Objectives
As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them answer the Section Focus Question and master core content.

- Identify several events that promoted German unity during the early 1800s.
- Explain how Bismarck unified Germany.
- Analyze the basic political organization of the new German empire.

Prepare to Read

Build Background Knowledge
Remind students that in this period, many peoples with a shared cultural and ethnic heritage were moved by nationalism to establish their own political identities. Have students predict how nationalism might contribute to the creation of a German nation.

Set a Purpose

- **Witness History** Read the selection aloud or play the audio.
- **Listen** Witness History Audio CD: Blood and Iron

Ask What's the main idea of Bismarck's speech? (Military force is more effective than slow political change or reform.) Based on the picture and speech, what kind of leader do you think Bismarck will be? (Sample: strong, forceful, and aggressive)

Focus
Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (Answer appears with Section 1 Assessment answers.)

- **Preview** Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.
- **Reading Skill** Have students use the Reading Strategy: Recognize Sequence worksheet.

Building a German Nation

Objectives

- Identify several events that promoted German unity during the early 1800s.
- Explain how Bismarck unified Germany.
- Analyze the basic political organization of the new German empire.

Terms, People, and Places

- Otto von Bismarck
- annex
- chancellor
- kaiser
- Reich
- Realpolitik
- Vienna
- Vienna Congress
- Holy Roman Empire
- Germany
- Austria
- Prussia

Note Taking

**Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence** Keep track of the sequence of events that led to German unification by completing a chart like the one below. Add more boxes as needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Napoleon Raids German Lands</td>
<td>Between 1806 and 1812</td>
<td>Napoleon made important territorial changes in German-speaking lands. He annexed lands along the Rhine River for France. He dissolved the Holy Roman Empire by forcing the emperor of Austria to agree to the lesser title of king. He also organized a number of German states into the Rhine Confederation. At first, some Germans welcomed the French emperor as a hero with enlightened, modern policies. He encouraged freeing the serfs, made trade easier, and abolished laws against Jews. However, not all Germans appreciated Napoleon and his changes. As people fought to free their lands from French rule, they began to demand a unified German state. Napoleon’s defeat did not resolve the issue. At the Congress of Vienna, Metternich pointed out that a united Germany would require dismantling the government of each German state. Instead, the peacekeepers created the German Confederation, a weak alliance headed by Austria.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary Builder

**High-Use Word**

- edited

**Definition and Sample Sentence**

- edited: to make additions, deletions, or other changes to a piece of writing.
  - He edited his paper very carefully before handing it in to his professor.
In the early 1800s, people living in German-speaking states had local loyalties. By the mid-1800s, however, they were developing a national identity. Economic Changes Promote Unity

In 1848, liberals meeting in the Frankfurt Assembly again demanded a political union. The Prussian ruler, however, rejected advice from king and parliament, the king was about to abdicate his throne in favor of his son. Then advisors suggested he turn to Bismarck. The two met and discussed the situation. Bismarck told the king that, in his view, parliamentary government "must be avoided at all costs, even if by a period of dictatorship." He went on: "I will rather perish with the King than for-sake your Majesty in the contest with parliamentary government." Convinced that Bismarck would sup-port his claims to royal power, William named him prime minister.

Bismarck’s Appointment

The decision to make Bismarck prime minister came in the midst of a government crisis. Liberals in Prussia’s parliament had blocked King William I’s plans to reorganize and increase the army. After months of disagreement between king and parliament, the king was about to abdicate his throne in favor of his son. Then advisors suggested he turn to Bismarck. The two met and discussed the situation. Bismarck told the king that, in his view, parliamentary government "must be avoided at all costs, even if by a period of dictatorship." He went on: "I will rather perish with the King than for-sake your Majesty in the contest with parliamentary government." Convinced that Bismarck would sup-port his claims to royal power, William named him prime minister.

History Background

Bismarck Unites Germany

Otto von Bismarck succeeded where others had failed. Bismarck came from Prussia’s Junker (YOOHKUR) class, made up of conservative landowning nobles. Bismarck first served Prussia as a diplomat in Russia and France. In 1862, King William I made him prime minister. Within a decade, the new prime minister had become chancellor, or the highest official of a monarch, and had used his policy of “blood and iron” to unite the German states under Prussian rule.

Note Taking

Have students read this section using the Structured Read Aloud strategy (TE, p. T20). As they read, have students fill in the flowchart showing the sequence of events that led to German unification.

Teach

Steps Toward Unity

Instruct

■ Introduce Have students read the first paragraph under the red heading. Ask them to predict how a foreign invasion by Napoleon led to the rise of nationalist feelings among Germans.

■ Teach Ask: In what ways did Napoleon’s rule bring about a desire for German unity? (The Rhine Confederation probably encouraged people to believe that German states could unite. Also, many Germans wanted to free themselves from French rule and unite into a strong German state.)

What was the Zollverein and how did it encourage German unification? (It was a German economic union created by Prussia that did away with trade barriers; however, the states still remained politically divided.)

Independent Practice

Have students write a letter from the perspective of someone who lived in a German state in the early 1800s to a cousin in another country, explaining what has changed since Napoleon invaded.

Monitor Progress

As students fill in their flowcharts, make sure that they understand that the German Confederation and the Zollverein were steps towards unification. For a completed version of the flowchart, see Study Guide, p. 112.

Answers

1. A weak alliance headed by Austria that was created after the defeat of Napoleon

2. Treaty of Prakien, signed in 1815; Prussia, Austria, France, and Russia formed a weak alliance (The Rhine Confederation) that replaced the Holy Roman Empire.

3. Austria was geographically closer to many of the southern German states than was Prussia.

Audio guided tour

nbp-2211

Steps Toward Unity

1. Locate:

(a) Bavaria (b) Silesia

(c) Saxony (d) Schleswig

2. Region Where would Prussia add to its territory in 1866?

(a) Bavaria (b) Schleswig

(c) Saxony (d) Prussia

3. Analyzing Information Why do you think Austrian influence was greater among the southern German states than among the northern ones?

Map Skills

In the early 1800s, people living in German-speaking states had local loyalties. By the mid-1800s, however, they were developing a national identity.
Bismarck Unites Germany/Birth of the German Empire

Instruct

■ Introduce: Key Terms Ask students to find the key term Realpolitik (in blue) in the text and explain it. Ask students whether they think governments today follow the ideas of Realpolitik. Do students think leaders are justified in taking any kind of action—even those that are illegal or immoral—if it strengthens the nation?

■ Teach Clarify for students that Bismarck’s main goal was to increase Prussia’s power, not to fulfill German nationalist aims. Then display Color Transparency 131: Events Leading to German Unification. Discuss the steps Bismarck took to reach his goal of unification. Ask students to list examples when Bismarck employed Realpolitik as he worked to create a unified German state. Then ask Who ruled Germany after it was united? (Prussia’s King Wilhelm I became Germany’s kaiser.) How did Prussia unite Germany? (By defeating Germany’s traditional enemy, France. Prussia won the allegiance of Germans in other states.)

■ Quick Activity Have students access Web Code sbp2211 to take the Geography Interactive Audio Guided Tour and then answer the map skills questions in the text.

Independent Practice

Have students fill in the Outline Map Unification of Germany, 1865–1871 and label the territories and states that became part of Prussia in 1866 and those that formed the German empire in 1871. Check answers to map skills questions.

Monitor Progress

■ Check Reading and Note Taking Study Guide entries for student understanding.

■ Check answers to map skills questions and the accuracy of Outline Maps.

Answer

PRIMARY SOURCE in von Moltke’s view, to establish its power and assert its leadership of the German states.

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Master of Realpolitik Bismarck’s success was due in part to his strong will. He was a master of Realpolitik (ray ahl pee loh tikh), or realistic politics based on the needs of the state. In the case of Realpolitik, power was more important than principles.

Although Bismarck was the architect of German unity, he was not really a German nationalist. His primary loyalty was to the Hohenzollerns (hoh un TSAWL urnz), the ruling dynasty of Prussia, who represented a powerful, traditional monarchy. Through unification, he hoped to bring more power to the Hohenzollerns.

Strengthening the Army As Prussia’s prime minister, Bismarck first moved to build up the Prussian army. Despite his “blood and iron” speech, the liberal legislature refused to vote for funds for the military. In response, Bismarck strengthened the army with money that had been collected for other purposes. With a powerful, well-equipped military, he was then ready to pursue an aggressive foreign policy. Over the next decade, Bismarck led Prussia into three wars. Each war increased Prussian prestige and power and paved the way for German unity.

Prussia Declares War With Denmark and Austria Bismarck’s first maneuver was to form an alliance in 1864 with Austria. Prussia and Austria then seized the provinces of Schleswig and Holstein from Denmark. After a brief war, Prussia and Austria “liberated” the two provinces and divided up the spoils. Austria was to administer Holstein and Prussia was to administer Schleswig.

In 1866, Bismarck invented an excuse to attack Austria. The Austro-Prussian War lasted just seven weeks and ended in a decisive Prussian victory. Prussia was annexed, or took control of, several other northern German states.

Bismarck dissolved the Austrian-led German Confederation and created a new confederation dominated by Prussia. Austria and four other southern German states remained independent. Bismarck’s motives, as always, were strictly practical. Attempting to conquer Austria might have meant a long and risky war for Prussia.

War and Power

In 1866, Feld Marshal Helmuth von Moltke analyzed the importance of Prussia’s war against Austria. Why, according to von Moltke, did Prussia go to war against Austria?

Primary Source

The war of 1866 was entered on not because the existence of Prussia was threatened, nor was it caused by public opinion and the voice of the people; it was a struggle, long foreseen and calmly prepared for, recognized as a necessity by the Cabinet, not for territorial expansion, for an extension of our domain, or for material advantage, but for an ideal end—the establishment of power. Not a foot of land was annexed, or took control of, several other northern German states. Bismarck dissolved the Austrian-led German Confederation and created a new confederation dominated by Prussia. Austria and four other southern German states remained independent.

Bismarck’s motives, as always, were strictly practical. Attempting to conquer Austria might have meant a long and risky war for Prussia.
France Declares War on Prussia In France, the Prussian victory over Austria angered Napoleon III. A growing rivalry between the two nations led to the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

German nationalists celebrated the birth of the second Prussia to take the titlereich, or empire. After the last victory, over France, leaders of most of the German states invited the Prussian king to become emperor of all Germany.

Birth of the German Empire

Delighted by the victory over France, princes from the southern German states and the North German Confederation persuaded William I of Prussia to take the title kaiser (cezar), or emperor. In January 1871, German nationalists celebrated the birth of the second Reich, or empire. They called it that because they considered it heir to the Holy Roman Empire.

A constitution drafted by Bismarck set up a two-house legislature. The Bundesrat (BOON dus raht), or upper house, was appointed by the rulers of the German states. The Reichstag ( RYKS tahg), or lower house, was elected by universal male suffrage. Because the Bundesrat could veto any decisions of the Reichstag, real power remained in the hands of the emperor and his chancellor.

Checkpoint: How was the new German government, drafted by Bismarck, structured?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. Terms, People, and Places

   1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

   Note Taking

   2. Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence

   Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question from the introduction to the section.

   3. Summarize What territorial and economic changes promoted German unity?

   4. Analyze Information Identify three examples of Bismarck’s use of Realpolitik.

   5. Draw Conclusions How did the emperor and his chancellor retain power in the new German government?

   Writing About History

   Quick Write: Generate Arguments

   Choose one topic from this section that you could use to write a persuasive essay. For example, you could write about whether Napoleon’s war against Austria was justifiable. Make sure that the topic you choose to write about has at least two sides that could provoke argument.

   Vocabulary Builder

   Add—(EDIT) to make additions, deletions, or other changes to a piece of writing

   Writing About History

   Topics should be drawn from the section and have at least two ideas that could provoke argument.

   For additional assessment, have students access Progress Monitoring Online at Web Code nba-2211.

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