

## The Unification of Germany



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Identify the factors that promoted German nationalism.
- Analyze how Bismarck achieved German unification.
- Describe the German empire under Bismarck.
- Explain the policies of Kaiser William II.

# Moving Toward a Unified Germany

Napoleon annexed the Germanic speaking region into his Empire

At first the Germans welcomed him, encouraged by his policies

People eventually would seek self rule & they tried at the council of Vienna

Leaders concerned that independence would lead to confusion & a dismantling of governments

# Bismarck for Unity

**Otto von Bismarck**- Leader of Germany who first became a diplomat for the region in Russia & France

Eventually he becomes **chancellor**- the highest official of a unified Germany, like a Prime Minister

He gives a “Blood & Iron” speech for the country to declare his future policies

**Realpolitik**- Realistic politics based on the needs of the state, power more important than principles



# Bismarck Unity

While not a nationalist, he believed in the importance of German/Prussian pride

Leads Prussia into three wars & paves the way for German unity

Bismarck attacks Austria & wins in just 7 weeks, he then **annexes**- took control of, several German states



# Bismarck Unity

Franco-Prussian war saw France enter into war with Prussia, only to suffer a humiliating defeat

William I of Prussia becomes the first **kaiser** (emperor) of the Germanic states

German nationalists celebrate the Second **Reich** or empire

A constitution is drafted by Bismarck to give power to the kaiser & the people



# Germany Becomes Industrial Giant

Germany had become the most powerful nation in Europe & the industrial giant of Europe

Germany allowed the construction of massive factories

German science supported grand advancements & the country sought to train more scientists to solve industrial issues

Germany began to strengthen not just the nation, but its military as well

# The Iron Chancellor

Bismarck becomes chancellor & believed France had to remain weak & link with Austria & Russia

He became known as the “Iron Chancellor” & erase all opposition to the imperial state

**Kulturkampf**- Battle for Civilization to force Catholics to have allegiance with the state above the church

This backfires & he eventually has to make peace with the Catholic Church



# Bismarck Policies

Bismarck distrusts socialism in Europe & created laws to shut down socialist ideas

This back fires & workers begin to support socialism

He changes course & begins to create laws to protect the common worker

Laws developed such as retirement & health care

# Kaiser William II

**William II-** becomes the Kaiser & asks Bismarck to resign as his right to rule came from God

**Social Welfare-** programs provided by the state for the benefit of it's citizens

He offered cheap transportation, schools, & brought electricity to the country

Began aggressive nationalism to help grow the military & the navy

