- Status as a great power was an increasing illusion - had extensive commitments and not enough resources to keep up.
- Even its traditional place in Germany was under threat due to Prussia’s new gains.
- but **Prussia gained**
- **2/3rds Saxony, Rhineland, West Pomerania, parts of Poland and its population doubled.**
- **Made Prussia and eastern and western power although it was still seen as the weakest of all the powers in 1815.**
- Biggest gain the industrial Rhineland.
- Prussia had an advantage over Austria as except for poles in the east didn’t have a huge multi-national empire like Austria did.
- Allies main aim at Vienna was to prevent further social and political upheaval - redrew the map of Europe to keep the stability they desired and keep France controlled.

The German Confederation.

- Metternich wanted to maintain Austria’s authority over Germany - aimed to maintain the status quo through a system of mutual assistance in times of rebellion or danger.
- Modelled on the Holy Roman Empire.
- **Areas populated by Poles, Czechs, French and Danish were excluded.**
- **1815 Settlement created the confederative act - establishes the German Confederation/Bund**
- **It had power and authority in government to carry out laws**
- **No permanent conference and representatives were sent from all of the states**
- **Federal diet or assembly and delegates were sent from all of the states**

**Diet**

- Voting arrangements in the diet were intended to prevent German unity - manipulated by Austria.
- Always met under Austrian presidency - Austria was the dominant power
- No more than a federation of restored princes all determined to govern their own territory.
- Met at Frankfurt
- **Every representative of every state had to agree before a decision was made.**
- **Each state within the confederation had its own army, ruler and government.**
- Confederation appointed ambassadors and could make treaties on behalf of its members.
- **Little control/power - could only prevent them from making alliances which may threaten the peace or security of the confederation.**
- **Constitution of the confederation empowered the diet to organise a federal army and develop commercial and economic co-operation between the states.**
1848 Revolutions - Spark

Europe
- Cholera epidemic
- Karl Marx - communist manifesto
- French revolution

Germany
- Increasing population - doubled in a century
- Declining death rate
- Some areas found it difficult to sustain their population people left to go to find work in the cities.
- East Prussia - most land belonged to Junkers and wanted by Peasants but rent was high and it was difficult to make a living
- Bad living/working conditions/ unemployment
- Men, women and children worked for more 13 hours each day
- Encouraged diseases such cholera typhoid
- Strikes and riots common in 1830’s and 40’s
- 1846/1847 bad harvests
- Potato blight - destructive disease of potato caused by parasitic fungus - staple of diet = starvation
- Rise in food prices in industrial towns
- Berlin potato revolution - barricades, shop looting, palace stormed.
- Soldiers restored order
- Reduction in consumer spending on other items as well as food.
- Wage
- Standard of living fell/unrest growing.
- Rulers and monarchs unpopular

Political Problems
- People did not have confidence in govt after economic crisis
- Many rulers and monarchs gathered unpopularity, especially form middle class who did not have involvement in political process
- 1847, patriotism high for a united Germany

Baden
- Duke of Baden forced to accept liberal constitution, meaning more people could vote, liberals could meet with other German States
- Radicals in Baden wanted fair taxes, education for all, a people’s army, better relations employees with workers
- Became the most liberal of all the states - spark of revolts people wanted the same.
- 1840’s liberal politicians in Baden supported a united Germany they put their views into an elected assembly of liberals from all South West German states.
Austria had tried unsuccessfully to create a Zollunion between Austria and the Zollverein in 1849.

Tried again in 1851 to establish one that included Austria and the other German states that were not currently included in the Zollverein but again failed.

We begin to see the shift in the balance of power.

In Prussia

Most of 1850’s there was political apathy in Prussia, few voted and right wing liberals were suspicious of democracy they just wanted to end the dominance of the aristocracy and the army.

Mantuffel hated liberal and professional classes but he needed their support so he agreed to improve living conditions of peasants and workers by: ending feudalism, allowing low interest government loans so peasants could buy their lands, lots of migration to the towns.

In the towns there was standard minimum wage, financial help to industry, inspectors to help regulate working hours, children under 12 not allowed to work.

Still was reactionary-strict censorship, restricted meetings of political parties but kept on good terms with other European powers especially Russia unlike Austria.

The Development of the Zollverein.

Argument whether Germany was unified by Coal and Iron or Blood and Iron.

Largest step towards unification was not the 1848 revolts but instead the Zollverein.

In 1815-39 German states managed their own economies and there was a number of internal tariffs which restricted trade, within a single state there could be large numbers of tolls- Prussian’s chief minister Maaseen responsible.

Pressure from Rhineland industrialists- 1818 complained to the King about the burden on home industry about competition from unrestricted foreign imports where no duty was charged. So in the same year the Prussian Tariff reform law was brought into the Prussian customs union and got rid of a web of internal customs duties and replaced them with 1 tariff.

Not quite what Rhineland industrialists hoped for- they wanted a high protective tariff especially against British goods but instead the tariff was low- thought that this would encourage smuggling and maybe even a tariff war (putting high duties on Prussian exports)

No tariff on raw materials- average of only 10 percent on manufactured goods, 20 percent on luxury goods.

Worked to extend free trade first within Prussia and then within other states in the confederation- aimed to get rid of many internal barriers as possible so goods could move more freely.

Smaller northern and central German states agreed to join Prussia customs union allowed Prussia customs officers into their territories to operate the system.

1830- 2 customs unions- Bavaria and Württemberg
• Raise service to 3 years instead of 2
• Integrate the Landwehr with the regular army
• The liberals passed the budget for 1 year but refused any further out of the cost and principle of further Military reform.
• The insisted that the 2 year term of service should be retained and rejected the joining of the Landwehr to the army
• Led to a major constitutional crisis
• The king threatened abdication
• In his view the army must remain strong under the monarch and must strengthen the position of the crown not the people.
• New liberal party- the progressive party was founded in 1861 to fight the crisis and it was at this point that Bismarck was appointed in 1862.
• Bismarck tried to resolve the conflict in the Kings favour and gave his famous blood and iron speech.
• Financed the army without parliament- used a dubious constitutional technicality to enforce the taxes needed to enlarge the army even though parliament refused and collected taxes directly from the people.
• For 4 years from 1862-1866 he conducted the government of Prussia without a budget
• The expansion of the army was crucial it managed 2 wars against Denmark and Austria without any money from the assembly
• Imposed press controls
• Dismissed numerous officials
• Intervened in elections to force through the policies
• The liberals continued to oppose him but they did not encourage force as the remembered the events of 1848 so Bismarck got his way.
• Initially Bismarck’s aims were Prussian domination of North Germany rather than full national unity.
• By 1850’s however he became aware of the popular appeal of Nationalism and realised that he could manipulate it to his advantage and increase Prussian power-determined to make Prussia as mighty as possible and end Austrian leadership in the confederation but he was not at this time necessarily committed to war- Favoured a diplomatic solution.
• Bismarck was realpolitik- ruthless and cynical policies of politicians like Bismarck whose main aim was to increase the power of a state.
• Didn’t idealism.
• Sincere protestant but able to split his personal and political views.
• Recognised a conservative regime could no longer operate without popular support especially as the liberal bourgeorise’s power was growing.
• However most trusted his judgement.
• In a memo to William 1st Bismarck explained that more Prussia was bound by German federal arrangements the less her real power would be because Austria could always organise other members of the bund against her.
The 1st step to Prussia’s rise to power would be to make it the master of the river Rhine.

Poland

- After 1815 Poland was carved up between Prussia, Austria and Russia.
- In 1863- Polish revolt- it was divided up between Austria, Prussia and Russia.
- Relations between Prussia and the Polish had been uneasy in the 1848 revolts and Bismarck didn’t really trust Poles and saw a chance to win Russia’s friendship.
- 1863- Russian poles rose in revolt- Tsar Alexander 2nd ordered the revolt to be suppressed.
- France, Britain and Austria protested against the brutality of it which pissed off Russia.
- Bismarck offered military assistance if needed. They turned this down but a convention was agreed between the two countries that any Polish rebels crossing the border to Prussia would be sent back.
- France, Austria and Britain again protested and Bismarck panicked and tried to backtrack saying it a legit deal because it had not been ratified in Prussia.
- Russians were offended it looked as if he had isolated Prussia from everyone completely.
- Polish revolt was finally suppressed in 1864- Russia was angry but luckily they were angrier with Austria and France for protesting and for Crimea.

Schleswig- Holstein.

- November 1863- King Frederick 7th of Denmark died he had also ruled over Schleswig and Holstein
- Schleswig- mostly Danish
- Holstein- Mostly German
- 1848 Holstein had rebelled against Denmark in 1848 and Prussian troops marched to their aid with the support of the Frankfurt parliament until Russian intervention forced the army Prussian army to retreat
- 1852- Treaty signed in London that agreed that Frederick would be succeeded by Christian 9th of Gluckesburg and he was an air through marriage but Holstein refused to accept Christian as their leader and put forward their own ruler Prince Augustenburg
- Christian ignored this however and incorporated Schleswig into Schleswig into Denmark which violated the Treaty of London
- Germans were furious.
- In December 1863 the smaller states of the German confederation sent an army into Holstein on behalf of the Duke of Augustenburg.

- Bismarck took advantage of this situation- he could now redeem himself- it was not planned but he now made himself champion of German interests
• 1889 old age pensions to those over 70 and disability pensions to younger people. This was paid for by workers, employers and the state.
• How successful was state socialism? First of its kind in the world however the working class could not be won over by it. Some workers approved of the measures but other saw it as a scam particularly as the government still opposed trade unions. Many workers still had harsh working conditions and whilst these persisted the SDP had a future. Bismarck then believing that employers must control their factories proposed demands for state intervention to regulate working hours and limit child and female employment.
• Treatment of national minorities- this included the Danes, the French and the poles as potential enemies of the state and he south to reduce their influence.
• The polish language was outlawed in education and law courts.
• Alsace Lorraine was not granted full autonomy and instead became a special region under direct imperial rule with a governor and Prussian civil servants. The German language was imposed in school and local administration.
• Bismarck did not rely on repression alone though and the French who were unhappy with German rule were allowed to leave- 400,00 left by 1914. The German governors of Alsace-Lorraine made efforts to conciliate the French speaking provinces.
• It does seem that the national minorities’ alienation lessened over the years but the method of negative integration created disunity not unity.

The end
• 1888 William 1st dies
• Frederick 3rd reigns briefly
• William 2nd took over- only 29- he was an autocrat and wanted to use his powers and exercise control more than William 1st had.
• He was head of the army so had considerable power- he disagreed with Bismarck over his socialist policies, colonial expansion and relations with Russia
• He was not as willing to let Bismarck do what he wanted as 1st king and saw him as a nuisance.
• 1890 William 2nd sacked Bismarck due to ‘poor health’ and Bismarck died in July 1898.