

(2) What had prevented German unification before the mid-1800's?

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(3) Otto von Bismarck, the man most responsible for uniting Germany, once said, "The great questions of the day are not decided by speeches and majority votes, but by blood and iron." What do you think he meant by this?

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(4) From the beginning of the unification movement, Bismarck aimed to create a united Germany dominated by Prussia. He wanted King William I of Prussia to become emperor. And, although there would be an elected parliament, Bismarck made sure that power would be in the hands of the king. By the end of the unification movement, Bismarck had achieved all of his goals. Kaiser William and his supporters controlled the armed forces and the lawmaking process. Freedom-loving liberals, who preferred a strong parliament and a weak king, nevertheless backed Bismarck and Kaiser William. Their philosophy was "nationalism first, liberalism second." What do you think they meant by this, and why do you suppose they felt this way?

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(5) The German nation-state that came into being in 1871 was the most powerful country in Europe. It soon set its sights on gaining a colonial empire. Germany knew that having colonies would mean trade and wealth. What consequences might Germany's desire for territory have for the other countries of the world?

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(6) Most newspapers regularly include a political cartoon about a newsworthy event. The cartoon is often accompanied by a "caption" -- a few words or a sentence telling something about the picture. The cartoon and caption might give information on how an event occurred, why it occurred, or how the event will affect the future.

Assume that you were a newspaper cartoonist at the time of German unification. Make a sketch in the box to the right which represents an important event or some other aspect of the unification movement. Write a caption for your cartoon.

