

France alone remained to be dealt with. France had been the traditional enemy of German unity. Moreover, France took alarm at this sudden revelation of Prussian power and she was further alarmed at the prospect of a strong and united Germany as her neighbour. After the unity of Germany had been partially achieved, Bismark thought that 'a war with France lay in the logic of history' because such a war would unify Germany for a national cause. He endeavoured to diplomatically isolate France.

A war with France was a matter of necessity

After the Austro-Prussian War, Austria had been very sympathetically treated. So, the neutrality of Austria was achieved easily. Russian sympathy and neutrality was secured by encouraging her to violate the Black Sea Clauses of the Treaty of Paris, 1856. Italy was tempted with the prospect of the city of Rome. In this way, France was isolated and made friendless.

Austria and Russia neutralised

With the emergence of a strong Prussia, the glory of France had been on the wane. The French Emperor Napoleon III had been very unpopular because he had not intervened in the Austro-Prussian War. Napoleon III had thought that the war would be a long drawn one and when both sides would be tired, he would intervene. But the very small time within which the Austro-Prussian War came to a close made all his calculations wrong. That is why it had been said that 'it was France who was defeated at Sadowa'. The French Emperor took alarm at his increasing unpopularity. He wanted to do something to save his position. So he demanded from

The dilemma of Napoleon III—his critical position

Bismark as compensation for his neutrality in the Austro-Prussian War, the land which Bismarck vaguely promised. He did not make it clear as to his demands—sometimes he wanted land in Rhineland—sometimes in Belgium.

Napoleon's  
demands made  
public

This demand was made public by Bismark. Europe was alarmed because they thought that another era of French aggression was being inaugurated. The South German states became enraged when they heard that Napoleon demanded German territory as compensation and joined hands with Prussia against France.

The question of Spanish Succession led to war. Bismark made very ingenious use of this issue. Thus war broke out. This war is known as the

Franco-Prussian  
War

the first time in centuries, a German army had marched out of Germany to fight a hereditary enemy and Sedan witnessed the 'greatest military debacle' since Waterloo. And with

Unification  
accomplished

the outbreak and completion of this war the Unification of Germany had been accomplished.

### Questions

I. Discuss the political condition of Italy as settled by the Vienna Congress.

(A geographical entity only—divided into small states—the rulers reactionary—Austria dominated central Italy—Pope dominated Rome—the kingdoms of Sicily and Naples—only really independent kingdom was Sardinia Piedmont.)

2. Narrate the part played by Mazzini, Garibaldi, Cavour and Victor Emanuel II in bringing about the Unification of Italy.

(Mazzini—the Prophet ; Garibaldi—the Sword ; Cavour—the statesman ; King Victor Emanuel II guided the movement at moments of grave crisis.)

3. Trace the story of Unification of Italy.

(Movements of 1820, 1832 and 1848 and failure ; Cavour's diplomacy—joined the Crimean War, made friendship with Napoleon III—secured French help—made war on Austria—Peace of Villafranca—acquisition of Lombardy by Sardinia—the first step to unification. Spontaneous movement in central Italy, plebiscite and merger with Sardinia—the second big step ; revolt in Sicily and Naples—march of Garibaldi—capture of Naples and Sicily, march towards the papal states—the march of King Victor Emanuel against the papal states—plebiscite taken in papal states and in Sicily and Naples—merger with Sardinia—the unification is nearly accomplished ; only Rome and Venetia remained—the story of their capture and completion of Unification of Italy.)

4. "No cause was more blessed in leaders of devoted patriotism and of excellent though dissimilar parts than that of Italian Resorgimento."—Discuss.

5. Narrate the political condition of Germany after the Vienna Settlement.

6. Discuss the attempts made by the German nationalists to bring about the unification of Germany upto 1850.

7. Discuss the policy of Bismark and narrate how he brought about the unification of Germany.

(Bismark—his policy of 'blood and iron'—his idea of making Prussia militarily strong—of merging Germany in Prussia—organised a strong militia against the opposition of the Prussian

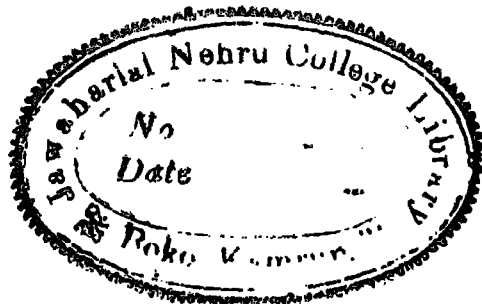
Parliament ;—the war with Denmark, war with Austria—Austria driven out of Germany—war with France ;—German Unification accomplished )

8. Write short comments on the following :

- (a) Policy of "Blood and Iron".
- (b) "Germany is too small for both Prussia and Austria."
- (c) "It was France that was defeated in Sadowa."
- (d) "A war with France lay in the logic of history."
- (e) "Sedan is the greatest military debacle since Waterloo—"
- (f) "The die is cast and we have made history." (Oavour)

9. Write short notes on the following :

- (a) The Crimean War. (b) The Revolt in Sicily. (c) The Zollverein. (d) The Frankfurt Parliament. (e) The Scheleswig and Holstein question. (f) Austro-Prussian War. (g) Franco-Prussian War.



# CHAPTER VII

## THE EASTERN QUESTION AND THE BERLIN CONGRESS

### Introduction

When the Muslim conquerors captured the city of Constantinople in 1453, they secured a foothold in Europe

They had been trying for a long time to enter Europe and in 1453 their efforts became crowned with success with the fall of Constantinople. Thereafter, the Turkish Muslims established a vast empire in South-East Europe embracing Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Rumania, etc. They ruled their empire with vigour for a long time and they showed signs of decadence during the 17th century. The causes

of this decadence were the growing consciousness of nations included within the Ottoman Empire, the lack of powerful personalities among the Ottoman Emperors and the corruption and defects that had vitiated the administrative machinery.

Towards the 17th century, Russia, the vast country of Europe began to rise in power. Under the leadership of her great king Peter the Great, a great many reforms in internal affairs were introduced. Uptil now, standard of Russian civilization was backward in comparison with that of western Europe and though a European power, she was considered Asian for her geographical position. Peter the Great tried to improve the standard of Russian civilization

Muslim conquest  
of Constantinople

Weakness of  
Turkey

Awakening of  
Russia

and he introduced a new foreign policy in order to make Russia strong. Russia had hitherto no port, which remained ice-free throughout the year. Such an ice-free port either in the Baltic or in the Black Sea region became the key-note of new Russian foreign policy. Peter the Great followed this policy and secured important acquisitions in the Baltic area at the cost of Sweden. After Peter the Great, Tsarina Catherine defeated Turkey and captured Ukraine and Azov. The trend in the Russian policy was to move towards the Black Sea and at the cost of Turkish territory.

The Tsar Peter  
the Great

New Foreign  
Policy of Russia

The weakness of Turkey and the Russian conquest of Turkish territory and the advent of Russia towards the Black

Weakness of  
Turkey and  
aggression of  
Russia

Sea created serious political questions. This situation wanted to destroy the Balance of Power. The problem that was created by the weakness of Turkey and the aggression of Russia has been known in history as the Eastern Question. The Eastern Question was created due to several factors, namely—the weakness of Turkey, the advent of

The Eastern  
Question and the  
four problems  
associated with it

Russia at the cost of Turkey, the national ferment within the Turkish Empire and the question of Balance of Power in Europe. The Eastern Question was of much importance to England because she had taken alarm at the rapidity with which Russia was advancing towards the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. So, in order to check the progress of Russia, England's policy towards Turkey was to maintain the integrity of Turkish Empire.

One of the serious issues associated with the Eastern question was the national awakening among the states

included in the Turkish Empire. In Greece, the national movement made great progress and the independence of Greece was secured in 1829. Greece was the cradle of a very ancient civilization and the sympathy of the whole of Europe was attracted towards her when she tried to secure independence. In this connection, Europe took notice of the sister Christian nations that were suffering under the misrule and oppression of the Turkish government.

Nationalist  
movement in  
Greece

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the autocratic European kings had been busy in suppressing the liberal movements within their empires. In addition to that they were at war with each other to preserve the interest of their trade and commerce and for the extension of their empire. The Crimean War was such a war. Russian advent had created tense relations between Russia and England. The policy of Russia was to swallow as much of the Turkish territory as was possible and the English policy was to check it as much as possible and to preserve the integrity of the Turkish Empire. Towards the middle of the 19th century, Nicholas I had been the Tsar of Russia. He had been able to increase the power and prestige of Russia by helping to suppress the liberal movements in different countries. England and France took alarm at this increase of Russia's power and influence. Especially England became alarmed because the imperialism of Russia was threatening England's interest in the East. Under these circumstances, war broke out between England and France on one side and Russia on the other over the question of the Christians in Palestine.

Opposing policy  
of Russia and  
England towards  
Turkey

English interest  
threatened

## The Crimean War, 1854-56

The Christian monks in Palestine had been divided into the Greek Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

They were sharply divided over the question of priority in ceremonial affairs.

Dispute among the  
Christian monks  
in Palestine

The French Emperor Napoleon III upheld the causes of the Roman Catholics while the causes of the Greek Church were upheld by Tsar Nicholas I. The Tsar also demanded that all the Christians

belonging to the Greek Church within the Turkish Empire were to be placed under the protection of Russia and priority in every respect to be given in Palestine to the monks belonging to the Greek Church. To press his demands and to force Turkey into acceptance, Russia occupied the kingdoms of Wallachia and Moldavia. So, war between Turkey and Russia broke out. France took the side of Turkey because she wanted to safeguard the cause of

Russia and France  
took up opposite  
interests

the monks of the Roman Catholic Church and England joined France and Turkey because her policy was to maintain the territorial integrity of Turkey. This war is famous in history as Crimean War (1854-56). The war is important in European history because Count Cavour, the Sardinian Prime Minister joined the side of France and

Crimean War  
broke out

England and laid the foundation of the future Italian unity. The war is important for two other events—for the famous but ineffective charge of the Light Brigade and the services done to the wounded soldiers by the kind-hearted Miss Florence Nightingale ('The Lady with the Lamp'). Russia was

Light Brigade,  
Florence  
Nightingale

Russia was



decisively defeated in this war and peace was concluded between the belligerents by the Treaty of Paris, 1856. The provisions of this treaty contained some very stringent clauses against Russia. By this treaty, the advance of Russia towards the Black Sea was checked and the Turkish Empire was saved from immediate disaster.

Treaty of  
Paris, 1856

The assembled European diplomats at Paris could not understand that the end of Turkish Empire was inevitable and that nothing could save it. With great unwisdom, they tried to preserve its territorial integrity. But this effort became fruitless and many of the provisions of the Treaty of Paris were violated within a very short time.

The failure of the  
diplomats  
in Paris

The Turkish Emperor had promised to make some reforms in his territory but he did not keep his promise. The kingdoms of Wallachia and Moldavia became united in 1861 and the state of Roumania was created. Tsar Alexander II conducted some reforms in the internal affairs of Russia after her defeat in this war. For the developments in many respects, the Crimean War is said to be the watershed in European history.

The watershed on  
European history

The Sultan of Turkey had promised that he would reform the administration in such a way as to allow better treatment to the Christians in his empire; but he did not keep his promise. Moreover, national movement and unrest had continued in the Balkans. The demands of the nationalists were for the fulfilment of the right of self-determination, good government and national states. After 1871, Serbia became

Unrest in  
Balkan

virtually independent of Turkey. Three countries thus became independent. They were Greece, Serbia and Roumania. Their independence inspired the Balkan people most of whom were Slavs. Since Russian people belong to the same race, Russia had natural sympathy for the aspiration of the Balkan people. The instigations of Russia, the ferment of nationalism etc. created serious complications in the Balkan Politics.

A peasant revolt broke out in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1875. Without thinking of the promise of good behaviour to Christian subjects and ignoring the notes of warning of the European powers, the Sultan of Turkey tried to suppress the revolt with savage barbarity. The revolt which was threatening to spread like wildfire in the Balkans was suppressed. But the barbarity which the Turkish Government committed evoked vehement protests from people of Europe.

Though Gladstone, the great Liberal leader, thundered in the British Parliament, 'to drive the Porte bag and baggage' nothing was done by Prime Minister Disraeli. England did not intervene but Russia did. On the pretext of Turkish misdeeds on Christian people of Bulgaria, Russia declared war on Turkey, badly defeated her and forced on her the treaty of San Stefano, 1877. The treaty of San Stefano restored the predominance of Russia in the Balkans and nearly decreed the dissolution of the Turkish Empire. By the clauses of the treaty it was provided that Serbia and Montenegro were to be independent of Turkey with increased territories; Roumania was to be

Independence of  
Serbia and the  
instigation of  
Russia

Rising in Bosnia  
and Herzegovina

Barbarity of  
Turkey

Treaty of San  
Stefano

independent ; Russia was to receive some territorial compensation and a Big Bulgaria was to be created extending from the Danube to the Aegean and from the Black Sea to Albania and this Big Bulgaria was to be a tributary of Turkey but it would be an autonomous state.

### Berlin Congress, 1878

The defeat of Turkey and the treaty of San Stefano tremendously increased the power and prestige of Russia. At this increase of Russian influence and power in the Balkans, England and Austria became alarmed. They demanded a revision of the provisions of San Stefano and to put the treaty before a European Congress. To their joint demand Russia could not say a 'no'. So the question of the Balkans were placed before the European powers and it was held in Berlin under the presidency of Bismark. This is known as the Berlin Congress and the settlement it made of the Balkan problem is known as the Berlin Treaty of 1878.

European  
intervention

The Congress of Berlin made a revision of the treaty of San Stefano. The newly created 'Big Bulgaria' of the treaty of San Stefano was divided into two parts—one part was to be an autonomous state and would pay annually a small sum as tribute to Turkey ; the other part was to be under a Christian governor but it would be under the suzerainty of the Turkish Government. Turkey was given back some of her lost territories. Russia received the territorial compensation which she had secured in the previous treaty. But Austria and England did not return with empty hand. Austria was to 'occupy' and administer Bosnia and Herzegovina which she annexed a few years later and

The Berlin  
Congress revised  
the treaty of  
San Stefano

England by a separate treaty with Turkey secured the island of Cyprus.

### Criticism of the Berlin Congress

Returning from the Berlin Congress, the British Prime Minister Disraeli stated that he had been able to conclude 'Peace with Honour' and that the clauses of the treaty of San Stefano had been thrown out. But to say that Berlin Congress formulated 'Peace with Honour', the conception of 'Peace' and 'Honour' must be changed. At Paris in 1856, the powers had guaranteed the integrity of Turkish Empire and barely twenty years had passed when the same European powers decreed the dissolution of it and tore it to pieces. So, the Berlin Congress did not prescribe an honourable formula and it revealed the shamelessness of the European powers.

'Peace with Honour'

It was not honourable

The Berlin Treaty nearly dissolved the Turkish Empire but the Balkan people did not secure any benefit from it.

Their aspirations remained unfulfilled and liberty and good government still eluded them. Democracy and nationalism were not recognised in the Balkan. So, there was continued unrest in the Balkan region and this became the background of the two Balkan wars and the First World War towards the beginning of the 20th century. So, the Treaty of Berlin did not establish peace as was said by Disraeli.

It did not establish peace

Contained the germs of the First World War

### The Atmosphere of the Balkan Region (1856—1914)

The Balkan region remained a hotbed of unrest throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. In 1856, Turkey had an extensive empire in Europe and in 1914, very

little was left of that vast possession. The fifty years that elapsed between these two dates, the Balkan politics was characterised by the desire of the Balkan people to achieve freedom from Turkish rule. The Balkan people wanted to liberate themselves in any way—either by foreign help or by their own power ; either by peaceful process or by war. Out of this attempt of the Balkan people, many a European problems were created.

Desire of the people to liberate themselves

These problems created political instability in the Balkan. The prescription served by the Treaty of Paris did not become successful and there were serious violations of the treaty before long. The first change was seen when the

The atmosphere was becoming increasingly hot for various reasons

two Danubian principalities of Wallachia and Moladavia laid the foundation of an United State against the wishes of the great powers. The new state that was created by such union is known as Roumania with its capital at Bukharest. For some time after the creation of Roumania, Balkan remained quiet but the causes of unrest was supplied by Turkey herself. At Paris, the Sultan had promised reform and better behaviour for his Christian subjects but he did not do anything regarding this. Unrest became visible among the Christian states under Turkey and Russian agents fomenting disaffection everywhere. So for many reasons, the Balkan region was assuming the nature of a volcano.

In 1875, the peasants of Bosnia and Herzegovina refused to pay taxes and raised a revolt against Turkey. The cause of their revolt was partly political as discussed above and partly due to social and economic discontentments. Whatever

Peasant Revolt of 1875 and the barbarity of Turkey

might have been the cause, the revolt spread like wildfire and within a short time, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria etc. were in revolt. Turkey felt very much alarmed because her empire was threatened with dissolution. She sent soldiers to the troubled areas and endeavoured to put down the revolt with barbarity. Russia seized the opportunity Bulgaria, in particular experienced the severity of this barbarity. This action of Turkey raised a storm of protest everywhere in Europe. But the European powers did not take any measures to keep Turkey in check. Russia seized this opportunity with both hands. She found in it an opportunity to wipe out the humiliation of the defeat of the Crimean War.

Turkey was defeated and the treaty of San Stefano was forced on her. The European Powers were alarmed and the Berlin Congress was held. Both the treaties of San Stefano and Berlin have been discussed above. But as we have marked, the Berlin Congress could not solve the Balkan question. It created, on the other hand, some new complications. Austria had been authorised to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina. The dominance of Austria in these areas created ill-feelings between Serbia and Austria because Serbia had some ambitions and Austrian occupation of these places prevented Serbia from fulfilling them.

The Big Bulgaria had been broken into two parts. One part was to be autonomous under the nominal suzerainty of Turkey while in the other part Turkish Government was allowed to be continued. The name of this portion was East Roumelia. Bulgaria and Serbia came to a war in 1885 on the question

of the East Roumelia. Serbia was defeated in this war. The European Powers intervened and Bulgaria and East Roumelia were united in 1886.

Greece had hoped that something would be done regarding her geographical boundary in the Congress of Berlin. But nothing was done and Greece became highly dissatisfied.

**Hope of Greece** In 1881, the European Powers forced the Turkish Sultan to cede to Greece the territory of Thessaly and a portion of Epirus. Thereafter, the relation between Greece and Turkey became very tense over the question of the island of Crete. In 1897, Greece sent armies to Crete. The war that ensued was decided against

Greece and she was defeated. The European Powers again intervened and it was settled that Crete would be a self-governing area under Turkey. This settlement could not satisfy Greece. It was only after the First Balkan War that Turkey agreed to the union of Crete with Greece.

**War with Turkey**

Meanwhile a movement for reform began within Turkey. This movement is known as the Young Turk Movement. As a result of this movement, there was a revolution in Turkey and Turkey began to show signs of new life. At this the European powers felt uneasiness. But

**Young Turkey Movement and its character**

the Young Turk Movement did not become a liberal movement. It did not aim at establishing Constitutional Government and bringing about administrative reforms in Turkey. Instead of that, the new Turkish Government began to tighten its grip on the subject nations. This new attitude created great discontent in the Turkish Empire and especially in Albania

and Macedonia, the policy of repression created much bitter-feelings in Europe.

In 1908, Bulgaria declared full independence and cut off all bonds with Turkey. In the same year, Austria annexed the kingdoms of Bosnia and Herzegovina which she was allowed to 'occupy' by the Berlin Congress.

**Bitterness in the  
Austria-Serbia  
relation**

This action of Austria highly dissatisfied Serbia because the majority of the population of these two places belonged to the 'Serb' race and Serbia cherished the ambition of bringing these places within her kingdom. The annexation of Austria destroyed this hope of Serbia. The enmity between these two country which was created thereby became one of the causes of the First World War.

The new Turkish policy of repression in Albania and Macedonia created much ill-feelings and the four Balkan states, namely, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Montenegro attacked Turkey. This war with Turkey is

**The First  
Balkan War**

known as the First Balkan War. Turkey was easily defeated and the war was concluded by the Treaty of London, 1913. Practically nothing was left for the Empire of Turkey. Greece got the island of Crete. The independent state of Albania was created, due largely to the effort of Austria. The creation of Albania closed the door of possibility for Serbia to advance towards the Adriatic Sea. This resulted in the further embitterment in the Austro-Serbian relation. Meanwhile quarrel had

**The Second  
Balkan War**

broken out among the four Balkan states. Serbia demanded compensation of territory in Macedonia but Bulgaria objected to it. Suddenly Serbia was attacked by Bulgaria. This action



evoked protest from the Balkan states and Roumania and Greece joined Serbia against Bulgaria. In this war, known as the Second Balkan War, Turkey took the side of Serbia.

Attacked from all sides, Bulgaria was defeated. Peace was restored by the Treaty of Bucharest, 1913. Bulgaria was forced to give up some portion of Macedonia to Serbia and Greece. Turkey was able to recover some portion of her Empire in Adrianople and Thrace.

The two Balkan wars nearly dissolved the Empire of Turkey and the territory of the Christian kingdoms in Balkan area increased. But this did not solve the problem. The newly independent countries were engaged in fierce rivalry and enmity amongst themselves. This was revealed in the two Balkan Wars. The clash of interest between Austria and Russia became more acute and Russia began to take an active part in the politics of the Balkan area with increasing eagerness. This rivalry between Austria and Russia and between Austria and Serbia formed the background of the First World War.

The eastern question was not solved

### Questions

1. What do you understand by the term "Eastern Question"? How was it formed?

(The Turkish weakness—the Sickman of Europe—the Russian policy to move towards the Black Sea and the Mediterranean at the cost of Turkey—the balance of power in Europe threatened; National awakening in the countries subject to Turkey.)

2. What were the causes of the Crimean War (1854-56)? What were its results?

(The rival interests of Russia and England; the thirst for glory by the Emperor Napoleon III of France;—Russian progress

created alarm in England and France ; the dispute in Palestine over religion—Russia and France took up opposite sides—the Russian demand—the war broke out.

Russia defeated—the Treaty of Paris—Black Sea clauses—Cavour and question of Italian unity ; unrest in Balkan ; Reform in Russia ; progress of Nationalism in the Balkan region—the watershed on European history.)

3. "The Crimean War marks the watershed on European History."—Elucidate.

4. Discuss the clauses of the Treaty of San Stefano and how far it was modified by the Berlin Congress ? (Treaty of San Stefano—creation of Big Bulgaria—the Berlin meeting—breaking up of the Big Bulgaria and some other changes.)

5. Critically discuss the settlements of the Berlin Congress (1878). How far is it correct to say that it contained within it the germs of the First World War ?

6. Prime Minister Disraeli said of Berlin Treaty—"a Peace with Honour". Do you think so ? Give reasons for your answer.

7. Discuss the atmosphere of the Balkan areas during the period beginning with the end of the Crimean War and ending with the beginning of the First World War.

(Many problems—the problem of self-determination of the Christian states under Turkey—Nationalist ferment in the Turkish Empire—rival interest of Austria, Russia and England—Peasant Revolt in 1875—Russo-Turkish War—Treaty of San Stefano—Berlin Congress—no solution of Eastern Question ; enmity and rivalry among the Christian states that became independent very recently—Young Turk Movement—its features—the two Balkan Wars—Eastern Question was not solved.)

8. Write short notes on the following :

(a) Florence Nightingale ; (b) Treaty of Paris, 1856 ; (c) Peasant Revolt in Herzegovina, 1875 ; (d) Treaty of San Stefano, 1877 ; (e) The Greco-Turkish War ; (f) The Balkan Wars.

## CHAPTER VIII

### THE AGE OF ARMED PEACE (1878—1914)

#### Introduction.

When united Germany was created after its unification under Prussia, the courses of European history was profoundly influenced. The Prussian army had secured two very notable victories within a few years. The victories of Sadowa and Sedan against Austria and France respectively had increased the glory and prestige of Prussia—now the leader of an united Germany. This revelation of German military strength changed the balance of power. Germany became up as a strong power under the able guidance of Bismark. The complex network of diplomacy which Bismark weaved made European politics extremely complicated. His policy was to keep France isolated in European politics. For forty years, following the Congress of Berlin, there was peace in Europe. But the peace was only superficial. The diplomacy of Bismark had generated ill-feelings and distrust among the European states. Secret diplomacy, espionage and competition in armament etc. became the chief features of European politics. Due to such suspicion and distrust, different states, began to increase their armed strength. This increase of the armed strength prepared the ground for the World War I. Such war preparations had been the characteristic feature from 1878 to 1914. For this, the period had earned the nickname of 'Age of Armed Peace.'

Rise of Germany changed and upset the balance of power in Europe

Apparent peace

## History of Germany under Bismark

After the sensational defeat of France, an united Germany was created under the leadership of Prussia or in other words, Germany was merged into Prussia. The history of Germany from 1871 to the First World War can be divided into two parts—the first twenty years from 1871 to 1891 was dominated by Bismark and the period from 1891 to 1914 was dominated by the German Emperors themselves.

Germany from  
1871 to 1914

In 1871, Bismark was created the first Imperial Chancellor (Prime Minister) of the united Germany. He remained the most outstanding figure of German history for the next twenty years. These twenty years were very important because during this period Bismark made the German political unity a reality—he moulded the diversified elements into a German nation. During these twenty years, Bismark held the reins of government with a strong hand, ruled the country like an autocrat, ignored all sorts of political opposition and personal attacks and created modern Germany.

Bismark  
controlled the  
German politics  
for the first  
twenty years

## Internal Policy of Bismark

The internal policy of Bismark was to consolidate the national unity and the economic basis of the country. Though Germany had been united, there were diversities in many respects. There were local laws in different parts of Germany. Bismark stopped the different practices of law in different parts of the country. He centralised the legal system and made the practice of law uniform throughout Germany. He established Imperial Institutions at different

Bismark wanted  
to create German  
national solidarity