves of his opponents; he was prepared to deal with every conceivable move, even the most stupid, which if unanticipated might upset the cleverest calculations. Much of his success depended on patience and timing...Bismarck’s outstanding quality, and the one he himself valued most highly in a statesman, was the ability to choose the most opportune and least dangerous political course.

**Directions:** Answer the questions below based on the document.

- Identify the source and type of document.
- What is the message of the document?
- How does this document confirm that Bismarck helped to unify Germany?