In the early 1800s, most German-speaking people were loyal to their own states. France annexed German lands, leading to feelings of nationalism stirred in those who fought French rule. Some called for a unified Germany.

Otto von Bismarck, appointed chancellor of Prussia in 1862, guided policies to unite the German states under Prussian rule. He was not, however, driven by nationalism. His goal was to make the ruling class of Prussia masters of a German empire. Bismarck followed a tough policy, he called "blood and iron." He led Prussia into three wars. Each moved the German states closer to unity. In 1864, Prussia teamed up with Austria to take lands from Denmark. In 1866, the Prussians defeated Austria, Bismarck let Austria keep self-rule, but took northern German states. In 1870, he encouraged war between Prussia and France. His triumph in the Franco-Prussian War stirred German pride. In 1871, the German states united under William I (kaiser (emperor)).

The Franco-Prussian War, 1870

The Paris victory sparked the spirit of nationalism needed to unite the German states.

Results:
- Quick victory for Prussia
- Downfall of Second Empire of France
- German states unite under William I of Prussia
- German empire takes control of Europe
- Germans unite with Kaiser Wilhelm I
- Chancellor Otto von Bismarck

Otto von Bismarck became two of the most powerful people in Europe.

Nationalism Triumphs in Europe (1800-1914)

In the early 1800s, most German-speaking people were loyal to their own states. From 1807 to 1812 Napoleon of France ruled German lands. Feelings of nationalism stirred in those who fought French rule. Some called for a unified Germany.

Otto von Bismarck, appointed chancellor of Prussia in 1862, guided policies to unite the German states under Prussian rule. He was not, however, driven by nationalism. His goal was to make the ruling class of Prussia masters of a German empire. Bismarck followed a tough policy, he called "blood and iron." He led Prussia into three wars. Each moved the German states closer to unity. In 1864, Prussia teamed up with Austria to take lands from Denmark. In 1866, the Prussians defeated Austria, Bismarck let Austria keep self-rule, but took northern German states. In 1870, he encouraged war between Prussia and France. His triumph in the Franco-Prussian War stirred German pride. In 1871, the German states united under William I (kaiser (emperor)).
Strengthening Germany

In 1871, Germany unified as a nation under the same name. The new ruler, Kaiser Wilhelm II, took the place of his grandfathers as Kaiser. Before unification, many states had been independent. Now, they were all part of a single nation. German factories and railroads were already big businesses. The new nation built more factories and railroad tracks. The new nation also adopted a new constitution that protected the rights of citizens. However, the constitution did not allow for democracy. The new Kaiser took control of the new nation and made all the laws. He made decisions about how to run the country. He made decisions about how to run the new nation. He made decisions about how to run the new nation. He made decisions about how to run the new nation.

Text Summary:

The German Industrial Giant

Graphical Summary:

- Larger supplies of coal and iron
- Population boom, growing supply of workers and consumers
- Earlier progress in separate states
- Naval rivalry, the German fleet
- Use of science to develop new products and processes

Review Questions:

1. What two groups did Bismarck see as a threat to the German Empire?
2. Why did he fear each group?