

Otto Von Bismarck: The Triumphant Life and Following Tragedy

Antranig Douglas
Senior Division
Historical Paper
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Process Paper

I chose the topic of German Unification. I wanted to find out more about Otto Von Bismarck's role in the unification. I chose this topic because I am particularly interested in the mind behind the events and his strategy in unifying Germany as well as the repercussions.

As I have gotten deeper into research I have found more detailed and fascinating facts in books and websites. I have also learned more about interactions with the French and the Spanish which were key in unifying Germany from letters written by Bismarck. I was able to find databases full of letters. The German History in Document and Images database has been very helpful. Finding images and articles written in German newspapers is very interesting and has helped me to understand the political climate in Germany. As well as this, using books written using these letters has provided a better understanding of Bismarck's tactics. *Bismarck: A Life* has been very helpful, Jonathan Steinberg, the author, provides a thorough understanding of German history under Bismarck. What I have found very unique about this book is its integration of letters written by the statesmen of the time. I have also found various databases online that include more detailed information about the events following Bismarck's death, and seeing where the country was led by the next leader, Wilhelm II. Finding these letters is very important to me because of the way they were written. I was also very excited to conduct an interview of Jonathan Steinberg. He provided clarification to some of his writing, and he helped lead my thesis in a more interesting direction. I have gone deeper into political ideology and philosophy that has made my paper much more interesting.

I chose to write a paper because I feel it suits my purposes best, and my style of writing. I have made documentaries before and in comparison have the most experience with essays. Therefore I am more comfortable with essays.

This topic is an exceptional fit for the NHD theme this year. There were multiple triumphs in the wars fought between the Prussians and the surrounding countries of Austria, Denmark, and France. Throughout Bismarck's campaign the triumphs of the Germans were mighty. In the late 1800s, after the events of the Napoleonic Wars and the subsequent attempts to fix the power dynamics in Europe, Otto Von Bismarck, led the people of the German states to become a unified confederation, from winning multiple wars causing increased German Nationalism and pride, to his outstanding diplomacy. Tragically, one of the most powerful empires Europe has seen, faded as Bismarck turned to internal unification. His dislike of certain groups of people led to mild oppression. As well, the Empire was left in the hands of a young ruler, who dismissed Otto Von Bismarck and had foolish policy. The conservative government was not able to keep up with his policy, and the Liberalism sweeping Europe led the country into the first World War.

Essay

In the late 1800s, after the events of the Napoleonic Wars and the subsequent attempts to fix the power dynamics in Europe, Otto Von Bismarck led the German people to become a unified confederation. He did this through a series of triumphant tasks. From winning multiple wars causing increased German Nationalism and pride, to careful, tactful and convincing diplomacy. Tragically, one of the most powerful empires Europe has seen, faded as Bismarck turned to internal unification, and the Empire was left in the hands of a young ruler, who dismissed Otto Von Bismarck and made foolish decisions. The conservative government was not able to keep up with him, and the Liberalism sweeping Europe led the country into the first World War.

Germany went through a series of reforms that led it to be in a prime position for unification at the hand of Otto Von Bismarck. After defeating Napoleon in the Napoleonic Wars, Prince Klemens Von Metternich, an Austrian statesman, called together the Congress of Vienna to restore the power balance of Europe. He put together a German Confederation of 39 states. As a conservative, Metternich was reestablishing the old order (Issues). One problem that the men at the Congress of Vienna and Otto Von Bismarck had was Großdeutschland or Kleindeutschland, a Germany with or without the Austrian Kingdom. The Austrian Kingdom included states in Central and Southern Europe of 15 different minorities (Issues). This caused logistical problems as the Empire would be both much larger, and contain non-German people, making the country less unified.

After Klemens Von Metternich, Otto Von Bismarck, appointed Prime Minister by Wilhelm I, took the next chance at German Unification starting the whole campaign with “Iron and Blood”(Excerpt from Blood and Iron Speech). It was vital for Bismarck to be the dominant power of the German states in order to unify them, this was the cause of his wars. In 1848 there was an insurrection against the Danes, in Schleswig. After breaking the London Agreement the Confederation went to war (Issues). The Peace of Vienna was signed on October 30, 1864 ending the Schleswig war (Britannica). The Confederate Diet was held to decide whether to claim Schleswig as part of the Confederation. Prussian delegate Karl Friedrich Von Salvini attended the Confederate Diet. Austria believed it was illegal to occupy Schleswig. After conducting the vote Prussia lost 9 to 6. The Confederation was ended in 1866/1867 with this vote and resulting war. This conflict was more imperative to Bismarck because he needed to establish Prussia as a dominant force of the German states. He could not unify Germany if he was the submissive power. Following the Battle of Koniggratz, 15,000 Austrians were dead or missing and only 2,000 Prussians died. Prussia won and Austria sent a peace treaty to the palace of Nickelsburg. This treaty offered the Prussians peace and a free hand permitting they did not take any of Austria's land. This was acceptable to Bismarck, however, Kaiser Wilhelm I wanted to take land, he thought that maybe a piece of Austria could become German Bohemia, “The Prussian army is winning, do you expect me to have them stop before they reach Vienna?”(Deutsche Welle). Bismarck thought they needed to keep Austria as an ally. Bismarck offers his resignation if the King would not agree with him. The King gave in and said he would let Austria go.

Finally, Bismarck needed a war with France to encourage nationalism and unity to finish the unification. The last piece was Alsace-Lorraine. Bismarck wanted the German people of Alsace-Lorraine. These Germans were caught in between French and German culture. Bismarck wanted them as he wanted to include all the Germans, and they did not bring with them the ethnic diversity Austria was bound to. At the same time, the Spanish were looking for someone to take the crown. They asked the German Hohenzollern family if they would take it in 1870. The Hohenzollerns comprised much of the Royals, from Wilhelm I to the princes in charge of Brandenburg (“Germany” 163–166.). Under the pressure of Otto Von Bismarck, Leopold of Hohenzollern accepted the crown (Steinberg). Napoleon III was worried about having a Prussian force and German-controlled Spain (Deutsche Welle). Bismarck knew this and forced Leopold to instigate Napoleon III. German General Alfred Von Waldersee wrote in his memoirs that they allowed themselves to be talked into this, proving the power of Bismarck's diplomatic persuasion (*Bismarck: A Life* pg 285-286).

Leopold ultimately withdrew his candidacy and the French wanted assurance that no other Hohenzollern would ascend the throne, as one of his brothers could (Deutsche Welle). Bismarck changed Wilhelm’s letter to the French to say “his majesty the king had thereupon refused to receive the French ambassador once more and let him know through an adjutant that his majesty had nothing further to communicate to the ambassador.” (*Bismarck: A Life* pg. 289). This version of the letter was much more harsh and would embarrass the French had they not acted on it. With these two countries rivaling in power, the French people would not tolerate Napoleon's submissiveness to the Germans. The letter reached France the next day, and into the press (*Bismarck: A Life* 289). According to Wilhelm I, it was as if he “[had] slammed the door in

[the ambassadors] face” (Deutsche Welle). Napoleon III went to war because if he did not, his people would not have been happy with him and he would have looked like a coward. Politician Lucius Von Ballhausen recalled the event stating it was lucky the “French went so far!” (*Bismarck: A Life* pg 289). The French declared war on the Germans making themselves look like the instigator. Just as Bismarck wanted, the Southern German states mobilized troops as a result of the way that the people felt against the French. This is partially because the Germans were beaten by Napoleon I and they had to pay reparations after the Napoleonic Wars (“Germany” 163-166). This massive empire was going to war with the French “defending” themselves, so there was huge nationalism, and pushes to fight. There was even a 15-year-old boy from Bavaria who went to war for his country. The Germans won the war, and it is this sense of pride that makes the populus desire unification, one that would force the Prince of Bavaria to join Germany. This battle of the Franco-Prussian war became heavily romanticized in the future as a phenomenal German victory (Deutsche Welle).

As an outstanding diplomat, Otto Von Bismarck commonly articulated his words, to get precisely the response he desired. In the final stages of German unification, it became apparent to Bismarck that there needed to be a unifying figurehead. This can be seen in his letter to Prince Ludwig II of Bavaria. There was a disagreement on what the name of said figurehead should be. Wilhelm I wanted, undeniably, to be the king. Secondly, he wanted to be in charge of the German states, as the Emperor of Germany, like his ancestors, “If I declare myself willing to become emperor, I wish to have the title Emperor of Germany (*Kaiser von Deutschland*), definitely not German emperor (*deutscher Kaiser*)”(Deutsche Welle). Wilhelm I saw the latter as merely being an Emperor, not the controlling Emperor of the German people (Forging an

Empire). In the effort of fixing this problem, Bismarck wrote a letter to one of the prominent princes, Ludwig II, who disagreed with the latter title. Ludwig was not the most enthusiastic to join the confederation, fearing he would lose his power. His subjects, however, wanted to join; Bismarck used this to his advantage. Bismarck offered an anonymous donation for the building of Ludwig's palace, in exchange for his loyalty. Bismarck also sent a letter to Ludwig asking him to consider "deutscher Kaiser" as a possibility, he wrote that the idea should "first originate with none other than Your Majesty"(Negotiating Kaiserdom). Ludwig had to make this his decision and agreed, he had now pleased his people. Bismarck undoubtedly handled this like a master statesman, balancing all sides involved.

Bismarck believed in the conservative order and he most certainly was himself very conservative in terms of his government. By all means he did implement laws stemming from the left, but at heart he believed in more concentrated power and social conservatism. Bismarck however is not as black and white as modern politics seem. He believed "Politics is not in itself an exact and logical science, but the capacity to choose in each fleeting moment of the situation that which is least harmful or most opportune"(Pflanze). Because of this, Bismarck's country was founded on conservative ideas. Following Ludwig agreeing to join the "German Nation", Bismarck had to get Wilhelm I on board. In order to do this, he cheated around Wilhelm I. Once the Germans had won the Franco-Prussian war, they were occupying the Palace of Versailles in 1871 (Deutsche Welle). It was in the best interest of Bismarck to officially unify as fast as possible, to take advantage of the strong sense of nationalism arisen from the destruction of the French. Once Bismarck had the approval of the Prince of Bavaria, he looked toward writing the proclamation. In the proclamation, he wrote "Kaiser und König" which translates to "Emperor

and King”(Fordham). Since Wilhelm I had decided that he would only be called “Emperor of Germany”, and Ludwig only agreed with “German emperor”, Bismarck walked a fine line. He wrote the way he did to avoid fighting. Wilhelm I was not pleased with this statement. Bismarck did this in order to include all the German states. After seeing that Bismarck was right, Wilhelm I accepted the title of “deutscher Kaiser”. This proves Bismarck's ability to manipulate scenarios to provide the desired outcome. After the unification of German States, Bismarck turned to internal affairs, and this is where he and Wilhelm II failed.

Bismarck was undeniably a genius when it came to unifying German states, but he fell short at holding them together. Bismarck faced a new challenge, different ideologies and a sweeping wave of liberalism. Managing the new emerging liberal ideas was something Bismarck was not able to master. In post-industrialization Germany, new ideas floated around. One of the more prominent ideas was socialism. The founder of socialism, Karl Marx, was from Germany and the author of the Communist Manifesto (Marx). The ideas of socialism spread through the country, and by the election of 1890 20% of the votes were for socialists. The industrialization of Germany led to a more confident middle class that believed in social democracy. Bismarck tried to stop the socialists by implementing social policies. For instance, he implemented government accident insurance, pension insurance, and healthcare. These social programs did not fulfil the socialists desires. The reason why Bismarck was fine with giving them some of these laws was because of his realpolitik political views. He did not care what “party” he had to be in, he was for unification, Bismarck said in an address to the Reichstag in 1881 “call it [what] you like... it is the same to me” (Boissoneault). Jonathan Steinberg agrees that it was a calculated risk to get the socialists to abandon their party now that their goals were achieved. Unfortunately, the amount

of leeway he was okay giving the socialists was not enough. He no longer allowed socialism to run free because he did not believe in it. As a result he banned the party from running. This prohibition was the beginning of the tragedies that would follow. The other people who were targeted were the Catholics. In such a protestant heavy area, it made sense that they would not fit in. In a newspaper published in 1875, there is a cartoon drawing of the Pope and Bismarck playing chess. In this drawing Bismarck is saying that the Pope will be “mated in a few moves” in Germany (Between Berlin and Rome). Unfairly Bismarck excluded people who were different, blinded by his own stereotypes (Deutsche Welle).

After the death of Wilhelm I, Wilhelm II took over and ruined the country. Wilhelm had a series of very poor decisions that led to tension, and eventually WWI. Wilhelm II had originally admired Bismarck, but in 2 years had forced Bismarck's resignation. One of Wilhelm's provocative changes were those surrounding the military. He was a proponent of increasing the size of the German Military. More specifically than increasing military, Wilhelm II increased the size of the navy. In an empire that is not an island, and is only partially exposed to water, that was quite threatening to the British empire, who is known for their large navy . His childhood visits to Britain where his royal cousins lived cultivated his love for sailing and ambition to beat the British to fulfil Germany's destiny (Historical Figures)(Editors). The imperialistic expansion of the time was highly competitive. Wilhelm II got involved, which quite readily challenges the British as two empires raced to conquer other countries. Innocently Wilhelm II was friends with the British family, very close to Queen Victoria, in fact a distant relative of hers. He supported the Boers in their fight against the British. This was a group of Dutch and Huguenots who lived in South Africa who had an altercation with the British. For him to support them is incredibly

provocative to the British (Historical Figures). Another tragedy that would also lead to WWI would be the assassination of Franz Ferdinand. Ferdinand, the Austrian Archduke, was assassinated by the Serbians. Wilhelm II suggested the Austrians take hard military action and that he would support them if it came to war. The power dynamic that would create is unthinkable. This got the attention of other powers. Wilhelm had lost control of his army and they were mobilizing to Austria despite his last efforts to slow them down. The Russians, British and French joined together to fight against the Germans and Austrians causing WWI (Editors). All of this stems from the unchallenged policies of Wilhelm III.

All these repercussions were not merely Wilhelm II's fault. Wilhelm was ruling essentially as an absolute monarch with no checks. The dilemma that turned Germany the way it did was its liberalism. Bismarck was behind. He was establishing a system based in the conservative mindset, one that was just starting to end. As Wilhelm II had taken over, this liberalism was too much for the old government to work with, for instance when Wilhelm II lost control of his army. The liberal ideas led to this, but the dated government could not keep up. Because of Bismarck's formation of the German State at the cusp of the transition into liberalism, the government could not handle what its people were throwing at it. Otto Von Bismarck led the German people through a triumphant unification via his wars and diplomacy. Despite this, the culmination of failing internal policy between Bismarck and Wilhelm II were tragic and led to one of the most horrific events the world has ever seen, WWI.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources (10):

“Between Berlin and Rome.” *Heidelberg University Library: Auction Catalogues – Digitized*, digi.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/diglit/klabismarck1890.

Heidelberg University has an archive of many scanned newspapers from 1800's Germany. This is excellent as it is first person writing and drawings that reflect the political and social setting of Germany at any given point. Caricatures from the time period are especially helpful in determining the political climate at the time and any tension that may not be conveyed in a textbook article.

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*. Communist League, 1848.

The Communist Manifesto was written right before the Revolution of 1848. Both Marx and Engels published this book to promote their ideology. This element of Liberalism would continue to weave its way into German Events throughout the 1800s. It is both interesting and important to understand where major ideas such as Socialism came from in History. The Manifesto contributes to the understanding of the spreading liberalism.

“The Imperial Proclamation.” Edited by Jerome S. Arkenberg, *Sourcebooks*, Fordham University, 8 Jan. 1998, sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/germanunification.asp.

The Modern History Sourcebook is a database offered by Fordham University. Jerome S. Arkenberg entered the source I used, he is a historian who has worked on many projects such as this, including H-Net. He has his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Chicago Law School. Sourcebook has a variety of first person sources that are organized by the different places in the world and time period. Each time period has its own tab divided into the different countries and themes. This is a useful source as it is the script of the Imperial Proclamation. This was a touchy spot in the German Unification, some wanted the title King, some wanted the title Emperor which Bismarck had to work out. The source proves Bismarck's capability to unite Germany and tactically manage all the small details involved.

Von Ballhausen, Lucius. “Ballhausen Memory.” Received by Recollection, *Bismarck: A Life*, Oxford University Press, Inc., 2011, p. 288.

Jonathan Steinberg *Bismarck: A Life* provides another letter source written by Lucius Von Ballhausen, edited by Steinberg and integrated into this book. The sources by Doctor Steinberg is a recollection of Ballhausen. This letter is important to me because it shows Bismarck's capability to deal with sudden necessity of responding to the French in a short time, in such a way that makes him out to be the good guy. His instigation of the war, while still making the French out to be the aggressor is a key step in how he was able to unify Germany, and therefore this is an important resource to my thesis.

Von Bismarck, Otto. "Excerpt from Bismarck's 'Blood and Iron' Speech (1862)." Translated by Jeremiah Riemer, *GHDI - Document*, ghdi.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=250.

GHDI offered a translated version of Otto Von Bismarck's Blood and Iron speech. This speech was made by the Conservative German Statesman. This speech is important because it ignites Bismarck's campaign to fight. It also helps to prove his conservative ideas and his opposition to liberal reform.

Von Bismarck, Otto. "Forging an Empire: Bismarckian Germany (1866-1890)." *Final Discussions before the Proclamation of the German Empire (January 17-18, 1871)*, 1871.

Otto Von Bismarck recalls the final hours before the Imperial Proclamation in this memoir. The recollection is stored in the GDHI database of translated documents and images. First person accounts from Bismarck are very useful in understanding the situation in which he was working. His account provides detail into the environment and the opposition he received from the King, which is important in understanding his effect on Unification.

Von Bismarck, Otto. "Negotiating Kaiserdom: Letter from Bismarck to King Ludwig II of Bavaria (November 27, 1870)." Received by King Ludwig II of Bavaria, *GHDI - Document*, 27 Nov. 1870, germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=593.

The German History in Documents and Images, is a comprehensive collection of first person information, regarding German History. It is broken up into distinct sections of German history. Each of these sections has sources collected and edited by 1 or 2 professors. The section I reference is put in and edited by Professor James Retallack, who is a doctor of philosophy from Oxford University. This section is a letter written by Otto

Von Bismarck, to Ludwig II of Bavaria. Bismarck needed Ludwigs support in order to unify Germany, and the letter shows his involvement and dedication to unification. The letters in the collection are all translated into English, and all are available in German.

Von Bismarck, Otto. "Otto Von Bismarck: 1866." *Fordham Sourcebook*, July 1998, sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/germanunification.asp#Otto%20von%20Bismarck:%201866.

The Fordham Sourcebook provides a collection of primary sources on German Unification. Bismarck's capacity to understand the strategy required in unifying all the German States is unparalleled, and is revealed by this letter. This is vital to proving Bismarck's significance to the Unification. This letter provides insight into his thought process while he was fighting, and how he through multiple steps ahead. He was not afraid to challenge the status quo way of fighting in order to better set up the Empire.

Von Waldersee, Alfred. "Waldersee's Record of the King on Spain." Received by Personal record, Oxford University Press Inc., 8 July 1870, New York, New York.

In *Bismarck: A Life* there are many letters translated into English interspersed by arguments made by the author Jonathan Steinberg. Steinberg is a European History professor who received his Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University, and his Ph.D. from Cambridge University. Von Waldersee was a German general who lived during Bismarck's time. This particular letter is important to my research as it is a second opinion/lense on Bismarck. Bismarck's accounts of himself may not be the most reliable because they may be biased. This source is a recollection that provides a second view on Bismarck's participation in the Unification and the Spanish Crown.

Wilhelm, Friedrich Louis, et al. "Letter to the French Ambassador." Received by French Ambassador, *Bismarck: A Life*, Oxford University Press, Inc., 2011, p. 288.

Bismarck: A Life has provided many letters written by the authorities of the German Unification. Compiled by Jonathan Steinberg, a European History professor graduating from Harvard and Cambridge University, the book provides a plethora of letters useful in many accounts. In proving Bismarck's influence in Unification, I turned to this book for the translated letter which Bismarck wrote for Wilhelm. Steinberg has already translated it and set them side by side to show Bismarck's genius, and how he was beneficial in the instigation of a war with France.

Secondary Sources (12):

Boissoneault, Lorraine. "Bismarck Tried to End Socialism's Grip-By Offering Government Healthcare." *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution, 14 July 2017, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/bismarck-tried-end-socialisms-grip-offering-government-healthcare-180964064/.

Lorraine Boissoneault is a journalist and contributing writer at the *Smithsonian Magazine*. Her article is helpful in understanding the thought process behind Bismarck's decision to allow certain socialist policies. In her article she has numerous quotes from an interview with Jonathan Steinberg. He is very knowledgeable in European history and German Unification in particular. He wrote a book on Otto Von Bismarck which I have found very useful in my writing, and I have interviewed him as well. This is a trustworthy source and provides good insight into Otto Von Bismarck from the perspective of a trusted historian.

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Schleswig-Holstein Question." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 16 Dec. 2016, www.britannica.com/event/Schleswig-Holstein-question.

Encyclopedia Britannica provides an excellent description of the Schleswig wars. This is a trustworthy source as it goes back to the 1700's with the enlightened philosophes, and is a highly well known encyclopedia. They provide the background information for the actual war and what led up to it. This is particularly useful for me as I do not need an in depth analysis of the actual fighting, I just need an understanding of the political landscape. This provides that for me from a German/Danish perspective rather than the article being about the Danish events only.. The German half of the research coincides with other information I have found concerning German Victory in the Schleswig-Holstein territory.

"Denmark." *The World Book Encyclopedia*, 2001st ed., vol. 5, World Book, Inc., 2001, p. 140.

The World Book Encyclopedia provides a brief explanation of the Schleswig wars under the Denmark section. This source is objective, and is a source provided by the Public Library for use in research, and therefore reliable. Although abbreviated there is very specific dates and names which I will use in future pursuit of information surrounding these wars. One problem with this source is that its from a Denmark perspective. This means it is mostly leading up to the war which is not as important to researching the German side, however it does provide a starting point for further research. The source is a

long existing encyclopedia in a fairly current day edition. This provides insight into one of the triumphs of the Germans in the 1800's.

Deutsche Welle. "The Germans - Bismarck | DW | 17.06.2018." *DW.COM*, 6 June 2018, www.dw.com/en/the-germans-bismarck/av-44261040.

The Deutsche Welle is a documentary company based out of Germany. Their headquarters are located in Berlin. They aim to teach people about the topic on their website. The company is a reliable source, as they provide information on Bismarck, using quotes, and letters. They offer Master's Programs in Media Studies, and offer publications of research papers. They are a German company so it will be interesting to see how the information fairs against other sources. It is possible the information is written in a positive light on Germany, however it is better than reading an article from Britain on the unification. It has primary sources to reference down the line, and gives specifics that are useful.

Douglas, Antranig S, and Jonathan Steinberg. "Antranig Douglas Interview of Jonathan Steinberg on *Bismarck: A Life*." 7 Nov. 2018.

I interviewed Jonathan Steinberg on the topic of his book *Bismarck: A Life*. Steinberg is a European History professor who received his Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University, and his Ph.D. from Cambridge University. His book addresses the life of Bismarck from his birth, to his legacy. He helped me by clarifying some points in his book, as well as giving me his reflection on the book after it has been published. This interview helped me better understand Bismarck and Wilhelm II and guided my thesis.

Editors, History.com. "Kaiser Wilhelm II." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 14 Apr. 2010, www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/kaiser-wilhelm-ii.

History.com is a well known and established website covering a wide range of world history. This article provides a good understanding of what Wilhelm's policies did to the country. This is important to establish good context surrounding Wilhelm, and formulating an argument regarding the tragedy that he brought about.

"Germany." *The World Book Encyclopedia*, 2013th ed., vol. 8, World Book, Inc., 2013, pp. 163–166.

In order to learn more about the topic of German Unification I consulted this encyclopedia. The encyclopedia provided a fairly broad yet seemingly thorough description of the events leading up to, during, and after the unification. This encyclopedia is a modern entry on the unification. The World Book Encyclopedia has been around since the 1917's and therefore is a reliable source, being widely accepted. This source is particularly useful in the sense that the reader doesn't need to know exactly

what to research. Using the broad term of the German unification the more detailed research can be facilitated by the timeline in the book.

“History - Historic Figures: Wilhelm II (1859 - 1941).” Edited by Neil McIntosh, *BBC*, BBC, 2014, www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/wilhelm_kaiser_ii.shtml#blq-nav.

The British Broadcasting Company provides a database of historic figures throughout time. They are a new source that covers world news. As one of the worlds largest news organizations by number of workers, they are reliable. This database provides information on figures from the ancient world until now. The BBC provides information on Wilhelm II, this provides a good starting point for further research. When looking at the different paths Wilhelm led Germany through to get the point of failure, this database provides an overview of topics for further research into tragedy.

“Issues Relevant to U.S. Foreign Diplomacy: Unification of German States.” *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, history.state.gov/countries/issues/german-unification.

The U.S Department of State provides a brief context of the german Unification for readers. They staff professional historians to write about the past. They are writing here to give context to the U.S and German relations in foreign affairs. The page provides insight into how the Germans were unified, including information about to Congress of Vienna. This is helpful in my essay as I need context about the years prior to Otto Von Bismarck taking control, to thoroughly understand his policy. This article also discusses the revolutions of 1848 which is helpful in learning about the german nationalism, and how it was a top-down movement.

Pflanze, Otto. “Bismarck's ‘Realpolitik.’” *The Review of Politics*, vol. 20, no. 4, 1958, pp. 492–514. *JSTOR*, JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/1404857.

Otto Pflanze’s excerpt explores the Realpolitik ideology that Bismarck is so famous for. Pflanze studied at Yale University and has a PhD. He is very focused on Otto Von Bismarck. He published a biography about him in 3 volumes. This Journal is important to men because it provides information about Bismarck’s ideology and thinking. As well as this, it provides first person information from bismarck.

Sperber, Jonathan. “The Journal of Modern History.” *The Journal of Modern History*, vol. 84, no. 3, 2012, pp. 768–769. *JSTOR*, JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/666022.

Jonathan Sperber's review of *Bismarck: A Life* by Jonathan Steinberg is published on JSTOR. His review is important in understanding how accurate Steinberg's book is. Sperber attended Cornell University and obtained his PhD at the University of Chicago. He went on to become a professor at University of Michigan and was the history department chair from 2005 until 2010. His review is certainly a reliable review as he has written books about this era of history himself.

Steinberg, Jonathan. *Bismarck: A Life*. Oxford University Press, 2011.

Jonathan Steinberg is a European History professor who received his Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University, and his Ph.D. from Cambridge University. His book addresses the life of Bismarck from his birth, to his legacy. Steinberg brings more to the table than other books do, when it comes to research. Steinberg includes letters written by the figures he is discussing, with his commentary in between. When he hopes to prove a point he shows a translated letter, and follows it up with his research. His book is adequately filled with facts, and they are quite useful in searching for primary sources. When I have found another source that has something worth researching, I can find specific first person letters written about it in this book. In review of this book, Jonathan Sperber states that it is a fair book. He acknowledges that Steinberg did a good job on it and that he does explore Bismarck's flaws, but they are his political virtues.