

Question:

Evaluate the <sup>in</sup>terested strength of Prussia combined with Bismarck's political skills to achieve German unification.

## Introduction

The German empire was built on "coal and iron" that "blood and iron".

The 19th century European history witnessed a unification of Germany. Germany was under the protection



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of Austria after congress of Vienna. But the advantageous territorial arrangement of Prussia through congress of Vienna and diplomatic strategies of Bismarck led to unification of Germany. Bismarck initiated internal reforms and embarked on skillful diplomacy of isolating enemy and waging war. This led to unification of Eastern and Western Germany with very less blood shed.

## Inherited strength of Prussia:

Territorial arrangement  
by congress of Vienna

Territory  
Manpower  
Leadership  
Trade and Zollverein  
Geography

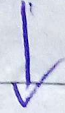
↓  
Prussia acquired Rhine Province and  
lost Poland ↓  
Prussia become more German with  
more German territory.



Austria acquired more Italian states



Prussia got strong control over German states, although these were under Austrian control.



Reduction of German states from 300 to 39 made unification easy.

Formation of Zollverein

Prussia consisted of provinces, scattered around Germany. Each province had her own tariff laws.

To reduce internal custom duties, Zollverein system unified economic system of German states. Zollverein system formed import duties were zero. large number of Eastern Germany states became part of Zollverein system to avoid high taxes.



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## Role of Bismarck in unification:

Bismarck was appointed as the chancellor of Prussia. He believed to unify Germany through Blood, sword, Iron. Based on this he introduced internal reforms.

### Military reforms:

Bismarck believed that strong military was the prerequisite for unification as Austria would not surrender her Guardianship without war. He reformed military, increase weapons, training, recruitment of troops.

### Economic reforms:

Bismarck strengthened industries to provide economic resources and was material to military. transportation was improved for industries.



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### Diplomatic isolation:

Bismarck developed diplomatic isolation strategy for enemies. It was impossible for Prussia to fight all enemies in combine, so, Bismarck first isolate enemy and then provoke him into war.

### Prussian-Danish war and Bismarck strategy:

Bismarck, after developing strong army, declared for protest of war with Austria. It comes through problem with Denmark as it tried to annex German states Schleswig and Holstein. Prussia along with Austria declared war and after the defeat of Denmark they divided both states.

Bismarck deliberately gave Holstein to Austria to use



it pretext of war in future.

### Austro-Prussian War:

Bismarck deliberately accused Austria of suppressing Germans in Holstein, invaded and annexed that state. Austria was highly influenced they declared war on Prussia and defeated owing strong military of Prussia.

### Bismarck strategically annexed North and South ~~Germany~~:

After compelling Austria, Bismarck unified whole Germany and become new chancellor. Communication and foreign policy of German states were in the hands of Prussia.

After French, he annexed Alsace-Lorraine into Germany.



## Conclusion

Bismarck is remembered as great hero in German history.

He developed skillful political acumen and strategies to unify whole Germany by defeating Austrians and later on French empire.

Along with his strategies the territorial arrangement granted to Prussia after Congress of Vienna also played effective role in the unification process of Germany.

Map is missing