Chapter 23

Nationalism Triumphs in Europe
(1800–1914)
Steps Toward German Unity

- Between 1807 and 1812, Napoleon made important territorial changes in German-speaking lands. Many Germans resented Napoleon and his changes. As people fought to free their lands from French rule, they began to demand a unified state.

- In the 1830s, Prussia created an economic union called the Zollverein.

- In 1848, liberals again demanded German political unity. They offered the throne of a united German state to Frederick William IV of Prussia, but he refused it.
How did Bismarck Unify Germany?

In 1862, **Otto von Bismarck** was made **chancellor**, or prime minister, of Prussia. Within a decade, Bismarck had united the German states under Prussia.

- Bismarck was a master of **Realpolitik**, or realistic politics based on the needs of the state. He valued power over principles.
- Bismarck strengthened the army in preparation for pursuing an aggressive foreign policy.
- In 1864, Bismarck formed an alliance with Austria. Together, they seized the provinces of Schleswig and Holstein from Denmark and divided up the spoils.
- In 1866, Bismarck attacked and defeated Austria in the Austro-Prussian War, and then **annexed**, or took control of, several north German states.
- Bismarck dissolved the Austrian-led German Confederation and created a new confederation dominated by Prussia.
- In 1870, Bismarck provoked France into the **Franco-Prussian War** and quickly claimed victory.
The Franco-Prussian War Was the Start of Modern Warfare

"The War: Defence of Paris—Students Going to Man the Fortifications"—one of the iconic images of the Siege of Paris.

The Prussian 7th Cuirassiers charge the French guns at the Battle of Mars-La-Tour, 16 August 1870.
Napoleon III and Bismarck after the Battle of Sedan by Wilhelm Camphausen
The German Empire

William I of Prussia was given the title *kaiser*, or emperor. In 1871, German nationalists proclaimed the birth of the Second *Reich*, or empire.

Bismarck drafted a constitution with a two-house legislature:
- The *Bundesrat*, or upper house, was appointed by the rulers of the German states.
- The *Reichstag*, or lower house, was elected by universal male suffrage.

Because the *Bundesrat* could veto any decision of the *Reichstag*, real power remained in the hands of the emperor and his chancellor.
Unification of Germany, 1865–1871
The German Industrial Giant

By the late 1800s, German chemical and electrical industries were setting the standard worldwide. German shipping was second only to Britain’s among the European powers.

Germany possessed several characteristics that made industrialization possible:
- Ample iron and coal resources
- Disciplined and educated work force
- Rapidly growing population

In the 1850s and 1860s, Germans had founded large companies and built many railroads.

German industrialists were the first to see the value of applied science in developing new products such as synthetic chemicals and dyes.
The Iron Chancellor

Called the Iron Chancellor, Bismarck applied ruthless methods to achieve his goals.

**Foreign policy goals:**
- Bismarck wanted to keep France weak and isolated while building strong links with Austria.
- Later, Bismarck competed with Britain for colonies to expand Germany’s overseas empire.

**Domestic goals:**
- Bismarck sought to erase local loyalties and crush all opposition to the imperial state.
- In his *Kulturkampf*, “battle for civilization,” he targeted the Catholic Church and the socialists, both of which he saw as a threat to the new German state.
Kaiser Wilhelm II

When William II came to power, he wanted to put his own stamp on Germany. During his reign, he

- asked Bismarck to resign, believing that his right to rule came from God and that “there is only one master in the Reich.”
- resisted efforts to introduce democratic reforms.
- provided services, such as programs for social welfare, cheap transportation, and electricity.
- spent heavily on the German military machine.
- launched an ambitious campaign to expand the German navy and win an overseas empire.

“Dropping the Pilot”
Anton von Werner's depiction of William's proclamation as Emperor in the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles; Wilhelm's son Friedrich (top step, with hand raised) leads the cheering. Bismarck can be seen in the centre-right wearing white.
Obstacles to Italian Unity

For centuries, Italy had been a battleground for ambitious foreign and local princes. Frequent warfare and foreign rule had led people to identify with local regions.

The Congress of Vienna divided Italy up among Austrian rulers, Hapsburg monarchs, and a French Bourbon king.

Nationalist attempts to expel Austrian forces from northern Italy were repeatedly crushed.
Mazzini’s Young Italy

- In the 1830s, **Giuseppe Mazzini** founded the secret nationalist society, Young Italy.

- The goal was “to constitute Italy, one free, independent, republican nation.”

- In 1848, Mazzini helped set up a revolutionary republic in Rome.

- French forces soon toppled it and Mazzini spent much of his life in exile.

Photograph of Mazzini by Domenico Lama
# The Struggle for Italy

After 1848, leadership of the Risorgimento, or Italian nationalist movement, passed to the kingdom of Sardinia, under constitutional monarch, Victor Emmanuel II.

## Cavour

Prime minister who believed in *Realpolitik* and improved the economy by improving agriculture, building railroads, and encouraging free trade.

Wanted to end Austrian power in Italy and annex its provinces of Lombardy and Venetia.

Led Sardinia to provoke a war with Austria. With help from France, Sardinia defeated Austria and annexed Lombardy.

## Garibaldi

Long-time nationalist leader who wanted to create an Italian republic.

Recruited a force of 1,000 red-shirted volunteers and accepted weapons and 2 ships from Cavour.

Captured Sicily and Naples and turned them over to Victor Emmanuel. Shortly afterward, Victor Emmanuel II was crowned king of Italy.
Garibaldi and Cavour making Italy in a satirical cartoon of 1861.
What Challenges Faced the New Nation of Italy?

- Italy had no tradition of unity. Strong regional ties left Italy unable to solve critical national issues.

- An enormous gap existed between the north, which was richer and had more cities, and the south, which was poor and rural.

- Hostility between Italy and the Roman Catholic Church further divided the nation.

- In the late 1800s, unrest increased as anarchist radicals on the left struggled against a conservative right.

- Italy did develop economically, despite its problems, after 1900, though the country lacked natural resources. Many people flocked to the cities to find jobs while many others sought emigration to the United States, Canada, and Latin American nations.
Small Group Activity

In small groups students will examine the threats and changes that led to the decline of the Hapsburg and Ottoman empires.

A third group can discuss what the Dual Empire was, how it was organized, and who headed it.

Each group will visually represent the causes leading to their decline and will then present their diagram to the class.
Decline of the Austrian Empire

Austrian rulers upheld conservative goals against liberal forces. Austria, however, could not hold back the changes that were engulfing the rest of Europe.

The Hapsburgs presided over a multinational empire, yet continued to ignore the urgent demands of nationalists.

After Austria was defeated by France and Sardinia in 1859, Emperor Francis Joseph made some limited reforms. The reforms failed to satisfy the many nationalist groups that wanted self-government.
Austria’s defeat in the 1866 war with Prussia brought renewed pressure for change from Hungarians within the empire. This pressure led to the creation of a new political power known as the **Dual Monarchy** of Austria-Hungary.

**Under the Dual Monarchy:**
- Austria and Hungary were separate states with their own constitutions and parliaments.
- **Francis Joseph** ruled both, as emperor of Austria and king of Hungary.
- The two states shared ministries of finance, defense, and foreign affairs, but were independent of each other in all other areas.
The Balkans, 1878
Balkan Nationalism

A complex web of competing interests contributed to a series of crises and wars in the Balkans.

Serbia and Greece had won independence in the early 1800s. However, there were still many Serbs and Greeks living in the Balkans under Ottoman rule.

The Ottoman empire was home to other national groups, such as Bulgarians and Romanians.

During the 1800s, various subject people staged revolts against the Ottomans, hoping to set up their own independent states.

European powers stepped in to divide up Ottoman lands, ignoring the nationalist goals of various Balkan peoples.
Questions for Discussion

1. What actions did Francis Joseph take to maintain power in Austria-Hungary?

*He set up Austria and Hungary as two separate states, each with its own constitution and parliament. He ruled both and they had shared ministries of finance, defense, and foreign affairs.*

2. What problems did this create in the empire?

*Slavic groups, especially the Czechs in Bohemia, resented the Dual Monarchy and called for Slavs to unite claiming that “only through liberty, equality, and internal solidarity” could Slavic peoples fulfill their “great mission in the history of mankind.”*

3. How else might he have responded to nationalist demands?
For Discussion

Do you think that either the Hapsburgs or the Ottoman Turks could have built a modern, unified nation from their multinational empires? Explain.