

Unification of Germany and Italy

Chapter 1: The Rise of Nationalism in Europe · Topic 2

Key Concept

Germany's unification was largely led by Otto von Bismarck, the Prussian chancellor, who used a combination of diplomacy and war (including wars against Austria and France) to unite German states by 1871.

Italy's unification involved leaders like Giuseppe Garibaldi (a military leader) and Count Cavour (a skilled diplomat), who worked together to unite various Italian states and kingdoms by 1871 as well.

Both unification movements were driven by strong nationalist sentiment, the desire for political and economic strength through unity, and resistance to foreign control or influence.

The unification of Germany and Italy created powerful new nations in Europe, significantly altering the balance of power and setting the stage for future European conflicts.

Quick Revision Notes

- Germany was fragmented into many small states before unification.
- Otto von Bismarck led German unification.
- Bismarck used diplomacy and war to unite Germany by 1871.
- Italy was also fragmented into small states.
- Giuseppe Garibaldi and Count Cavour led Italian unification.
- Italy was unified by 1871 as well.
- Both movements were driven by nationalism.
- Unification altered Europe's balance of power.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Otto von Bismarck's role in German unification.
- 2 Research Garibaldi and Cavour's roles in Italian unification.
- 3 Discuss why nationalist sentiment drove unification.
- 4 Explain how unification changed Europe's balance of power.
- 5 Compare the methods used in German and Italian unification.
- 6 Create a timeline of key unification events.