

German Unification OH-series.

Background:

- Vienna Congress 1814/15: German Confederation, Austria.
- Prussia Zollverein 1834. Growing economy and political power.

1850 Erfurt to Olmütz:

- Revolts of 1848/49 weakened Austria.
- Radowitz (advisor to Prussian king Friedrich Wilhelm) suggests a North German Union which would exclude Austria.
- Called Erfurt union 1850.
- German small states not interested and Austria “we shall not let ourselves be thrown out of Germany”.
- Austria gets Russian support.
- Forces Prussia to abandon the Erfurt Union at the meeting in Olmütz.
- Austria has won the first victory.

Austria attempted to extend power:

- Austria tries to get access to the Zollverein.
- The small states were not interested in letting in Austria. They feared a military and economically strong Austria.
- Austria signs agreement with Prussia and can trade with the Zollverein but remains outside.

Foreign politics:

- The Crimean War 1853 -1856:
 - Prussia neutral. Smart not to take advantage of temporary Russian weakness and showing that Prussia guaranteed the borders between Prussia and Russia.
 - Austria only cared about its imperial status and supported the British and French against the Russians.
 - This upset the Russians and meant an end to the alliance between Austria and Russia.
- Italy:
 - War against Austria.
 - Prussia doesn't want to support isolated Austria.
 - Austria loses.
 - Prussia then moves troops towards the Rhine-border to halt French expansionism.
 - Sends the signal that Prussia is willing to support German interests.

- In 1860 Prussia supports south German states and this means that Napoleon III can't expand further east.

The Prussian Army:

- Helmut von Moltke:
 - Political genius.
 - Reforms the army.
- Size organization technology:
 - Could mobilize 370 000 men.
 - Railway
 - Strict training of officers.
 - Quick mobilization
 - New weapons.

Prussian economy:

- Natural resources
- Tax reforms
- Coal and Iron.
- Krupp's Industries.
- "the German Empire was not founded on blood and iron but on coal and iron"
- Zollverein.

Prussian constitutional crisis:

- Wilhelm succeeds F W 1860.
- Liberal vs Conservative
- Otto von Bismarck.
 - 1862
 - "Gap Theory"
 - Blood and Iron.

Bismarckian foreign policies:

- Polish revolt 1863. Once again showing the Russians that he didn't want a conflict with them.
- Excluding the Austrians from Zollverein 1865
- Austria answers with summoning the Assembly of Princes, but Prussia refuses to attend and therefore it has little or no legitimacy.
- Was this planned by Bismarck? Historical discussion.

Schleswig-Holstein:

- London protocol 1852, left both the Danish and the princes unsatisfied.
- 1863 Christian IX upsets the Germans.
- Did Bismarck set up a trap for Austria?
- Prussia and Austria attacks.
- Peace in Vienna 1864.
- Joint rule. Prussia responsible for Schleswig, Austria for Holstein.

The Austro-Prussian War

- Diplomatic preparations:
 - 1864 and early 1865 war with Austria was to risky
 - what would France do? Bismarck met with Napoleon III who guaranteed neutrality.
 - What would happen with Italy, could they open up a second front on Austria? Yes, an agreement with Prussia and Italy concerning Zollverein is reached. Italy would agree to fight on Prussia's side if they would be rewarded Venetia.
- The war begins in June 1866
 - Prussia accused Austria of harboring refugees from the harsh Prussian rule in Schleswig.
 - Prussia also goes to war against southern German states (Bavaria and Würtemberg the most important ones).
 - July 3 Battle at Sadowa the Austrians is defeated. The road to Vienna is opened.
 - Prussia stops there. They fear the French reaction. Balance of power since Vienna Congress.
- The Treaty of Prague.
 - Read the quote on p 89 in the handouts you got "The entire Prussian campaign..."
 - North German Confederation under Prussia's rule is formed for all territories above the river Main.
 - Austria surrenders only but significantly in Prussia not in territory.
 - Austria turns it's hungry eyes towards the Balkans instead. Consequence WW1.
 - Hungary gets partial sovereignty with the Compromise of 1867.

The Surrender of Prussian liberals:

- Bismarck Act of Indemnity. Gets Pardon from Parliament.
- The constitution of the Confederation:
 - Universal manhood suffrage
 - Freedom of speech
 - Submitting the budget to parliament.
 - BUT Bismarck is responsible, but to whom?

The southern states:

- Bavaria, catholic anti-prussian. But none to cooperate with.

Germany and France:

- In Luxemburg Bismarck fails.
- Hohenzollern candidature:
 - Revolution in Spain 1868 house of Bourbon kicked out.
 - Ems Telegram, published by Prussian newspapers. Show them.
 - France declared war July 19
 - Prussia wins. Consequence for WW1.
 - Gets king of Bavaria to agree to unification in nov 1870.
 - January 18 1871 in Versailles German Emperor.