

Q6

Examine Bismarck's role in 19th century German unification, assessing his strategies, key events, and impacts on socio-political landscape within the newly formed German Empire?

1-

Introduction

Otto von Bismarck was a German chancellor. He is considered as the most prominent diplomat of the 19th century. Bismarck is considered as the main architect of the German unification - he unified the scattered German territories under the Prussian leadership through his skillful diplomacy and the Prussian military.

2- Germany before unification

Germany was divided in 39 sovereign territories under the Congress of Vienna 1815. There were liberal and nationalist forces persistently trying to unite the German under a single constitution and a flag.

3- The Role of Bismarck in German unification

Bismarck relied on Prussian military, his diplomacy, and propaganda to unite German.

(a) strategies of Bismarck

Bismarck employed the following strategies to achieve his goal of German unification.

(1) war;

Bismarck achieved his objective of German through wars. He made Prussia and Austria fight against Denmark. Then he allied with Italy and sought French neutrality and fought a war against Austria. Lastly, he provoked France into a war and defeated her. By all these wars he was able to unite different parts of Germany at different times.

(2) Propaganda;

Bismarck was well aware of the influence of media. He was kept the control and was able to display his narrative to people through press. For instance, he altered the Ems Telegram and then published it in

press, and, thus inciting France into war.

(3) Alliances;

Bismarck was reluctant on making alliances to achieve his mission of German mission. He was able to make an alliance with Austria against Denmark. Then made an alliance with Italy and achieved French neutrality against Austria. At last, he was able to gain Austrian and Russian and Italian friendship against France.

(4) Events of German unification

(i) war against Denmark

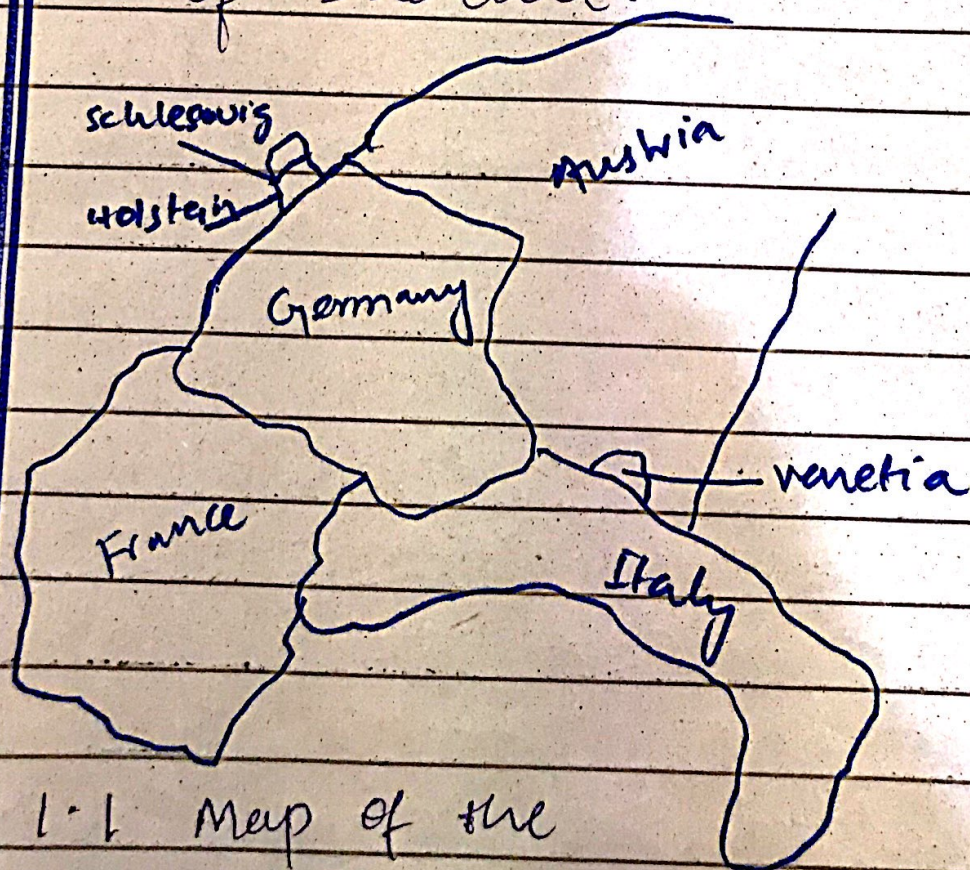
Bismarck made an alliance with Austria to annul

the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein after the Danish king violation of London Protocol which prevented the accession of the duchies to Denmark. Prussia and Austria declared war and annexed the duchies.

(2) Austro-Prussian war

After the annexation of the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein it was decided that Prussia will get Schleswig and Austria will receive Holstein. However, Holstein was surrounded by Prussian territory which made it difficult for Austria to govern, so it demanded the restoration of both the duchies to the Duke of Augustenburg.

Prussia alleged Austria of doing propaganda against it. Bismarck sought the french neutrality in case of war with Austria. He made Italy into alliance in war against Austria, so to, make her fight on two fronts. Thus, Prussia annexed Holstein and Austria declared war on Prussia. However, she was defeated at the battle of Sadowa.

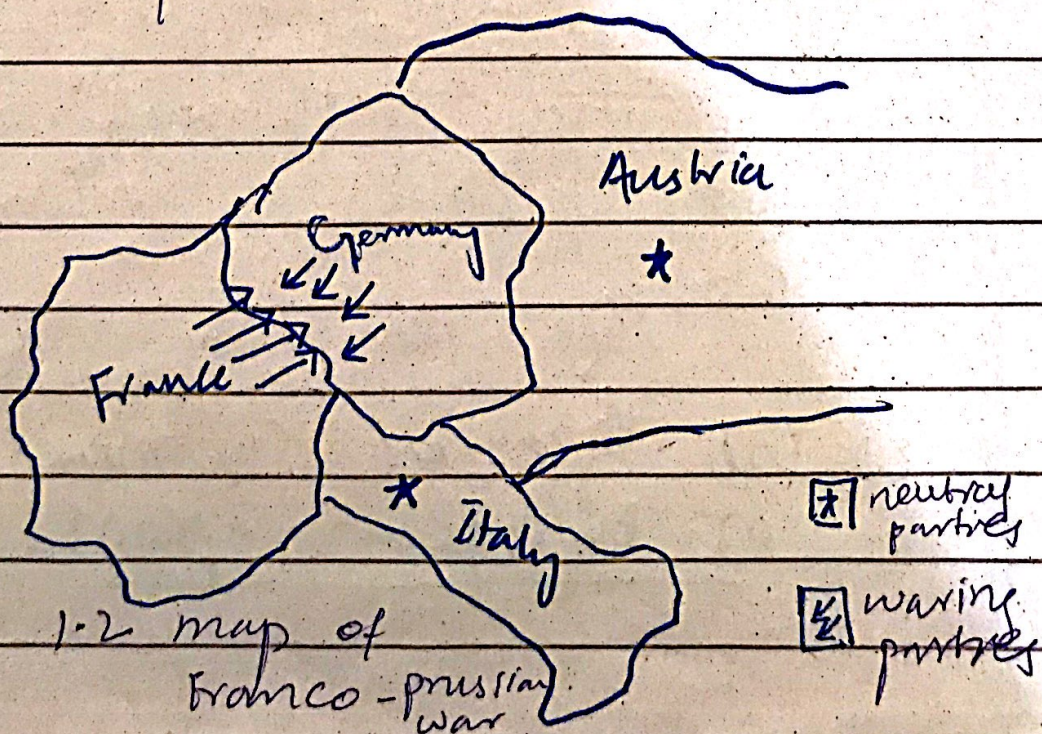


1-1 Map of the warring parties

(iii) Franco-Prussia war

Bismarck unified Germany after the Franco-Prussian war - He made achieved Austrian and Russian neutrality in war against France. Moreover,

Bismarck involved France into war by humiliating Ems telegram. France was defeated at Sedan and thus, Bismarck by completing his mission of unifying Germany through the merger of the confederation of the north and south.



5- Impacts on socio-political landscape of Germany.

(a) A unified German nation

The unification unified the German nation which on a persistent quest of this goal after the Vienna settlement and the Erfurt union which failed to unite them.

(b) Exclusion of Austria From German affairs

The unification excluded Austria from German affairs. Austria was made president of the German diet after the Vienna settlement 1815. It was against a unified Germany.

(c) The Rise of Germans in European affairs:

From onward 1870, Germany rose as eminent player in shaping the affairs of Europe. It played a leadership role in Congress of Berlin 1878. Germany indulged in a complex system of alliances to balance the power in Europe.

6- Conclusion

Bismarck played an important role in German unification. He went into wars and alliances to attain his sacred mission. Bismarck used his skilful diplomacy and played rivals against each other to preserve the status quo of German empire after unification.

Here is the great thing you can add the impacts of Bismarck such as counter alliances to preserve the status quo.

1- Introduction

Prince Metternich was an Austrian chancellor, who is great known for his diplomacy. He was the principal actor behind the fall of Napoleon and steering European affairs after it till 1848. Metternich restored monarchies across Europe. He thought the restoring the old systems of monarchy was a principal way of restoring peace in Europe. Furthermore, Metternich also crushed liberal and nationalist revolution in Europe. He considered revolution a "disease" that needs to be cured before its spread.

②

2- Metternich and the principle of legitimacy

The restoration of monarchies across Europe was actually the idea of Talleyrand, although Metternich liked it a lot and supported it.

(a) French Monarchy

After the French revolution, the Bourbon monarchy under Louis XVI was ousted. However, the Congress of Vienna after the fall of Napoleon, restored the Bourbon monarchy under Louis XVIII.

(b) Spanish Monarchy

In 1815, the Spanish monarchy was restored and Ferdinand VII was made the Spanish king. Despite his

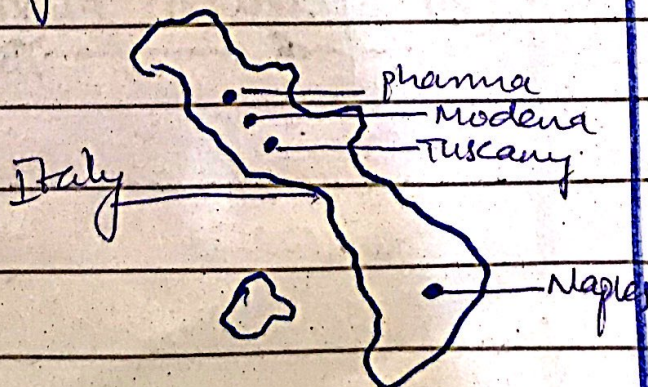
⑧

bad image among the Spanish people, he was made monarch and Metternich supported it

(c) Italian Monarchy

The Napoleon had installed Marat as the monarch of Naples. At the Congress of Vienna, Ferdinand I was made the monarch of Naples, who was also infamous among the people.

Furthermore, Metternich also plotted monarchs in Parma, Modena and Tuscany, those who had ties with the Austrian royal family.



3- Metternich and his reactionary policy in Europe

Metternich was against revolutions and thus crafted a policy, in the congress of Vienna and in the congresses that followed, which meant to counter the revolutionary ideas and the forces perpetuating those ideas. He, therefore, took actions to crush liberal and Nationalist revolutions in Europe.

(1) Revolution in Europe

In 1820, a revolution erupted in Naples to which Metternich, in coalition with other great powers (Russia and Prussia), responded by sending Austrian troops. The revolution in Naples was

①

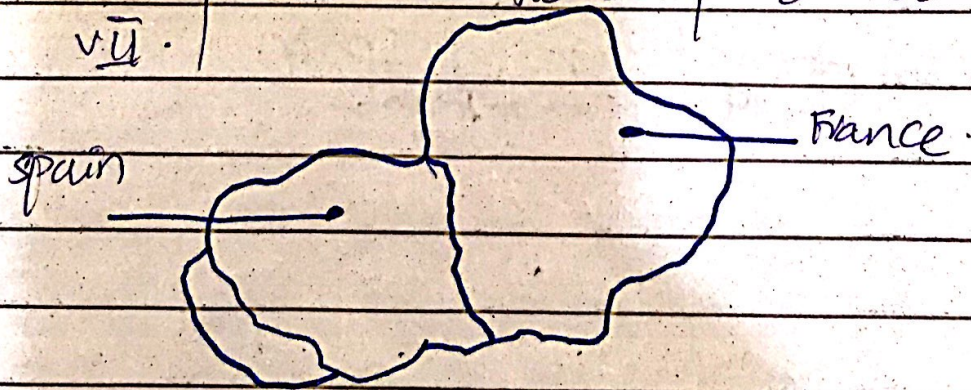
crushed and Ferdinand - I was restored with absolute authority. Another revolution arose in Piedmont. Austrian troops, on their way back, crushed the Piedmontese revolution, too. And, thus, Metternich encouraged his reactionary policies.



(2) Revolution in Spain

Ferdinand VII, who was restored after the Congress of Vienna 1815, cancelled the Spanish Liberal Constitution, ~~in 1812~~ which was promulgated in 1812. As a result, a revolution ousted him from the Spanish throne. Charles

①
Alexandre of Russia urged to ~~send~~ Russian troops to crush the revolution. Although, Castlereagh and Metternich feared Russian troops passing through the centre of Europe, mandated France with the task of suppressing the revolution. The ultra royalist in France hated the revolution and, thus, the French government had the support to crush the revolution in Spain to restore Ferdinand VII.



③ Revolution in Germany

The July revolution in France, also caused a

(3)
revolution in Germany which Metternich was able to crush through Austrian forces. He maintained censorship on press in Germany, kept control on universities and suppressed secret societies, so that, the possibilities of revolutions diminish.

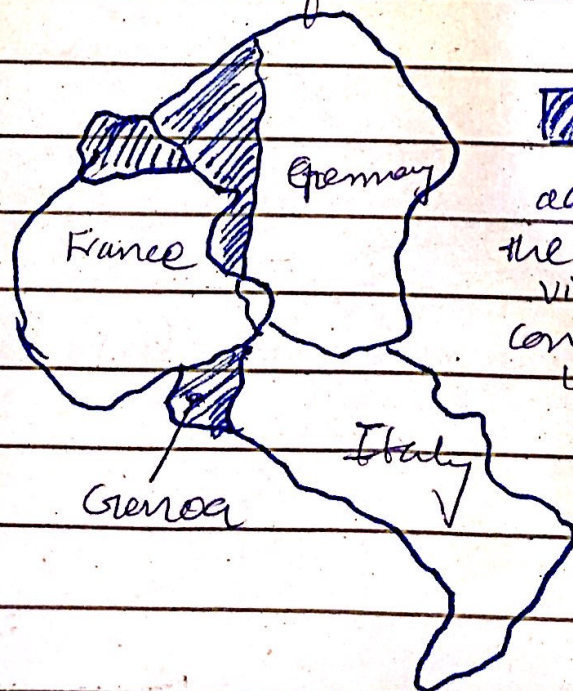
(4) Metternich and the Austrian policy

Metternich pursued a reactionary policy in Austria. He censored and sanctioned newspapers, books and foreign travels. Austria was, somewhat, kept segregated to avoid ~~the~~ catching the effects of revolutionary ideas of Europe.

(5) Metternich and the surrounding of France

Metternich was of the opinion that when, "France sneezes, the whole of Europe catches cold." For that reason, Metternich designed a buffer zone of states around France to prevent any future French aggression.

He sought to combine Holland and Belgium to create a strong state on the north of France. Rhineland was given to Prussia and Genoa to Piedmont.



 Territorial adjustment at the congress of Vienna to contain France, 1815

⑨

Conclusion

Metternich was the main person behind the plotting in Europe after the fall of Napoleon. He was able to make Austria a leader of European affairs. He managed to restore peace in Europe for almost 40 years by crushing revolutions and restoring monarchs according to the principle of legitimacy. However, he was not fully successful in uprooting revolutionary ideals which in 1848 caused Metternich to flee.