

Global Nationalism

The Unification of Italy and Germany

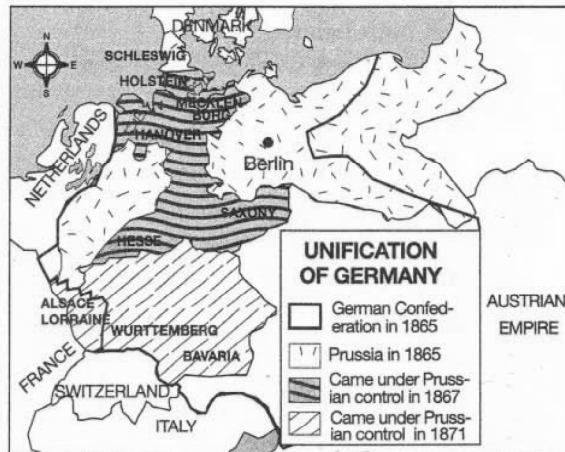
Until the mid-nineteenth century, Italy and Germany consisted of independent states and cities. Patriots inspired by nationalist fervor worked to unite these areas.



The Italian people were divided by dialect, by trade barriers, and by poor transportation. The strongest opponents of Italian unification were Austria, which controlled Lombardy and Venetia, the kings of the Two Sicilies, and the Popes. The passionate nationalist **Giuseppe Mazzini** led an unsuccessful effort to expel foreign rulers from Italy in 1848. Eleven years later, the more prudent **Count Cavour**, minister to King Victor Emmanuel II of Sardinia, fostered a rebellion in Lombardy. A joint French and Sardinian army defeated Austrian troops. Meanwhile, in the southern Kingdom of Two Sicilies, **Giuseppe Garibaldi**, another charismatic leader, marched his red-shirted followers to victory and the king fled. Victor Emmanuel's kingdom expanded to include all of Italy excepting Nice, Savoy, and the Papal States. Nice and Savoy were given to **Napoleon III** of France for his military help. The Papal States became part of Italy in 1871.

Prussia played the same role in German unification that Sardinia had played in Italy:

Otto von Bismarck, Prussia's prime minister, was Germany's Cavour. Prussia was a well-governed nation with a strong army. The king and his minister determined to impose a Prussian-dominated unity on the German states. In 1864, they fought Denmark and won the disputed province of Schleswig. In 1866, Prussia fought a lightning war with Austria. The peace settlement gave it the Duchy of Holstein and control over the foreign policy of the north German states. In 1870, Prussian defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War removed the last obstacle to unification. In 1871, 25 German states, including Alsace Lorraine, were united under William I of Prussia, who became kaiser (emperor) of Germany.



13 Use the letters to create a time line showing the sequence of Italian and German unification.

- A Sardinia absorbs Lombardy.
- B Alsace and Lorraine become German states.
- C Prussia wins Schleswig.
- D Mazzini's uprising fails.

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