

# Italian and German Unification

## I. Italian Unification

A. Read “Italian Unification--Historical Context” below & answer the questions on the worksheet.

In 1815, the Congress of Vienna reestablished the Italian city-states as political entities, under the control of pre-Napoleonic monarchies. As a practical matter, Austria controlled Lombardy and Venetia and dominated smaller Italian states. The Risorgimento (Resurgence) movement, which aimed to liberate the Italian states and create a unified Italy, gathered followers.

In the mid-19th century, Sardinia-Piedmont was the only independent Italian state. Its leaders, Savoy King Victor Emmanuel II and his prime minister Conte di Cavour, aggressively worked to join the other Italian states to it. Cavour signed a secret treaty with France in 1858 and then got France’s help in liberating Lombardy from Austrian control the next year. Next, the puppet leaders of Parma, Modena, Tuscany, and Romagna were ousted. In 1860, guerrilla leader Giuseppe Garibaldi’s Red Shirts, an army of 1000 men, defeated the Kingdom of Two Sicilies on the Italian peninsula. Garibaldi also conquered Naples; he then turned his territory over to Victor Emmanuel II. This enabled the formation of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861.

In 1866, Italy (in alliance with Prussia against Austria) gained Venetia after the Seven Weeks War. In 1870, the Italian army entered Rome, wresting political control of all of the region but the Vatican district from papal authority. Modern Italy—now an independent, unified nation—was complete.

## II. German Unification

A. Read “German Unification--Historical Context” below & answer the questions on the worksheet.

In 1865, Germany did not exist as a nation; instead Europe’s German-speaking population was spread throughout several states and principalities in northern central Europe. Prussia was the largest of these states, led by its brilliant and shrewd prime minister, Otto von Bismarck. Beginning in 1866, Bismarck started to put a plan into motion that would eventually unite the disparate German states under the firm leadership of Prussia.

Force—and, sometimes, the mere threat of force—played a key part in Bismarck’s plan. Going to war with Denmark netted Prussia the key northern principalities of Schleswig and Holstein. Over the next two years, Prussia annexed several states that lay between its main empire and its western regions of Westphalia and the Rhineland. Bismarck also launched a preemptive war with Austria to deter the neighboring nation from interfering with Prussian plans.

Meanwhile, France was growing increasingly nervous about Prussia’s unification efforts. The Franco-Prussian War began in 1870; by 1871, the Prussians had emerged victorious. As part of the victory settlement ending the war, France allowed Prussia to annex the region of Alsace-Lorraine, which lay between the two nations. The final pieces of Bismarck’s puzzle fell into place soon afterward, when Bavarian states joined Prussia’s North German Confederation. A united—and formidable—German Empire now stood as a major force in Europe.

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## Italian Unification

I. Using the Reading "Italian Unification-Historical Context" answer the following.

1. What does Risorgimento mean?
2. What was the aim of Il Risorgimento?
3. What was the only independent Italian state in the mid-19th century?
4. Who were the leaders of Sardinia-Piedmont?
5. What organization did Giuseppe Garibaldi lead?
6. The Red Shirts defeated what two (2) areas? What was the result of this?
7. How did Italy gain Venetia?

II. Using the map on Italian Unification, answer the following questions:

8. Approximately how many sea miles apart were Sardinia and Piedmont?
9. In what year did most of the Italian "boot" become part of the Kingdom of Italy?
10. What Austrian territory was annexed by Italy in 1866?
11. What river traverses most of northern Italy?

III. Locate the following places on your blank map of Italy.

|          |         |          |
|----------|---------|----------|
| Venice   | Rome    | Turin    |
| Milan    | Naples  | Sicily   |
| Sardinia | Corsica | Po River |

IV. Label and color in the following states. Be sure to indicate the year they joined a unified Italy.

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Kingdom of Sardinia         | Lombardy      |
| Venetia                     | Papal States  |
| Kingdom of the Two Sicilies | rest of Italy |

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## German Unification

V. Using the Reading “German Unification-Historical Context” answer the following.

1. What was the largest German speaking state?
2. Who was the prime minister of Prussia?
3. What was the key part of Bismarck’s plan to unify Germany?
4. With what three (3) countries did Bismarck go to war to achieve German unification?
5. What war began in 1870?

VI. Using the map on German Unification, answer the following questions:

6. What were the main parts of the Kingdom of Prussia in 1865?
7. What nations do you think might have been “nervous” about the unification of Germany?
8. What was the westernmost part of the unified Germany? The easternmost?
9. In general, what part of the German Empire joined in 1871?

VII. Locate on your map of Germany the places below.

|         |            |                 |
|---------|------------|-----------------|
| Berlin  | Baltic Sea | North Sea       |
| Paris   | Bavaria    | Netherlands     |
| Belgium | Austria    | Alsace-Lorraine |

VIII. Draw and label the following on your map of Germany. Be sure to create a key.

Kingdom of Prussia in 1865

States annexed in 1866 and 1867

States joining the German Empire in 1871