

Inherent strengths of Prussia

- ↳ Hardworkip.
- ↳ Industrialised.
- ↳ Powerful nation.
- ↳ Economically developed.

→ Bismarck's

- ↳ Iron & blood speech.
- ↳ Realpolitik.
- ↳ The three wars.

Date: 3/Dec/2025.

Zollverein (1834) ⇒ 18 states were connected.

QUESTION ::

GERMAN UNIFICATION

Question 2021:

Evaluate the inherent strengths of Prussia combined with Bismarck's political skills helped to achieve German Unification.

ANSWER

1) Introduction:

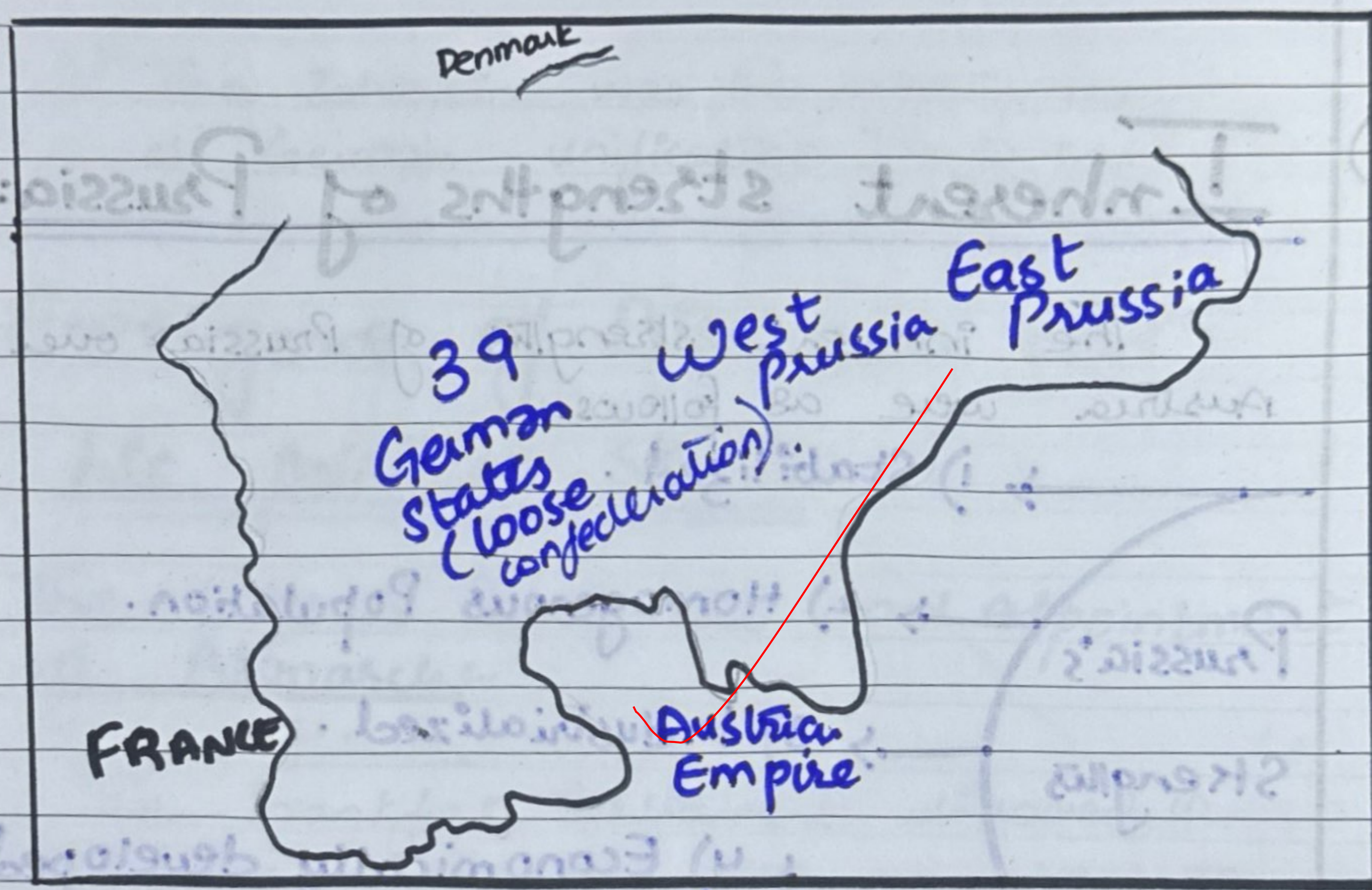
"It was coal and iron, before iron and blood"

-AJP Taylor.

The 39 states of loose confederation formed in Congress of Vienna in 1815 to balance power in Europe could only unite under Bismarck. The rise of nationalism became the fuel, but Prussia's economic advancement and industrialization became the mode of attraction. Bismarck's realpolitik and political skills realised the

vision. Thus, forming the completion of Germany in 1871.

2) The German Confederation - 1815:



In the 39 states - loose confederation Prussia and Austria were dominant. Austria controlled the states. Thus, the question arose who will look after as Prussia and Austria were in majority.

a- Metternich System:

Metternich was the ruler of Austria.

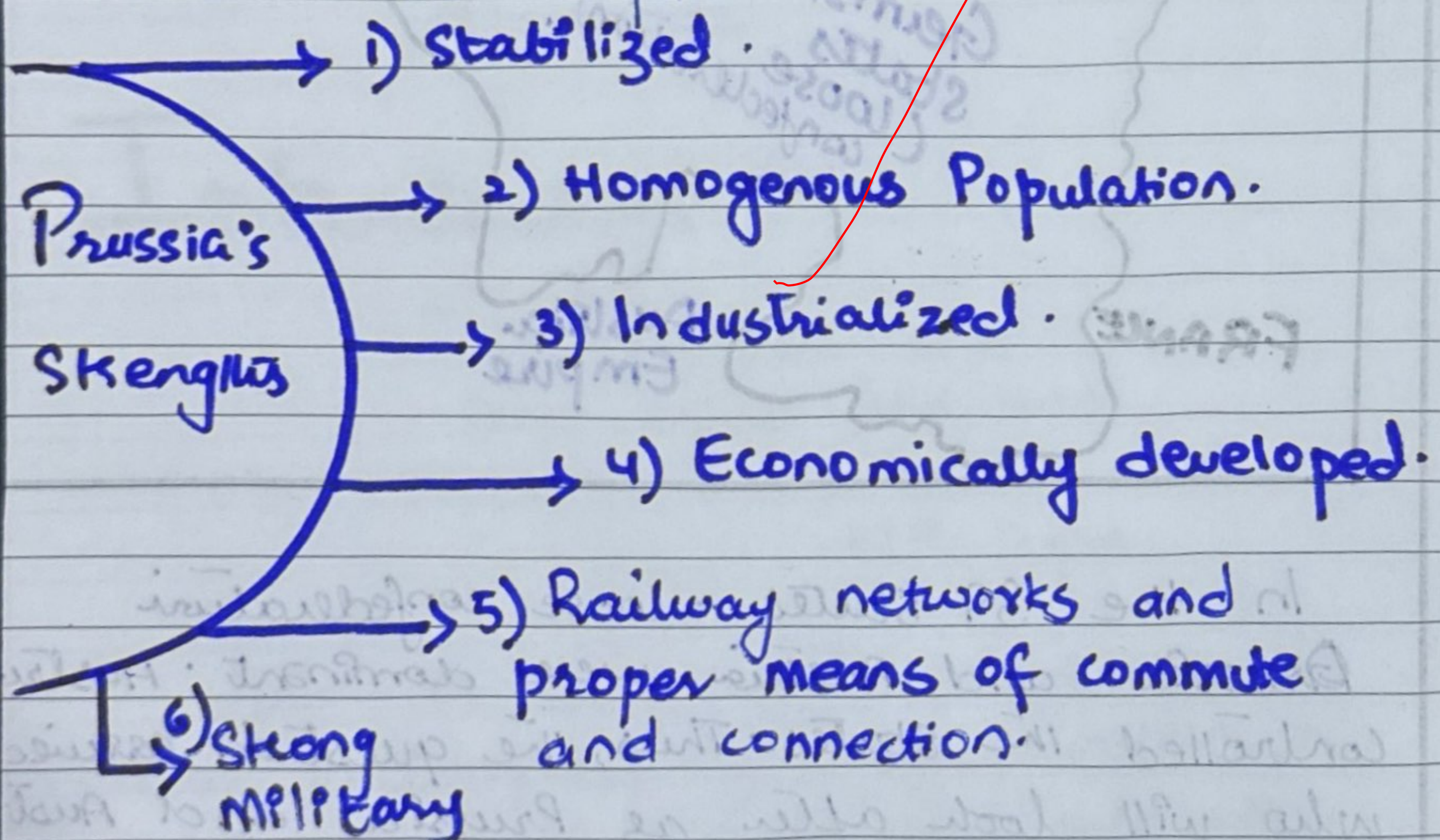
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and dominant in the affairs of German confederation. Thus, Carlsbad decree to suppress nationalism and censor press and university papers to stop revolts.

"If Austria is not to perish, it must extinguish the flames of nationalism"

3) Inherent strengths of Prussia:

The inherent strengths of Prussia over Austria were as follows:



Weaknesses of Austria:-

Heterogenous population

Economically backward.

Agrarian economy.

Zollverein System (1834):-

The Zollverein System is also known as the economic system of 18 states that removed trade barriers. These trade barriers ensured free trade thus making a strong foundation of economy of the German + Prussia. This mechanism excluded Austria.

"The Zollverein was the mighty lever of German unification" - AJP Taylor.

4) Emergence of Bismarck and his political skills:

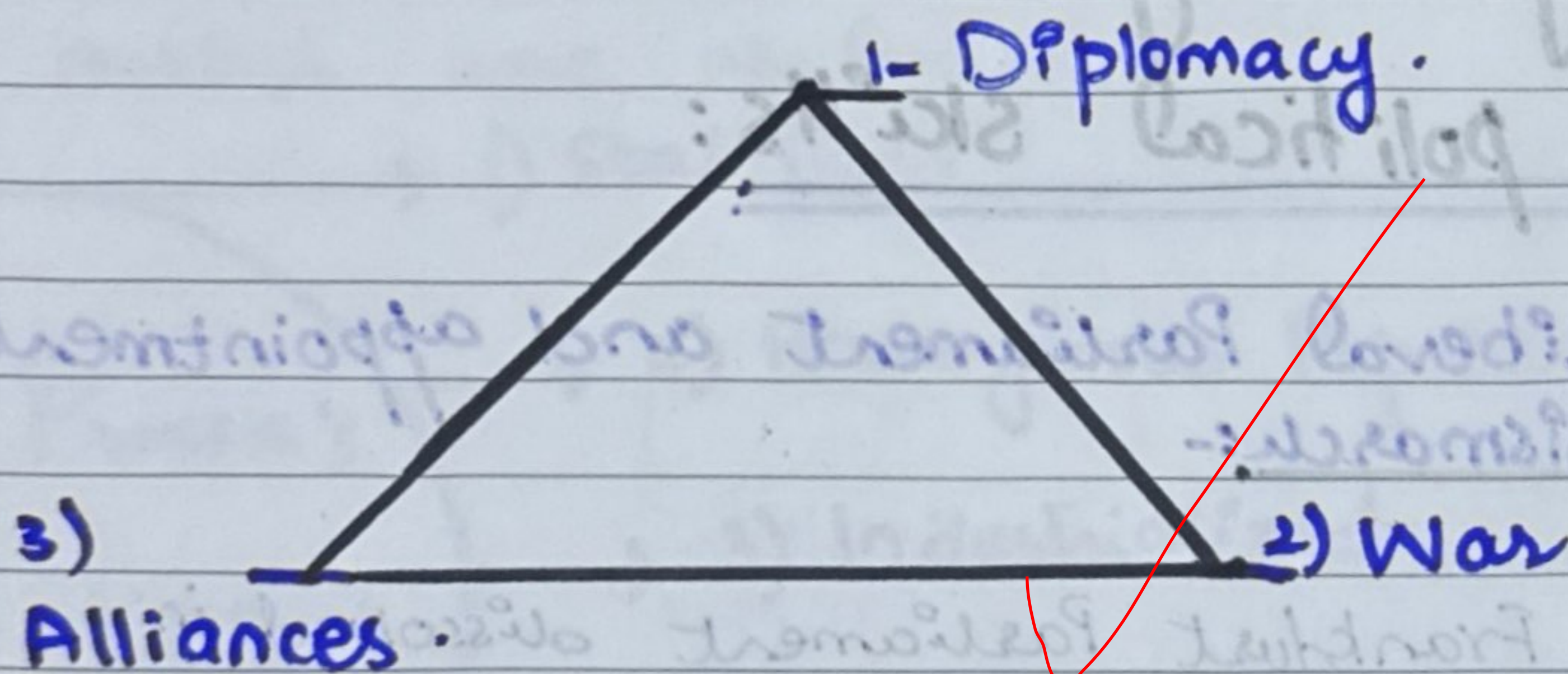
a) The Liberal Parliament and appointment of Bismarck:-

The Frankfurt Parliament dissolved in 1848. Thus ending the 1848 revolutions. The Liberals won the elections in 1858 and voted against the army's budget. However, the parliament was dissolved, the same fate repeated in 1860's elections. The King appointed his son to the throne. Friedrich William and he appointed Bismarck as the Prime Minister. Bismarck dissolved the issue by his two famous speeches:

"The Great questions of time will not be resolved by speeches and majority decision; it was the great mistake of 1830 and 1848... but, by iron and blood!"
- Bismarck.

b- The Nature of Politics - Realpolitik:

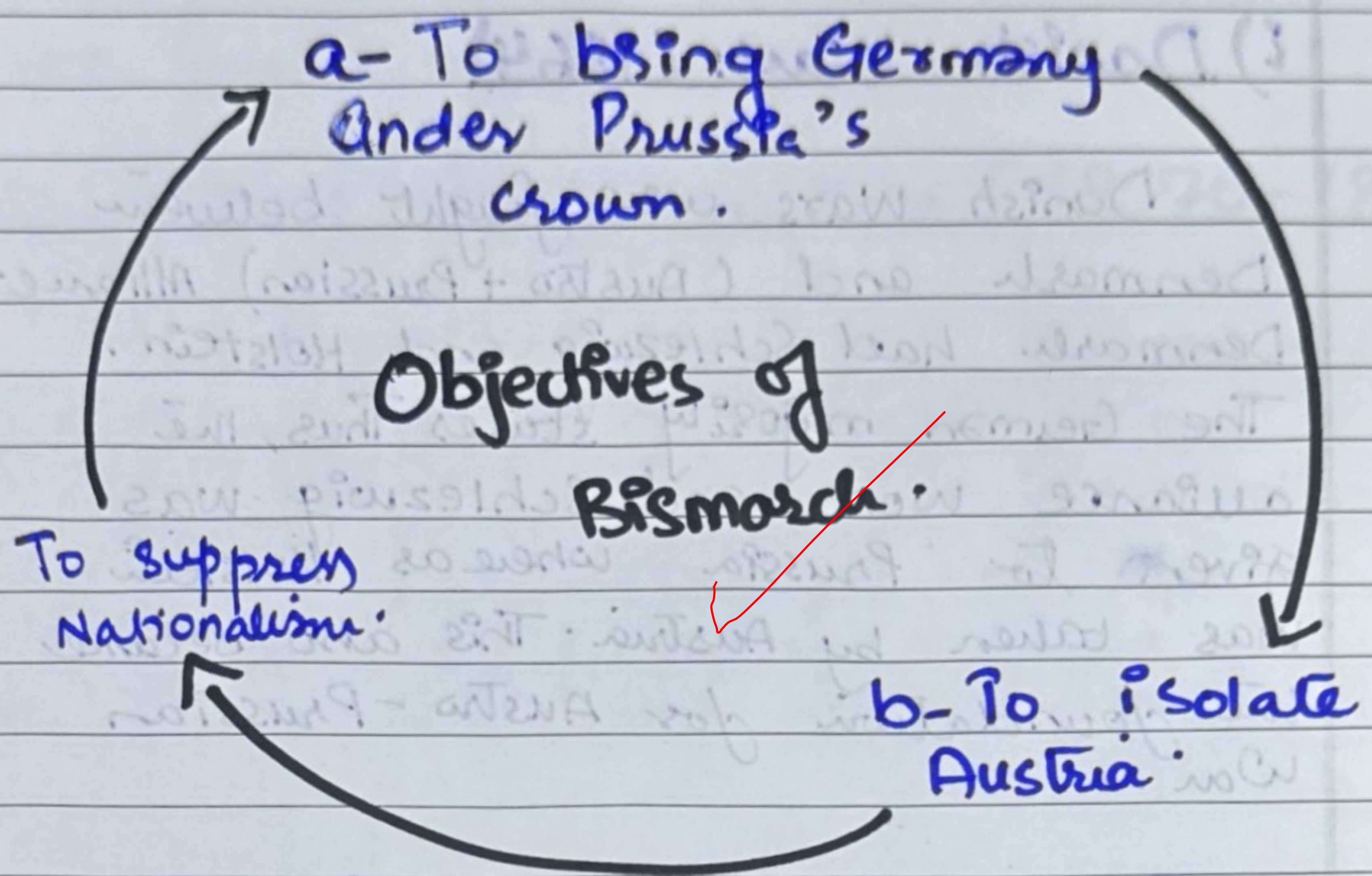
Bismarck, was the first to practice Realpolitik in its true form. There was no room for emotions. His politics was based on three principles:



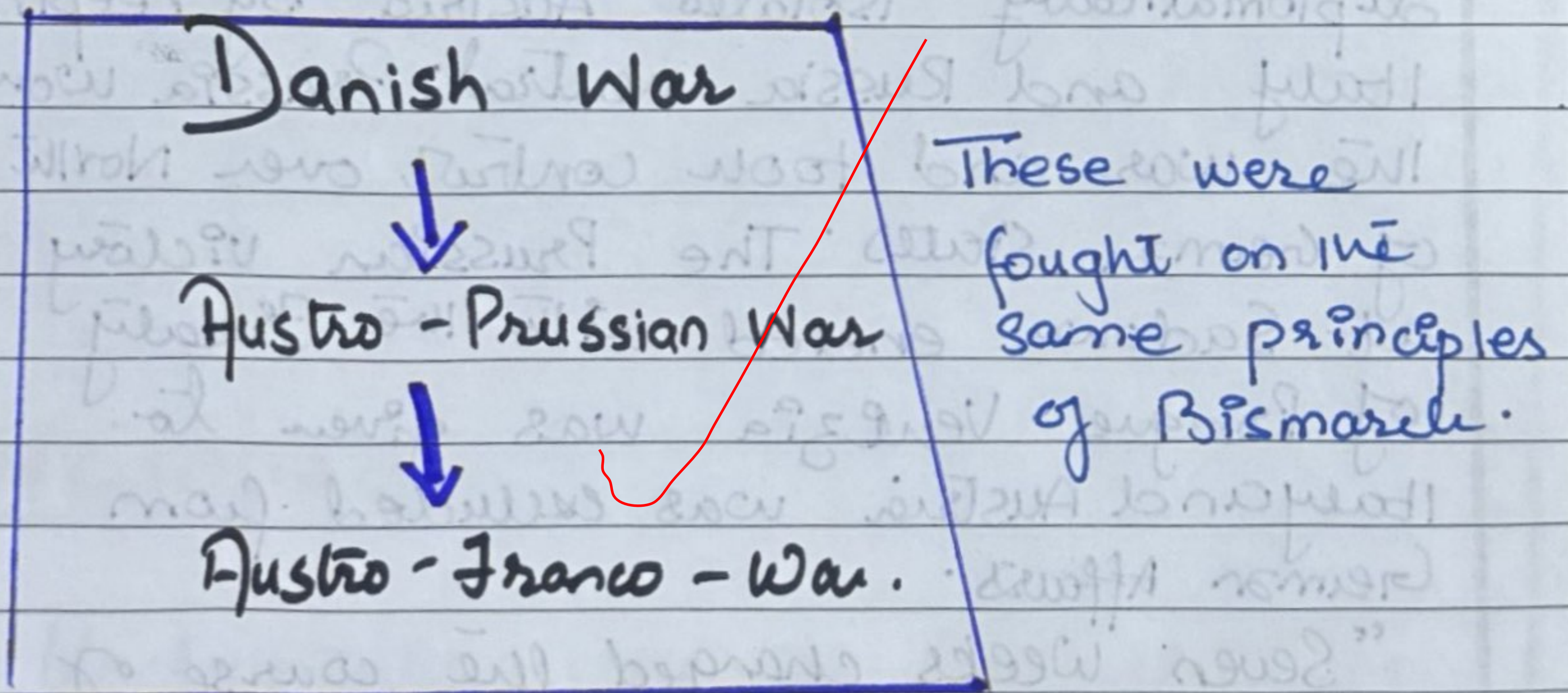
"Germany does not look up to Prussia because of Liberalism, but its power."
- Bismarck.

Bismarck had three main objectives with respect to German confederation.

What were his diplomatic services?



c- The Three Wars to Unify Germany:



i) Danish Wars: (1864)

Danish Wars were fought between Denmark and (Austro + Prussian) Alliance. Denmark had Schleswig and Holstein. The German majority states. Thus, the alliance won and Schleswig was given to Prussia whereas Holstein was taken by Austria. This also became the foundation for Austro-Prussian War.

ii. Austro-Prussian War (1866):

Austro-Prussian War of 1866. Holstein was surrounded by Prussian territory and given to Austria. Bismarck diplomatically isolates Austria by keeping Italy and Russia neutral. Prussia won the war and took control over North of German states. The Prussian victory at Sadowa ended with the Treaty of Prague. Venezia was given to Italy and Austria was excluded from German Affairs.

"Seven Weeks changed the course of Europe"

- Treitschke.

The other name for Austro-Prussian War is the Seven Weeks War.

Resultantly, North German Confederation was formed.

iii- Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871)

In order to gain the Southern Germany, Bismarck persuaded via distorting the EMS telegram to initiate war against Prussia. France fell into the trap and lost ~~doisze~~ - ~~Lorraine~~ as well as the Southern German States.

Karl Marx says,

"Bismarck wove the net in which Napoleon III was caught".

Along with this, France lost and on 18 January 1871 → ~~Treat~~ ~~Mirrors~~ of Palace, Versailles the unification was announced. Completely German Unification.

CONCLUSION:

Undoubtedly, German Confederation was the result of strong Prussia and diplomacy as well as Realpolitik of Bismarck. Thus, Bismarck was given the name of Iron Chancellor. A.J.P Taylor wrote a book - Man and a statesman.