

Q) Describe the process of unification of Germany.

- Middle-class Germans, who in 1848 tried to unite the different regions of the German Confederation into a nation-state governed by an elected parliament.

- This liberal initiative to nation - building was, however, repressed by the conservative forces of the monarchy and the military supported by the large landowners of Prussia
- Prussia took on the leadership of the movement for national unification :
- Its chief minister, Otto von Bismarck, was the architect of this process carried out with the help of the Prussian army and ~~administration~~ bureaucracy
- Three wars with Austria, Denmark and France ended in Prussian victory and completed the process of unification. In Jan 1871; the Prussian King, William I, was proclaimed German Emperor in a ceremony held at Versailles

### Unification of Italy

- During the middle of the nineteenth century, Italy was divided into seven states, of which only one, Sardinia-Piedmont, was ruled by an Italian prince

- The north was under Austrian Habsburgs, the centre was ruled by the pope and the southern regions were under the domination of the Bourbon kings of Spain.
- During the 1830s, Giuseppe Mazzini sought to put together a coherent program for a unitary Italian Republic. He had also formed a secret society called *Juventù* Italy for the dissemination of his goals.
- The failure of the revolutionary uprisings both in 1831 and 1848 meant that the mantle now fell on Sardinia-Piedmont under its ruler King Victor Emmanuel II to unify the Italian states through war. In the eyes of the ruling elites of this region, a unified Italy offered them the possibility of economic development and political dominance.
- Chief minister Cavour who led the movement to unify the regions of Italy was neither a revolutionary nor a democrat. He spoke French much better than he did Italian.

- Through a tenuous diplomatic alliance with France engineered by Cavour, Sardinia-Piedmont succeeded in defeating the Austrian forces in 1859.
- A large number of armed volunteers under the leadership of Giuseppe Garibaldi joined the fray. In 1860, they marched into south Italy and the kingdom of the Two Sicilies and succeeded in winning the support of the local peasants.
- In 1861 Victor Emmanuel II was proclaimed king of united Italy. However, much of the Italian population remained unaware of the liberal-nationalist ideology.
- The peasant masses who had never heard of Italy, and believed the 'La Talia' was Victor Emmanuel's wife!

Q) Briefly describe the process of the unification of Britain

- The primary identities of the people who inhabited the British Isles were ethnic ones - such as English, Welsh, Scot or Irish.

- All of these ethnic groups had their own cultural and political traditions. But as the English nation steadily grew in wealth, importance and power, it was able to extend its influence over the other nations of the islands.
- The act of union between England and Scotland that resulted in the formation of the "United Kingdom of Great Britain" meant, in effect, that England was able to impose its influence on Scotland.
- The Scottish Highlanders were forbidden to speak their Gaelic language or wear their national dress, and large numbers were forcibly driven out of their homelands.
- After a failed revolt led by Wolfe Tone and his United Irishmen (1798), Ireland was forcibly incorporated into the United ~~Kingdom~~ Kingdom in 1801. The symbol of the new Britain the British flag, the national anthem.