

TEACHER NOTES PART #3

UNIFICATION OF GERMANY

IX. Events in Spain contribute to the Franco-Prussian War:

- A. In 1868 Queen Isabella is forced to abdicate her throne.
- B. A **Hohenzollern** is invited to inherit the Spanish throne.
- C. France learns of this and objects.
 - 1. They don't want German blood on their eastern and southern borders.
 - 2. France's ambassador lets **William I, The Kaiser** of Prussia, know of his objections.
 - 3. The Kaiser asks **Leopold** not to accept the throne.
- D. France wins a diplomatic victory and they try to exploit it:
 - 1. France, under **Napoleon III**, wants some promises from William I:
 - a. A statement that William didn't intentionally hurt French feelings.
 - b. A statement that William had asked Leopold to step down.
 - c. A promise that no future Hohenzollern will attempt to become monarch of Spain.
 - d. The above are humiliating for Prussia, and the Prussians are angry at the French.

X. Bismarck's role in the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War:

- A. Bismarck used the Hohenzollern candidacy to provoke France.
 - 1. Bismarck wanted to see Leopold become King of Spain.
- B. **Ems Dispatch**
 - 1. A letter concerning the Hohenzollern Candidacy
 - 2. Intentionally altered by Bismarck so as to insult Kaiser William I.
 - 3. This was a diplomatic slap in the face to France.
 - 4. Bismarck uses the Ems Dispatch to gather all of the other German confederation members around Prussia. He says that France has insulted the German people and should be made to pay.
 - 5. This dispatch is the immediate cause for the war.

XI. Events after the Ems Dispatch:

- A. France declares war credits, they begin to mobilize their arms.
 - 1. Bismarck uses this move to prove to the other German states that they need to get together to deal with France.
- B. Prussia mobilizes.
- C. France declares war.
 - 1. Bismarck only wanted war as a last resort, but he is happy that France has fired the first shot.
 - 2. He saw that a confrontation with France was a way to get all of the German states working together in a common cause, and this would build unity and eventually the country.

XII. French justification for declaring war:

- A. They felt threatened by the Hohenzollern Candidacy.
- B. They were upset about the tampering of the Ems Dispatch.

XIII. Results of the Franco-Prussian War:

- A. France was crushed at the **Battle of Sedan.**
 - 1. Prussian **breech-loaded** artillery made the difference.
- B. Peace Treaty: **The Treaty of Frankfort**
 - 1. Signed in **The Hall of Mirrors** in the palace at **Versailles.**
 - 2. Germany becomes a nation in 1871.
 - a. This unity is declared in France.
 - b. France is humiliated.
 - c. William I becomes the emperor or **Kaiser.**
 - 3. France loses the provinces of **Alsace and Lorraine.**
 - 4. France loses some territory in the **Saar.**
 - 5. France has to pay 5 billion *francs* in war damages.
 - a. German Army will remain in France until this debt is paid.

XIV. Consequences of the Franco-Prussian War:

- A. Sedan isn't only a defeat for France but also for Austria.
 - 1. Germany is now so powerful that Austria has no hope of ever playing a major role in German affairs again.
- B. Germany is now unified and is the dominant power in Central Europe.
- C. France is a **revisionist** power. They want to revise the Treaty of Frankfort. They want revenge.

QUESTIONS FOR UNIFICATION OF GERMANY (PART #3)

1. Why is France a revisionist power after the Franco-Prussian War?
2. What two provinces does France lose as a result of the war?
3. What new country emerges from the Franco-Prussia War?
4. What was the Ems Dispatch, and how was it important to the war?
5. Who was the leader of France in 1870?
6. Who are the Hohenzollerns?
7. Why was the Battle of Sedan so important?
8. What were the two reasons that France went to war with Prussia?
9. Why is France humiliated after losing the war?
10. Who becomes leader of a united Germany after the Franco-Prussian War?

Answer Key

1. France is a revisionist power because the Prussian peace terms were too harsh.
2. Alsace and Lorraine
3. Germany
4. The Ems Dispatch was a message from the French king to the German king. It was altered by Bismarck, and this caused the French government and public to become outraged. The French then declared war.
5. Napoleon III
6. The ruling family of Prussia
7. The Battle of Sedan was the decisive battle of the Franco-Prussian War.
8. The tampering of the Ems Dispatch, and that the French felt threatened by the Hohenzollern candidacy for the Spanish throne
9. German troops remain in France until the reparations are paid in full.
10. Kaiser Wilhelm I