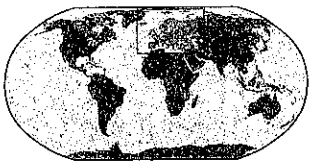
CHAPTER 4

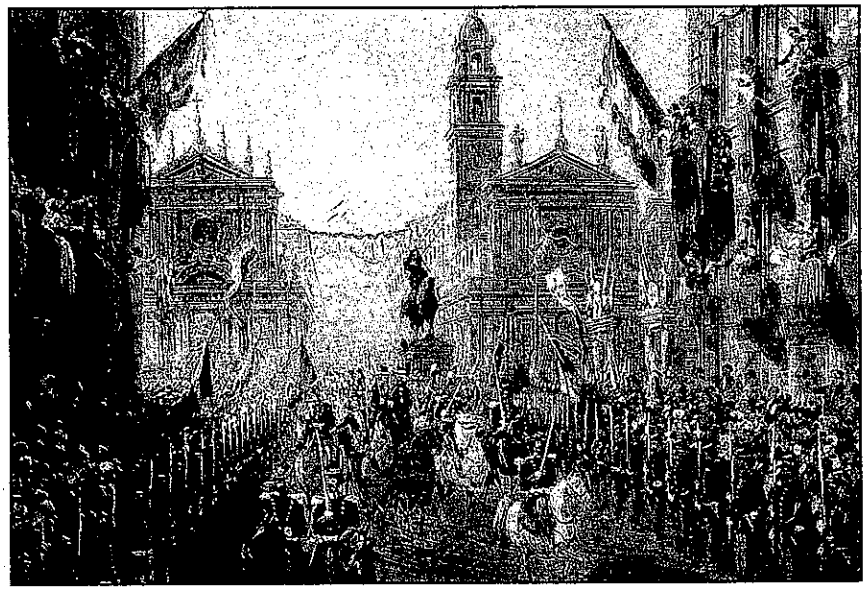
The Unification of Germany and Italy



Italy and Germany became nations in the 1870s. Before that, Italy and Germany were divided into many independent states. Each state had its own ruler and laws. But people wanted the states to unite. They had strong feelings of **nationalism**. Nationalism means love and pride for one's nation. Nationalism helps unite people. Feelings of nationalism helped the Italian and German states to become new nations.

It was not easy for the Italian states to become one nation. After the Congress of Vienna, there were nine Italian states. Austria controlled many of the northern states of Italy. Southern Italy was ruled by a king. Between northern Italy and southern Italy were the Papal States. The Papal States belonged to the Roman Catholic Church.

A man named Count Camillo di Cavour helped unite Italy. He was the **prime minister** of the



The people of Italy celebrated the nation's unification in 1870.

Think About As You Read

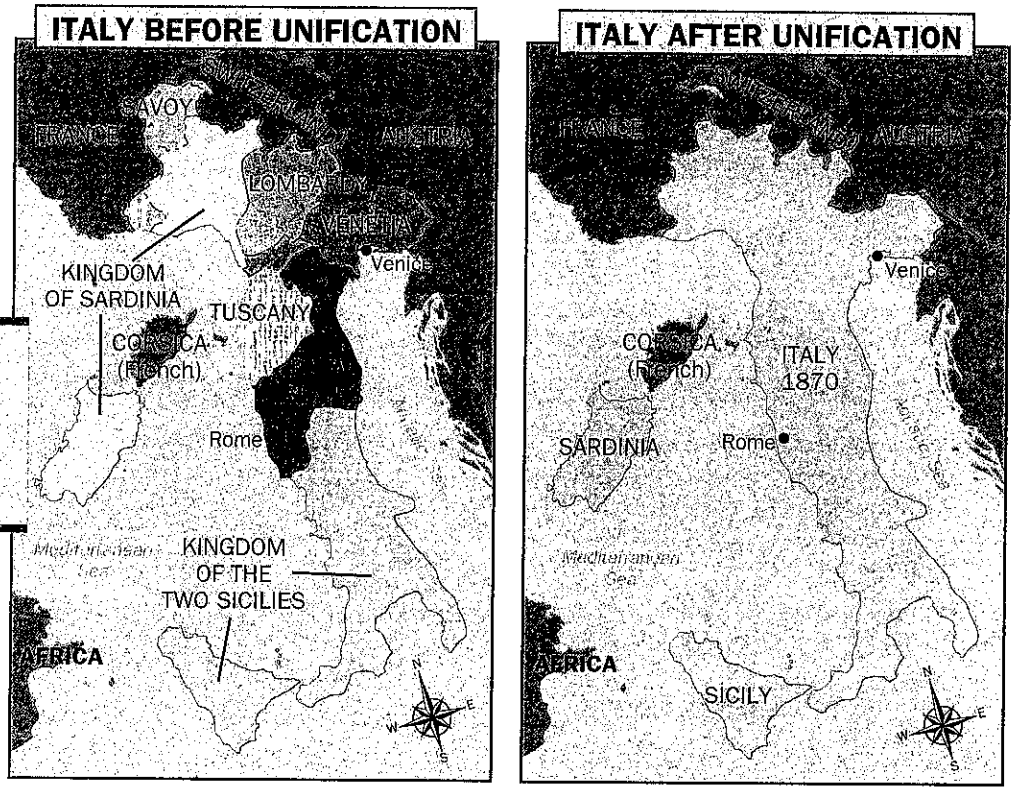
1. What is nationalism?
2. How did Italy become unified?
3. How did Bismarck help the German states unite?

New Words

- nationalism
- prime minister
- declared war
- unification
- unified
- German Confederation
- kaiser

People & Places

- Papal States
- Count Camillo di Cavour
- Kingdom of Sardinia
- Venetia
- Giuseppe Garibaldi
- Otto von Bismarck
- Denmark
- Austria-Hungary
- Alsace
- Lorraine

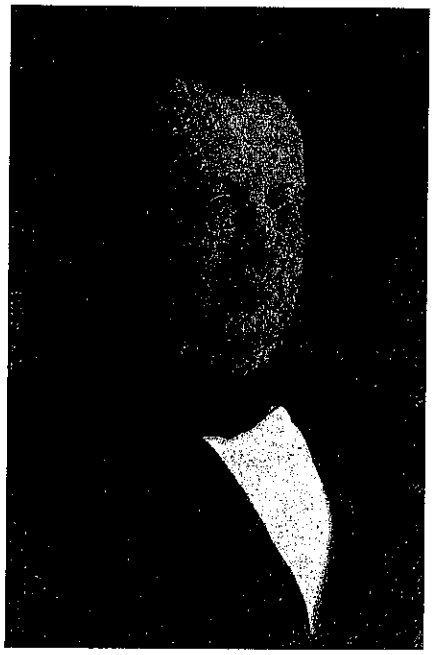


Many Italian states united to become the nation of Italy. Which two states included large islands?

Kingdom of Sardinia, one of the nine Italian states. Cavour hoped that all the states of Italy would unite. But he knew that first the northern states of Italy had to be freed from Austria.

Cavour asked other European nations to help the Italians fight the Austrians. France agreed to help the Kingdom of Sardinia. When Austria **declared war** on Sardinia in 1859, French and Italian soldiers went to fight. They pushed the Austrians out of most of northern Italy. By 1860 most of the northern states had joined with the Kingdom of Sardinia. Austria still ruled the northern state of Venetia.

Once the northern states had united, an Italian named Giuseppe Garibaldi sailed to southern Italy. In 1860 Garibaldi and his army captured southern Italy. Then Garibaldi and Cavour's soldiers conquered the Papal States. They did not conquer Rome because France was protecting the city. Except for Venetia and Rome, most of the Italian states were united. In 1861 these united states became known as the Kingdom of Italy.



Count Camillo di Cavour

Giuseppe Garibaldi

Pope Pius IX, the pope during Italy's unification

In 1866 Italy joined Prussia in a war against Austria. Austria lost the war. As part of the peace treaty, Austria had to give the state of Venetia to Italy. Then in 1870 France and Prussia went to war against each other. So France removed its soldiers from Rome. The Italian army then conquered Rome. The pope was allowed to rule a small part of Rome. The **unification** of Italy was complete. Italy had become one nation.

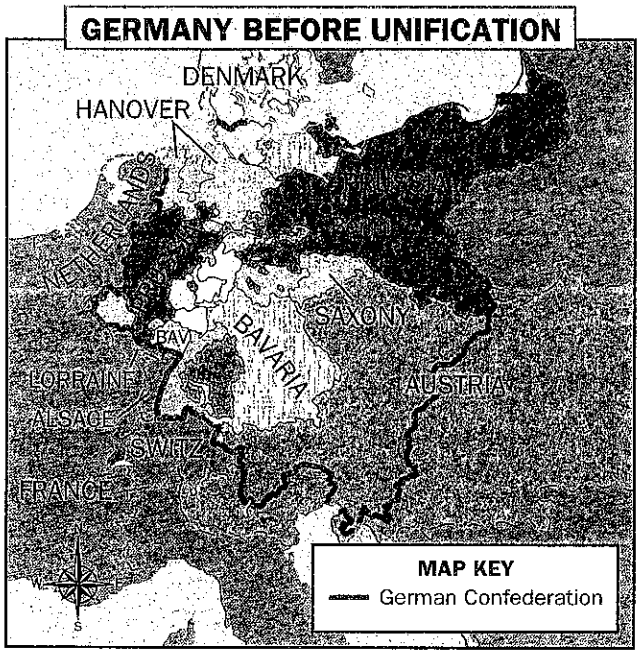
The new Italian government had problems. It needed money. Also, the pope was angry that he had lost control of Rome and of the Papal States. He told Roman Catholics not to support the new government. But Italy remained **unified**. It slowly grew stronger.

Like Italy, the 39 German states did not easily become a nation. The Congress of Vienna had joined the 39 states together to form a group called the **German Confederation**. But the 39 states had independent governments. The strongest German states were Austria and Prussia. Each of the 39 states was ruled by a prince or a king.

Otto von Bismarck led the unification of Germany. He was the prime minister of the state of Prussia. Bismarck said that wars with other countries would unite the German people. He believed that winning wars would help the growth of German nationalism.

Bismarck led the Germans in three wars. The first war was in 1864. Prussia and Austria fought together against Denmark. They won the war. They then controlled two states of Denmark.

Bismarck wanted to force Austria to leave the German Confederation. In 1866 Prussia went to war against Austria. After seven weeks, Prussia won the war. The two states from Denmark and small areas of Austria then belonged to Prussia. It was during this war that Austria lost Venetia to Italy. After the war, northern Germany was united as a new North German Confederation. Austria was no longer a German power. It became Austria-Hungary.



Germany became united by 1871. Did the new nation include all of the areas that were part of the German Confederation?

Bismarck decided that a war against France would unite all Germans. In 1870 southern Germans helped the North German Confederation defeat the French. In 1871 the southern Germans joined the confederation and formed one nation. This new nation was called the German Empire. A new **kaiser,** or emperor, ruled the empire. The kaiser said that Bismarck would run the German government.

Otto von Bismarck

As a result of the war in 1870, Bismarck forced France to give most of two small French states to Germany. The two French states were Alsace and Lorraine. Alsace and Lorraine had coal and iron. Bismarck wanted this coal and iron for German factories. France was also forced to pay a lot of money to Germany. France hated Germany for many years after the war.

Bismarck worked to make the German Empire strong. He also tried to find European nations that would help protect the new nation.

Nationalism was very strong in Europe for many years. Feelings of nationalism would make nations want to rule colonies in many parts of the world. How did nations conquer and rule colonies? You will learn the answer in Chapter 5.

Using Vocabulary

Find the Meaning Write on the blank the word or words that best complete each sentence.

1. If one nation **declares war** on another nation, then the two nations are _____ in battle.

   allies enemies equal

2. The **prime minister** is the _____ of a nation.

   government leader monarch Church leader

3. The **unification** of Italy meant that Italy was _____.

   one nation several states smaller in size

4. The **kaiser** was the German _____.

   army government emperor

Read and Remember

Finish the Paragraph Use the words in dark print to finish the paragraph below. Write on the correct blank lines the words you choose.

Lorraine **nationalism** **states** **wars** **Austria**

It was difficult for Germany and Italy to become nations. They each had to unite their many _____. For Italy to become unified, the Italians first had to free the northern states from _____. In Germany, Otto von Bismarck said that _____ with other countries would increase German _____. This would help unite the German people. After a war with France, the German Empire gained most of the land of the two states of Alsace and _____.

Think and Apply

Compare and Contrast Read each sentence below. Decide whether it tells about Germany, Italy, or both nations. Write a **G** next to each sentence that tells about Germany. Write an **I** next to each sentence that tells about Italy. Write **GI** next to each sentence that tells about both Germany and Italy. The first one is done for you.

G **1.** There were 39 states that united to form this nation.

_____ **2.** Cavour and Garibaldi led the unification of this nation.

_____ **3.** The Kingdom of Sardinia pushed Austria out of the northern states to help the unification of this nation.

_____ **4.** Feelings of nationalism helped the unification of the states.

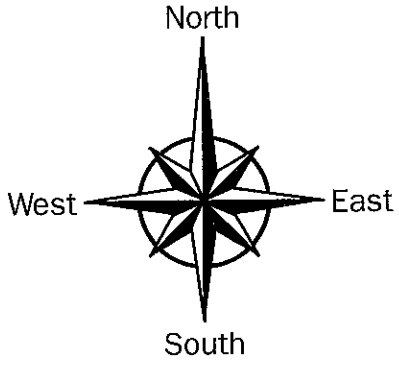
_____ **5.** This nation gained Venetia after helping Prussia defeat Austria in 1866.

_____ **6.** Wars against Denmark, Austria, and France helped unite this nation.

_____ **7.** Much of the fight for unification took place during the 1860s.

Skill Builder

Using Map Directions The four main directions are **north, south, east,** and **west**. On maps these directions are shown by a **compass rose**. The compass rose sometimes shortens the directions to **N, S, E,** and **W**. Study the map on page 29 that shows Italy before its unification. Find the compass rose. Then finish each sentence below with the word **north, south, east,** or **west**.



1. Austria is _____ of Switzerland.

2. Lombardy and Venetia are _____ of the Papal States.

3. The island that is part of the Kingdom of Sardinia is _____ of France.

4. Rome is _____ of the Adriatic Sea.