

A-LEVEL HISTORY

Summer Preparation Tasks

Paper One: Germany

Germany in 1914

Use the information sheets and your own research to complete the mind-maps of the following two questions about Germany in 1914.

→ **What was Germany like in 1914?**

→ **How was Germany run in 1914?**



Challenge your thinking by completing the 'Take-It-Further' tasks.

Paper Two: Italy

The process of Italian Unification

Read through the article and the information sheet, making notes on the key points.

Answer the following questions in full detail.

Questions to answer:

- 1) *Explain any potential problems that unification might cause.*
- 2) *Which of these problems is the most significant and why?*
- 3) *How might these problems be solved? Suggest and explain your ideas*

What was Germany like in 1914?



Before 1870 Germany had been a collection of small, independent states. Prussia was the most powerful of these. In 1870, Prussian Otto von Bismarck had won a war against France after which he united all the different German states into the new and great German empire. Germany was powerful but there were lots of differences between the different regions. Some areas had big cities and strong industry, however this varied. In the South it was mainly small farms, whereas in the North there were more large farms and rich landowners. There were also differences in religion with the north mainly

being Protestant and the South mainly Catholic.

This new Germany was especially successful in Industry. By 1914, German industry had overtaken Britain's, producing more iron and steel and as much coal. At this point it was second in the world only to that of the USA and was still developing rapidly. Germany dominated European markets in newer industries like electrical goods.

However Germany's leaders wanted even greater things:

- The German Kaiser (King) felt that Germany should be a world power and should have overseas colonies and an empire like France and Britain. In the 1880s Germany started building an Empire. By 1914 it had colonies in Africa and the Pacific, but they wanted more.
- In the 1890s he ordered the building of a large navy which soon became the world's second largest fleet. Britain's was the largest.
- Germany was concerned though by the huge build-up of arms, especially in Russia and was itself building up a vast army. They felt threatened and 'encircled' by France and Russia.

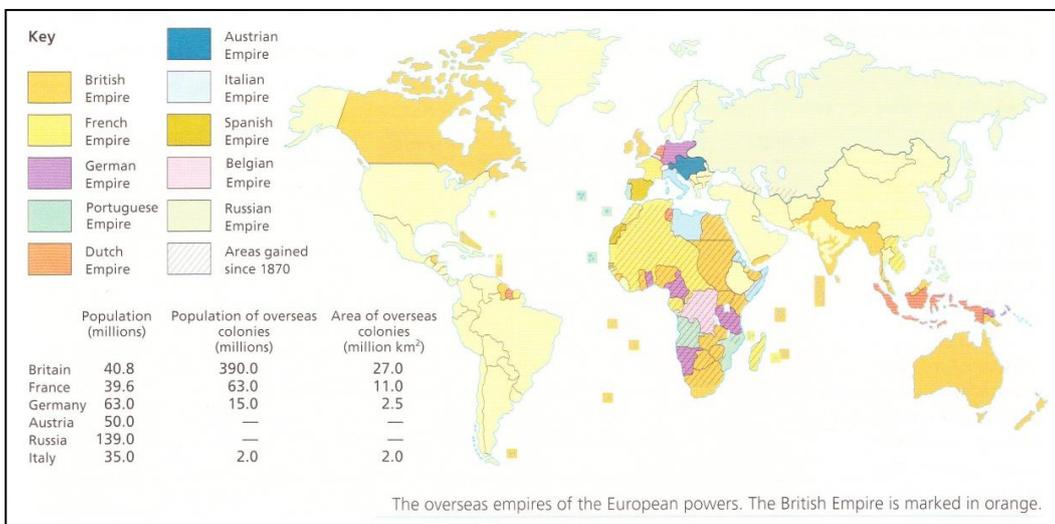
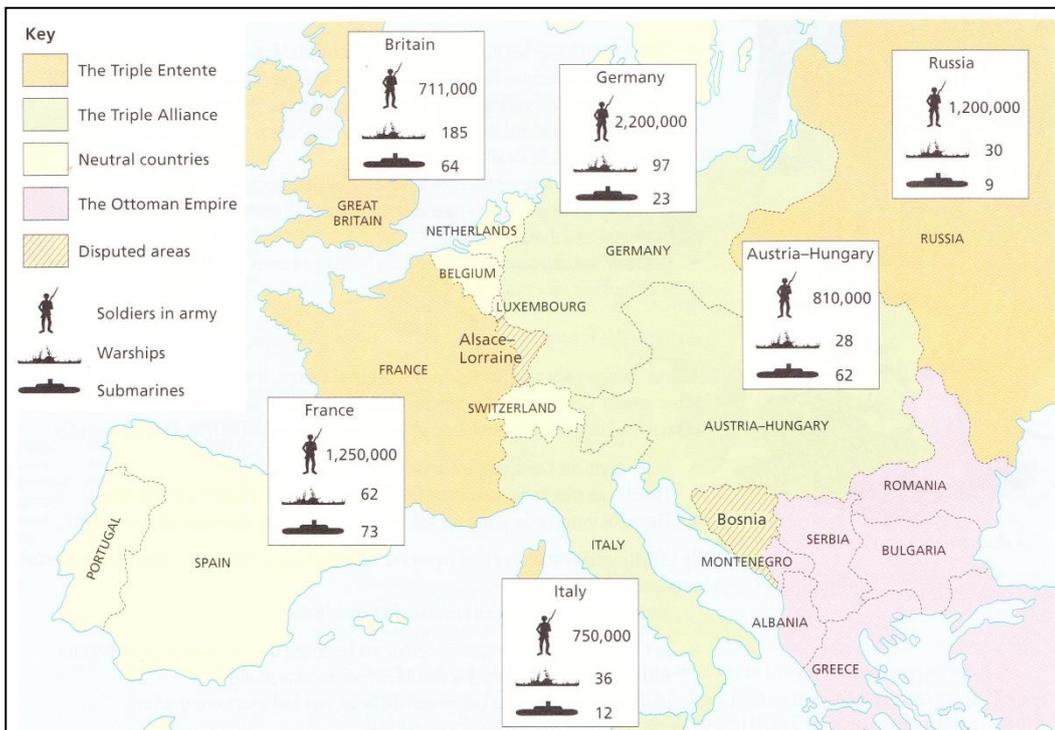
What about the ordinary people of Germany? Most people had reasonably comfortable lives. Working hours had gradually improved but housing was a major problem, with rents sometimes taking up to a fifth of a working-class family's income. Overcrowding and inadequate sanitation increased the risk of disease. In Bochum in the Ruhr, for example, 84 per cent of the population were living with more than one person per room in 1905; cases were recorded of one-room dwellings with ten people or more living in them. The industrial growth also contributed to industrial pollution which was responsible for a high proportion of illnesses and deaths; especially respiratory diseases like tuberculosis and influenza. However, at the same time there was a strong welfare system (benefits and social care) and criticism of the government was not allowed. Obedience of authority was considered to be a good quality and there was a strong sense of Nationalism (love for Germany as a country.) This nationalism meant that people loved their country and really believed that Germany should take its rightful places as a leading world power.

At this time the German Empire was not a democracy. Germany was ruled by a Kaiser (King) and power lay with rich and the army. It is not surprising that the working classes felt a common identity, a sense of separateness from the elite. Germany was fast becoming a divided society.

Statistics:

	Britain	France	Russia	Germany	Austria-Hungary	Italy
Population (millions)	46	40	167	65	50	35
Steel production (millions of tons)	7.9	4	4	17	2.6	3.9
Merchant ships (millions of tons)	20	2	0.75	5	3	1.75
Foreign trade (£ billion per year)	1	0.4	0.2	1	0.2	n/a
Number of soldiers available (in thousands), including reserve forces	711	1,250	1,200	2,200	810	750
Warships (including under construction)	122	46	26	85	24	36
Submarines	64	73	29	23	6	12

Resources of the Great Powers in 1914



Germany was a powerful and influential country in the years before the First World War, so the person who ruled the country naturally excited a lot of interest. Kaiser Wilhelm was the last German emperor and King of Prussia, whose policies helped to bring about World War One. Let's see what kind of man Kaiser Wilhelm really was.

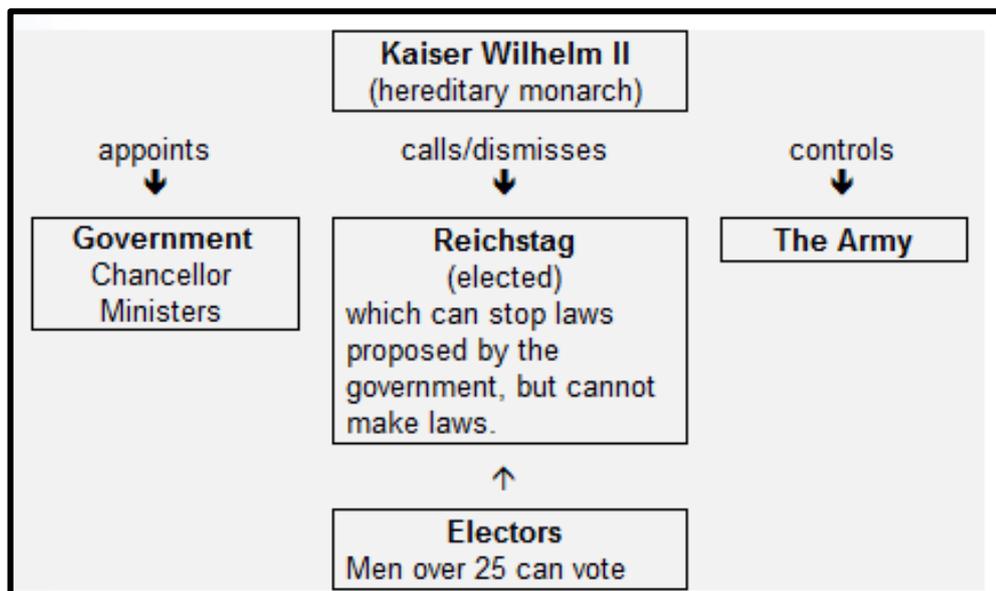
Background

Wilhelm was born in 1859. His mother was an English princess and Queen Victoria was his grandmother. He had a cold and unloving relationship with both his parents. When he became Kaiser he even had the palace surrounded by troops, not allowing his mother to leave because he suspected she would try to smuggle out his father's will and other important papers. He was born with a badly withered left arm, but despite this he was put through rigorous physical training at a military school, and throughout his life he was obsessed with physical exercise and proving his strength. His teachers bullied him due to his disability; historians think that this caused his unstable and aggressive character - and may have been a contributory factor to the outbreak of war.

In 1881, after a period of military service, Wilhelm married Augusta Victoria, Princess of Schleswig-Holstein, and they had seven children. When his grandfather died in 1888, his father became Kaiser - but only for ninety days. He died of throat cancer after three months as ruler. Suddenly and unexpectedly, at the age of 29, Wilhelm became Kaiser of Germany.

How did he run Germany?

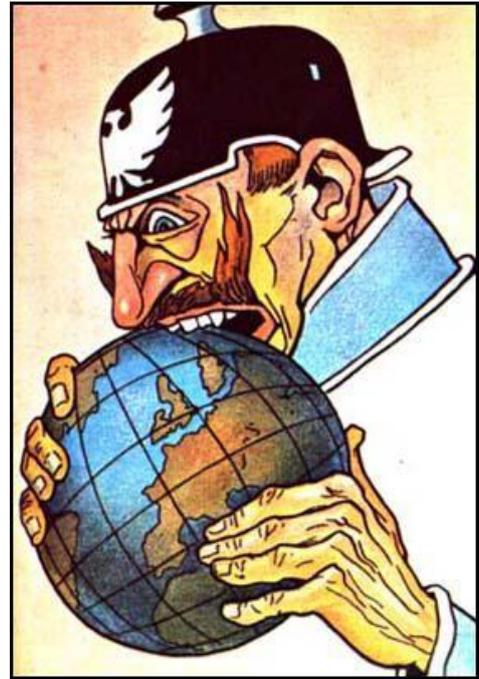
The Kaiser felt that his grandfather (who had been the first Kaiser) had given too much power to his ministers. The German CONSTITUTION gave the Kaiser great power, and he intended to use that power. He did not like people to disagree with him. He soon quarrelled with his Chancellor, Bismarck, who resigned in 1890. From then on Wilhelm largely appointed ministers who would do what he wanted. Due to this, at this time Germany was an autocracy.



Time as Kaiser

Although he had previously admired the great German statesman Otto von Bismarck, within two years Wilhelm had forced his resignation. He was a strong believer in increasing the strength of the German armed forces, particularly the navy. His policies towards Britain were contradictory. He alienated Britain with his naval expansion and a policy of aggressive German colonial expansion, and also supported the Boers in their fight against the British. But he was also closely related to the British royal family and was particularly fond of his grandmother, Queen Victoria.

Following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914, Wilhelm encouraged the Austrians to adopt an uncompromising line against Serbia, effectively writing them a 'blank cheque' for German support in the event of war. He appeared not to realise the chain reaction this would trigger. Russia and her allies France and Britain entered the war against Germany and Austria. Wilhelm tried to scale back the mobilisation of Germany's armed forces, but was prevented by the Germany military. While theoretically supreme commander, Wilhelm found himself excluded from military decisions, but crippled chances of a compromise peace by encouraging the grandiose war aims of certain generals and politicians.



Personal qualities



Overall, Wilhelm brought mixed qualities to the job. He was intelligent and well-informed, yet he would not concentrate on any idea or project for long. He wanted to make all the decisions, yet he did not want to look at the detailed information on which the decisions ought to have been based. Some psychologists have suggested he had suffered brain damage at birth which made him unable to concentrate on detail. On the other hand, the Kaiser had a dazzling personality and he fascinated the people he met.

Wilhelm liked grand display. He loved military parades. Some of his happiest times were when he was riding at the head of his regiment impressing the crowds. His court was grand and he entertained spectacularly, sometimes throwing bizarre fancy-dress parties. He was fond of practical jokes - and could sometimes be quite cruel. He would turn the studded rings on his fingers inward, so that when he shook a visitor's hand, with his vicelike grip; he could deliver an excruciating handshake. He could also be rude. He shocked a visiting British ambassador by calling the King of Italy 'the Dwarf' and his Queen a 'peasant girl'.

Interestingly, Wilhelm's biographer Lamar Cecil identified Wilhelm's "curious but well-developed anti-Semitism", noting that in 1888 a friend of Wilhelm "declared that the young Kaiser's dislike of his Hebrew subjects, one rooted in a perception that they possessed an overwhelming influence in Germany, was so strong that it could not be overcome."

Italian Fascism, 1911-1941- Summer Preparation Task

The process of Italian Unification

Italian unification (Italian Risorgimento, meaning the Resurgence) was the political and social movement that consolidated different states of the Italian peninsula into the single state of the Kingdom of Italy in the 19th century. Despite a lack of consensus on the exact dates for the beginning and end of this period, many historians agree that the process began in 1815 with the Congress of Vienna and the end of Napoleonic rule, and was completed in 1871 when Rome became the capital of the Kingdom of Italy.

The creation of the Kingdom of Italy was the result of concerted efforts of Italian nationalists and monarchists loyal to the House of Savoy to establish a united kingdom encompassing the entire Italian Peninsula. After the Revolutions of 1848, the apparent leader of the Italian unification movement was Italian revolutionary Giuseppe Garibaldi. He was popular amongst southern Italians and in the world was renowned for his extremely loyal followers.

Garibaldi led the Italian republican drive for unification in southern Italy, but the northern Italian monarchy of the House of Savoy in the Kingdom of Sardinia, a de facto Piedmontese state, whose government was led by Camillo Benso, conte di Cavour, also had ambitions of establishing a united Italian state. Though the kingdom had no physical connection to Rome (seen by all as the natural capital of Italy, but still capital of the Papal States), the kingdom had successfully challenged Austria in the Second Italian War of Independence, liberating Lombardy-Venetia from Austrian rule. The kingdom also had established important alliances which helped it improve the possibility of Italian unification, such as Britain and the Second French Empire in the Crimean War.

Sardinia was dependent on France being willing to protect it and in 1860, Sardinia was forced to cede territory to France to maintain relations, including Garibaldi's birthplace Nice. Cavour moved to challenge republican unification efforts by Garibaldi by organizing popular revolts in the Papal States. He used these revolts as a pretext to invade the country, even though the invasion angered the Catholics, whom he told that the invasion was an effort to protect the Roman Catholic Church from the anti-clerical secularist nationalist republicans of Garibaldi. Only a small portion of the Papal States around Rome remained in the control of Pope Pius IX.

Despite their differences, Cavour agreed to include Garibaldi's Southern Italy allowing it to join the union with Piedmont-Sardinia in 1860. Subsequently the Parliament declared the creation of the Kingdom of Italy on February 18, 1861 (officially proclaiming it on March 17, 1861) composed of both Northern Italy and

Southern Italy. King Victor Emmanuel II of Piedmont-Sardinia from the House of Savoy was then declared King of Italy, though he did not renumber himself with the assumption of the new title. This title had been out of use since the abdication of Napoleon I of France on April 6, 1814. , the first King of the united Italy.

Following the unification of most of Italy, tensions between the monarchists and republicans erupted. In April 1861, Garibaldi entered the Italian parliament and challenged Cavour's leadership of the government, accusing him of dividing Italy and spoke of the threat of civil war between the Kingdom in the north and Garibaldi's forces in the south. On June 6, 1861, the Kingdom's strongman Cavour died. During the ensuing political instability, Garibaldi and the republicans became increasingly revolutionary in tone. Garibaldi's arrest in 1862 set off worldwide controversy.

In 1866 Otto von Bismarck, Minister President of Prussia offered Victor Emmanuel II an alliance with the Kingdom of Prussia in the Austro-Prussian War. In exchange Prussia would allow Italy to annex Austrian controlled Venice. King Emmanuel agreed to the alliance and the Third Italian War of Independence began. Italy fared poorly in the war with a badly organized military against Austria, but Prussia's victory allowed Italy to annex Venice.

The one major obstacle to Italian unity remained Rome. In 1870, Prussia went to war with France starting the Franco-Prussian War. To keep the large Prussian Army at bay, France abandoned its positions in Rome - which protected the remnants of the Papal States and Pius IX - in order to fight the Prussians. Italy benefited from Prussia's victory against France by being able to take over the Papal States from French authority. Rome was captured by the kingdom of Italy after several battles and guerilla-like warfare by Papal Zouaves and official troops of the Holy See against the Italian invaders.

Italian unification was completed, and shortly afterward Italy's capital was moved to Rome. Economic conditions in the united Italy were poor. There were no industry or transportation facilities, extreme poverty (especially in the Mezzogiorno), high illiteracy, and only a small percent of wealthy Italians had the right to vote. The unification movement had largely been dependent on the support of foreign powers and remained so afterwards. Following the capture of Rome in 1870 from French forces of Napoleon III, Papal troops, and Zouaves, relations between Italy and the Vatican remained sour for the next sixty years with the Popes declaring themselves to be prisoners in the Vatican. The Catholic Church frequently protested the actions of the secular and anticlerical-influenced Italian governments, refused to meet with envoys from the King and urged Catholics not to vote in Italian elections. It would not be until 1929, that positive relations would be restored between the Kingdom of Italy and the Vatican after the signing of the Lateran Pacts.

CHART 1B The key features of Italian unification

In the nineteenth century the Italian people were neither unified nor did they rule themselves. In 1848-49 there was a series of revolts throughout Italy. Piedmont led a war for independence against Austria, but was defeated.

- ① Cavour does a deal with Napoleon III to get French help to expel Austria. He wants to create an independent Italian state in the North and Centre, but not to include the backward South.
- ② French and Piedmontese troops defeat the Austrians at Magenta and Solferino. Piedmont takes over Lombardy and the Central Duchies, but not Venetia which Austria retains.
- ③ Garibaldi organises a nationalist expedition to unify Italy, and march on Rome. He joins a peasant revolt in Sicily, and conquers Sicily and Naples.
- ④ Piedmontese troops occupy much of the Papal States to link up with Garibaldi and ensure he hands over his conquests to King Victor Emmanuel.
- ⑤ 1861 New Kingdom of Italy proclaimed in Turin.
- ⑥ Prussia and Italy fight Austria. Italy loses, but Prussia wins. Austria hands Venetia to Italy.
- ⑦ 1862, 1867 Garibaldi leads two failed expeditions attempting to march to Rome to gain control of the capital.
- ⑧ 1870 Prussia defeats France who withdraws its troops (protecting the Pope) from Rome. Italian troops move in. Rome becomes the capital of a fully united Italian state.



Cavour. Prime Minister of Piedmont 1852-61. Moderate Liberal, aiming to create a Liberal independent state in the northern half of Italy. Realised Piedmont would need French help to defeat Austria. Worried about radical nationalists. He eventually outmanoeuvred them to create a Liberal Italian state as an extended form of Piedmont.



King Victor Emmanuel II of Piedmont
Head of House of Savoy.
He became first king of Italy.

Piedmont. Important northern state; not ruled by foreigners. Since 1848 it was a constitutional monarchy, with an assembly elected by about two per cent of the population. Its rulers were eager to expand its territory.



Papal States. Ruled by the Pope as a TEMPORAL ruler

Kingdom of Naples. The Neapolitan State covered Naples and Sicily, and was ruled by Spanish Bourbon kings



Emperor Napoleon III of France. Nephew of Napoleon I. He sent 100,000 troops to help expel Austria in exchange for gaining Nice and Savoy for France.



Garibaldi. Radical nationalist guerrilla leader. Popular with masses. Aimed to liberate the masses, but trusted Victor Emmanuel. In 1860, 1862 and 1867 he tried to march on Rome to gain it for Italy.



Mazzini. Radical republican nationalist. Failed to inspire mass revolts. He became fierce critic of the 'conservative revolution' nature of unification.