**Unification of Italy and Germany**

**Unification of Italy**

   - Italy was divided into the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia (or just Sardinia, independent), Venetia (under Austria-Hungary), the Papal States, the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (independent), and other states (Lombardy, Parma, Modena, and Tuscany).

- Rome becomes a republic under the leadership of Giuseppe Mazzini, who had ambitions for unifying Italy but was imprisoned immediately for it.

- Napoleon III (from France) uses peace after Crimean War to modernize Paris

   - Camillo di Cavour (from the independent kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia) aimed to form a unified Italian state

   - Napoleon III saw advantages, so he allied with Cavour to win against Austria, which was controlling a northeastern part of Italy

   - Napoleon wanted Cavour to take control of Austrian Venetia, France will have the Papal States, and the Pope rules all of Italy as one.

   - Italians in the Papal States didn't want to be French, which reached Giuseppe Garibaldi (allied with Cavour), who gathered thousands of volunteers (Young Italy) and sailed to Sicily, in order to conquer Italy from the south.

   - Garibaldi's forces marched through the Italian Peninsula until meeting with forces in Piedmont, creating the Kingdom of Italy. But Italy still doesn't have Venetia (occupied by Austria-Hungary) and Rome (with French troops)

   - In the Austro-Prussian War, Italy is allied with Prussia. So when Austria-Hungary lost the war, Italy takes Venetia.

   - In the Franco-Prussian War, France's troops in Rome had to return to fight in the war. Italy took the opportunity to march into Rome.

- Garibaldi decides to give Italy to King Victor Emmanuel II, who becomes the first king of Italy.

   - San Marino (respected by Garibaldi) and the Vatican (residence of the Pope) are not part of Italy to this day.

**Unification of Germany**

   - Otto von Bismarck mastered realpolitik (realism in politics, where leadership and political actions are no longer from and for God, but only to finish actual business), with an ultimate ambition to be a major player in German politics.

   - Bismarck became the Prussian delegate whenever German states assemble, and was Prussian ambassador to Russia

   - Bismarck wanted some reforms in the military since Prussia is dedicated with modernizing its military, but William I refused, and Bismarck promised not to budge in about it.

   - Bismarck wanted to support Prussian king William I, because he was strongly in favor of unifying Germany under a king.

   - The main question for a few decades: Is Germany's leader Austria or Prussia? Bismarck supporting William was his key to promoting Prussia for Germany.

   - Bismarck persuaded Austria to join forces with Prussia against Denmark to conquer the cities of Schleswig and Holstein. They won (Second Schleswig War), and Prussia got Schleswig, and Austria got Holstein. But then, Schleswig-Holstein was fought over once more, this time between Austria and Prussia (Austro-Prussian War / Seven Weeks' War). Because of its modernized military, Prussia was able to take control of both Schleswig-Holstein.

   - After the victory, William I wanted to conquer more, but Bismarck persuaded him to consolidate first, as Prussia is now the leading German nation.

   - Bismarck drew the northern German kingdoms and states to form the Northern German Confederation, but still wanted the other states and kingdoms like Bavaria resisting Prussia to join them as well.

   - In order to do this, Bismarck planned to take advantage of mass media and newspapers. In a battle over Luxembourg, whether a French or a Prussian person would lead it, Bismarck insulted the French saying they were "loudmouthed and violent". This angered France, who declared war on Prussia, and then France got defeated (Franco-Prussian War). Because of this act, Bavaria and other minor states joined Prussia, and the German Empire was declared in the Hall of Versailles.

   - But that's not it, Bismarck needed to unify Germany culturally as well. To do that, he used negative integration (the act of unifying a group of people against certain categories, creating outcasts). He planned to do it against Catholicism, forming a fully anti-Catholic Germany, but even Protestants were raged by it. So, he decided to use it against social democrats, or socialists.

   - Bismarck also made the first social welfare programs in the West, which became crucial for Germany's economy.