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Chapter 22: Nationalism Triumphs in Europe (1800–1914)

1. **Building a German Nation**
2. **Germany Strengthens**
3. **Unifying Italy**
4. **Nationalism Threatens Old Empires**

Chapter Focus Question: What effects did nationalism and the demand for reform have in Europe?

22.1: Building a German Nation

Key Analysis Questions:

1. How did events in the early 1800s, from Napoleon to the Frankfurt Assembly, lay the groundwork for German nationalism, and why did they ultimately fail to achieve unification?
2. Analyze Otto von Bismarck's strategy of **Realpolitik**. How did his use of "blood and iron," military strength, and calculated diplomacy (in the Danish, Austro-Prussian, and Franco-Prussian Wars) succeed where liberal, idealistic methods had not?
3. Explain the political structure of the new German Empire (the Second Reich). Why did this system, drafted by Bismarck, concentrate real power in the hands of the Kaiser and Chancellor despite having an elected parliament?

Key Terms and Notes:

- **Nationalism** became a dominant force, shifting power dynamics in Europe.

- **Napoleon's invasions** (1806-1812) dismantled the Holy Roman Empire and sparked the first widespread German nationalist sentiment.
- The **Congress of Vienna (1815)** created the **German Confederation**, a weak alliance of 39 states dominated by Austria, which maintained the idea of unity without achieving it.
- The **Zollverein (1834)**, an economic union engineered by Prussia, promoted **economic unity** by removing internal tariffs.
- The **Frankfurt Assembly (1848)** represented a liberal, "bottom-up" approach to unification, which failed when Prussian King **Frederick William IV** rejected a crown offered by "the people."
- **Otto von Bismarck**, as Prime Minister (and later Chancellor) of Prussia, pursued unification through **Realpolitik**—practical, power-based politics.
- His "**blood and iron**" speech outlined his belief that unity would be achieved through **military force**, not speeches.
- Bismarck strengthened the Prussian army without a legal budget and engineered three strategic wars:
 - **Danish War (1864)**: Allied with Austria to seize Schleswig and Holstein.
 - **Austro-Prussian War (1866)**: Quickly defeated Austria, dissolved the old German Confederation, and created a Prussian-dominated **North German Confederation**.
 - **Franco-Prussian War (1870-71)**: Manipulated the **Ems Telegram** to provoke France into war. Victory over France inspired southern German states to join the north.
- In January 1871, at Versailles, **William I of Prussia** was proclaimed **Kaiser** (Emperor) of the **Second Reich**.
- The new constitution created a two-house legislature:
 - **Bundesrat (Upper House)**: Appointed by state rulers; could veto the lower house.
 - **Reichstag (Lower House)**: Elected by universal male suffrage, but held limited power.
- **Real power** remained firmly with the **Kaiser** and the **Chancellor** (Bismarck).

22.2: Germany Strengthens

Key Analysis Questions:

1. What combination of factors (natural, social, and governmental) allowed Germany to become the industrial giant of continental Europe after 1871?
2. Why was Bismarck called the "Iron Chancellor"? Analyze the motives and outcomes of his two major domestic campaigns: the **Kulturkampf** against Catholics and his repression then co-option of socialists through **social welfare** laws.
3. Compare and contrast the leadership styles and policies of Bismarck and Kaiser **William II**. How did William II's worldview and actions (e.g., forcing Bismarck's resignation, *Weltpolitik*) contribute to rising tensions in Europe?

Key Terms and Notes:

- Germany rapidly industrialized due to ample **coal and iron**, a disciplined and educated workforce, a growing population, and strong government support for **applied science** and infrastructure (railroads, banking, tariffs).
- Firms like **Krupp** (steel/arms) and **Zeiss** (optics) became global leaders.
- As the "**Iron Chancellor**," Bismarck pursued tough domestic policies:
 - **Kulturkampf** ("culture struggle"): A failed campaign to reduce the influence of the Catholic Church and make Catholics loyal to the state first. It backfired, strengthening Catholic political opposition.
 - **Campaign Against Socialists**: After outlawing the **Social Democratic Party**, Bismarck introduced pioneering **social welfare** laws (health, accident, old-age insurance) to win worker loyalty away from socialism. This made Germany a model for social reform.
- **Kaiser William II** believed in **divine right** and personal rule. He forced Bismarck to resign in **1890**.
- William II continued social welfare but resisted democracy. He pursued an aggressive foreign policy (**Weltpolitik**), building a large navy and seeking an overseas empire, which heightened European rivalries.

22.3: Unifying Italy

Key Analysis Questions:

1. What were the major obstacles to Italian unification, including geographic, political, and foreign factors?
2. Compare the roles of **Count Camillo Cavour** and **Giuseppe Garibaldi** in the unification process. How did Cavour's pragmatic **Realpolitik** and diplomacy complement Garibaldi's popular revolutionary nationalism?
3. Despite achieving political unity by 1870, Italy faced severe challenges as a new nation. Analyze the persistent divisions (North vs. South, state vs. Church), social problems, and economic weaknesses that plagued the kingdom.

Key Terms and Notes:

- Obstacles included strong **regional identities** (e.g., Venetians, Neapolitans), **foreign control** (Austria in north, Bourbons in south, French in Rome), and opposition from the **Pope**.
- Early nationalist **Giuseppe Mazzini** founded "**Young Italy**" and inspired sentiment but failed to achieve revolution.
- **Count Camillo Cavour**, Prime Minister of **Sardinia-Piedmont**, was the pragmatic architect of unification. He used **Realpolitik**, economic reforms, and a strategic alliance with **France (Napoleon III)** to defeat Austria and annex northern Italian states (1859-1860).
- **Giuseppe Garibaldi**, a nationalist revolutionary, led the "**Red Shirts**" to conquer Sicily and Naples in the south (1860). He then turned over his conquests to **King Victor Emmanuel II** of Sardinia to avoid civil war.
- The **Kingdom of Italy** was proclaimed in **1861** under Victor Emmanuel II. **Venetia** was added in 1866, and **Rome** was annexed in 1870, completing unification.
- Post-unification challenges:
 - The **Great Divide** between the industrial North and poor, agricultural South.
 - Hostility with the **Catholic Church** (the Pope was a "prisoner in the Vatican").
 - Political unrest from **socialists** and **anarchists**, limited suffrage, and corruption.
 - Widespread poverty led to mass **emigration**.

22.4: Nationalism Threatens Old Empires

Key Analysis Questions:

1. How did rising **nationalism** among its many subject ethnic groups act as a centrifugal force, weakening the Austrian (Hapsburg) Empire from within? Why did the **Dual Monarchy** compromise with Hungary fail to solve this problem?
2. Explain why the Ottoman Empire was called the "**Sick Man of Europe**." How did the combined forces of internal **Balkan nationalism** and external interference by European Great Powers lead to its disintegration?
3. Analyze why the Balkans became known as the "**Powder Keg of Europe**" in the early 1900s. How did the specific ethnic conflicts and great power rivalries in this region make a major war almost inevitable?

Key Terms and Notes:

- The **Austrian (Hapsburg) Empire** was a **multinational empire** containing Germans, Hungarians, Slavs (Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Croats, Serbs), and Italians, all with growing nationalist aspirations.
- After military defeats, Emperor **Francis Joseph** agreed to the **Ausgleich (Compromise) of 1867**, creating the **Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary**.
 - This gave Hungary self-rule but angered other ethnic groups, especially **Slavic peoples**, whose demands were ignored.
- The **Ottoman Empire** was also a crumbling multinational empire. In Europe, it ruled over various Christian Slavic and Balkan peoples (**Serbs, Greeks, Bulgarians, Romanians**).
- **Balkan nationalism** led to repeated revolts and wars for independence throughout the 1800s.
- European powers (Russia, Austria-Hungary, Britain, France) saw the Ottomans as the "**Sick Man of Europe**" and competed to claim its territories, a process known as the "**Eastern Question**."
- This toxic mix—intense **Balkan nationalism**, the crumbling Ottoman state, and **competing imperial interests** of the Great Powers—made the region a "**Balkan Powder Keg**."

- The **assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand** in **Sarajevo** in 1914, a direct result of these tensions, ignited **World War I**.