

## UNIFICATION OF GERMANY (adapted from Schwartz: Democracy and Nationalism)

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century (1700s), Germany was even more disunited than Italy. Germany consisted of approximately 200 to 300 different states loosely held together in an association called the HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE. The two largest states were Austria and Prussia. Austria's ruling family were the Hapsburg's who were the traditional leaders of the German states and usually became the Holy Roman Emperor. Prussia, under its ruling family, the Hohenzollerns, became the outstanding military state of the Germans. They were religious differences between Austria and Prussia as Austria was Catholic and Prussia was Protestant. Religious difficulties and political rivalry between the two great powers helped keep Germany from being united until the 1870s.

In Germany, as in Italy, Napoleon stirred the spirit of nationalism, which started the movement toward Germany's unification. Napoleon conquered a large part of Germany, which he made into a single state under his rule so that it would be easier to manage. He then defeated both Austria and Prussia and put an end to the Holy Roman Empire. Eventually, Napoleon's harsh policies toward the conquered people united the Germans against him and played an important part in his downfall.

The Congress of Vienna in 1815 gave little consideration to the feelings of nationalism which had blossomed in the German states. The Congress left the German territories divided in 38 states. They were joined into a weak union called the German Confederation. The revolutions of 1820, 1830, and 1848 did little to change this loose disunited confederation. Germany was finally united through the efforts and skill of a Prussian nobleman, (Junker), Prince OTTO VON BISMARCK.

Bismarck, very carefully, planned a series of three wars to unify Germany. His considerable pre-planning and use of force gained him the nickname "the Iron Chancellor". Bismarck knew that he must first fight Austria, but had to make it appear as though Austria was the aggressor. Bismarck did this through some fancy maneuvering. First he provoked a war with Denmark. Two territories at the bottom of the Danish peninsula, Schleswig and Holstein, were jointly ruled by Denmark and Prussia. Denmark moved to annex both of them which gave Bismarck his chance. Austria joined Prussia in a war with Denmark and then joined Prussia in joint control of the Schleswig/Holstein area. This joint control was the source of friction which eventually caused war between Austria and Prussia – just as Bismarck had planned.

Bismarck tricked Austria into declaring war on Prussia. Prussia's armies were very well prepared and extremely modern, thanks to the Industrial Revolution. The Prussians moved with lightning speed and Austria was forced to give in after only seven weeks. The victory over the Austrians made Prussia the leader of the German states. Most of the Protestant states of northern Germany joined Prussia in the new North German Confederation. Austria was allowed to keep all of her territory but she had to leave the German Confederation (under Prussian control). Austria then formed the Austrian-Hungarian Empire.

Bismarck's last step toward unification of Germany was to bring the southern German states which were Catholic into the union. Bismarck knew that a war with France, Germany's old enemy, would achieve this. If the Germans were forced to choose between a foreign Catholic ruler (France) and a German Protestant, Bismarck knew that they would stay with Germany. Through a combination of political moves, Bismarck got France to declare war on Germany. Just as Bismarck expected, the Germans quickly defeated the French, making the French leader-Napoleon III, (a nephew of Napoleon I)- prisoner. The Prussian victors treated the French harshly. They took the two border province of Alsace and Lorraine as collected 5 billion francs

(about 1 billion dollars) as payment for the cost of war. The new German Empire was proclaimed in the Palace of Versailles – a final insult to the French. Less than 50 years later, the French get back at the Germans when they inflict a humiliating peace on Germany after World War I.

Bismarck became Chancellor (Prime Minister) of the new German Empire, a position he held for almost 20 years. The King of Prussia, William (Wilhelm) I became Kaiser or emperor of the new German Empire. It was a time of great industrial progress for Germany. They surpassed Great Britain in industrial production and became a great trading nation. It was also known throughout the world for its school system and scientists.

Both Bismarck and Kaiser Wilhelm I believed in a strong aristocratic government. They became aware of a growing democratic movement that threatened their power. They decided to head it off by encouraging progress by giving generous aid to industry, commerce, agriculture, and education. Germany provided its workers with the most complete program of old age and sickness benefits of any nation at that time. Despite the advantages given to the people, Germany was behind other nations in political democracy. The government was a monarchy with all of the power resting in the hands of the emperor and his chancellor. Although there was an elected assembly and voting, the assembly was basically a rubber stamp to the emperor's wishes.

## UNIFICATION OF ITALY (Adapted from Schwartz: Democracy and Nationalism)

Italy was still a "geographic expression" at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (1800s). Surrounded by seas and mountains, it formed a natural unit; yet it was not a united nation. It was divided into a dozen or so small states.

The feelings of nationalism in the Italian people were first aroused by Napoleon I. They welcomed him both as their liberator from the Old Regime (remember France) and as a fellow Italian, (he was born on the island of Corsica which had been a part of Italy). Napoleon reduced the number of separate city-states in Italy and put his relatives in charge (a practice referred to as nepotism).

The Congress of Vienna that met after the defeat of Napoleon disregarded the feelings of the Italian people. It undid Napoleon's changes and cut up Italy into a number of small states. Austria took over a large part of northern Italy. Austrian troops helped to crush the democratic revolutions of 1820, 1830, and 1848.

GIUSEPPE MAZZINI was a leader of the struggle to drive out the Austrians and unify Italy. He formed a secret organization named "Young Italy". Through his writing, Mazzini inspired Italian nationalism with poems about former Italian greatness. This led to Mazzini being called the "heart" or "soul" of Italian unification.

Mazzini started several revolts, but only the one in 1848 was even partly successful. The man who actually began to unify Italy was COUNT CAMILLO DI CAVOUR, who became known as the "brains" of Italian unification. Cavour was the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont in northern Italy. He had the backing of KING VICTOR EMMANUELLE II and together they made a number of reforms in that kingdom. Many Italians began to look to Sardinia for leadership. Cavour formed an alliance with France and provoked Austria (in control of northern Italy) into attacking Sardinia. Together, the French and the Sardinians almost defeated Austria. France's betrayal prevented a total Sardinian victory. Sardinia did support other rebellions and most of the states of northern Italy were joined with Sardinia, with the exception of Venetia which remained under the rule of Austria until 1866).

Northern Italy was united, but the Pope's control over the Papal States (the center of the boot) was a serious obstacle to a united Italy. It blocked union with the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in the south so that the north and south remained two separate countries. The liberation of the south was the work of a member of Young Italy, GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI. With a small force known as the "THE RED SHIRTS" Garibaldi defeated the much larger forces of the Bourbon ruler of Sicily. Garibaldi was asked to become king of this region, but he refused, and turned the area of southern Italy over to Victor Emmanuelle II of Sardinia. This union created the Kingdom of Italy. To make this union possible, the eastern part of the Papal States was taken from the Pope.

French armies protected what was left of the Papal States until they were forced to return to France during the Franco-Prussian War (mentioned in the Germany reading). When the French armies withdrew, the Italian forces under Victor Emmanuelle entered Rome. The people voted in a plebiscite (remember Napoleon I?) to join with the other Italians. Italy was united under protests from the Pope. The Pope refused to accept the settlement and there was a problem with the Catholic Church until 1921.

The Kingdom of Italy was formally declared in 1861 and completed when Rome was annexed to Italy in 1870. It was a limited monarchy ruled by Victor Emmanuelle II. Its government was modeled on that of Great Britain, but like the French system it had many political parties.

The northern parts of Italy made economic/industrial progress after unification. The south, however, remained poor. Even today there are great economic differences between Northern and Southern Italy.

# NATIONALITIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

About 1914

