**German and Italian Unification**

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| **Aim:** | **Date:** |
| **Key Words:**  **1.**  **2.** |  |

**A. Italy**

For centuries, Italy was divided into many states which had different leaders, laws and considered themselves different from each other. At the Congress of Vienna, Austria took control of much of northern Italy. In the South, a French ruler was put in charge of Naples and Sicily. In response, nationalist organized secret patriotic societies and focused their efforts on removing foreign forces from Italy and unifying.

1. Giuseppe Mazzini

“I … swear: To devote myself wholly and forever to make Italy one free, independent, republican nation; To promote by every means in my power – whether by written or spoken word or by action”

In the 1830s, the nationalist leader Giuseppe Mazzini founded Young Italy. The goal of this secret society was “to constitute Italy, one free, independent, republican nation.” In 1849, Mazzini helped set up a revolutionary republic in Rome, but French forces soon toppled it. Like many other nationalists, Mazzini spent much of his life in exile, plotting and dreaming of a unified Italy.

2. Count Camillo Di Cavour

“The history of every age proves that no people can attain a high degree of intelligence and morality unless its feelings of nationality are strongly developed.”

In the 1850s, Cavour was the prime minister under Victor Emmanuel of Sardinia (leader of one of the Italian states). With help from France, he provoked a war with Austria to gain Lombardy (an area in Italy). This encouraged other northern states to rebel against their leaders and join. Cavour signed a treaty with emperor Napoleon III of France to help Sardinia push Austria out of the Italy. Eventually, Cavour was able to unify the northern Italian states.

3. Giuseppe Garibaldi

“Italians! The Sicilians are fighting against the enemies of Italy for Italy. It is the duty of every Italian to help them with words, money and arms and above all in person.”

In 1860, Garibaldi recruited 1000 men (Red Shirts) to take control of The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. With weapons and ships provided by Cavour, Garibaldi succeeded in unifying southern Italy. He turned this territory over to Victor Emmanuel II (leader of northern Italy) who was crowned King of Italy. The states of Venetia and Rome were later added after the Austro-Prussian and Franco-Prussian Wars.

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| *Leader* | *Goal* | *Meaning of Quote* | *Action* |
| Giuseppe Mazzini |  |  |  |
| Count Camillo Di Cavour |  |  |  |
| Giuseppe Garibaldi |  |  |  |

**B. Germany and Otto von Bismarck (1865 – 1871)**

A Prussian military leader named Otto von Bismarck decided to use nationalism to unify German states into one strong Germany. In order to make Germany stronger Bismarck wanted to make 2 changes: have Germany be ruled by an absolute monarch AND unite Germany using a policy that he called “Blood and Iron.” Bismarck used wars to successfully unite his country. This meant that German nationalism was directly linked with the country’s military power. It also meant that Germany did not develop a tradition of democracy. The German people became used to the idea of being ruled by a single person.

“It is the duty of every country to provide help for its citizens. The country must provide its citizens with a national defense system, a system of communication, and education. I believe that the country should not worry about making money, but provide help for the poor and needy. If a company that employed 20,000 people went out of business, all these workers would be without a job and go hungry.”

*What does “blood and iron” mean?*

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*What are Bismarck’s Four Goals for Germany*?

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**C. Bismarck Changes Germany**

Directions: Read each of the following and, with a partner, decide if they are political, economic, or social changes. Choose only one for each.

P – Political E – Economic S – Social

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_1. He created a strong national government.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2. He improved the railroads, the post office, and the communication system of Germany.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3. He started a policy called “Kulturkampf” – attacking the Catholic Church, and passed laws against speaking out against the state.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_4. He improved the money situation in Germany – more factories were built, Germany made more iron and steel, and increased its miles of railroad tracks.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5. He created an insurance program for people who could not help themselves – accident, health, and old age insurance.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_6. He created a system of laws for all of Germany.

*Which of these is the most important change Bismarck made? Why?*