“Nationalism, simply defined, is dedication to and identification with the interests, purposes, and well-being of one’s nation-state, a political entity consisting ideally of individuals with shared values and a common language, history, and vision. As such, nationalism takes precedence over competing loyalties to religion, locality, and even family. No other political force in history has matched its ability to stir deep emotions, inspire heroism and self-sacrifice, and justify war and oppression. “

* Andrea, Alfred J. and James H. Overfield. *The Human Record: Sources of Global History.* Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001.

Question:

1. Compare this definition of Nationalism with your notes definition. What are the similarities and differences?

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**German Nationalism:**

Otto von Bismarck and his Political Tactics

*While German chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, is usually credited with unifying Germany, opinions about him differ. Below, two modern historians comment on Bismarck and his political accomplishments.*

**L.C.B Seaman, *Bismarck and his Strategies***

The first of these [mistakes] is the interpretation ‘Bismarck unified Germany.’ He did not. He did not even want to. He annexed, conquered or absorbed into Prussian control all the states of the old German Confederation except Austria, added thereto Slesvig, Alsace and Lorraine and called the result ‘The German Empire.’ It was a German Empire, certainly, but it was not, and Bismarck never intended it to be, the German Empire. It excluded, deliberately, all Germans living within the Hapsburg territories of Austria and Bohemia. Thus Bismarck’s German Empire was based on the division of Germany, not its unification…

The second interpretation which should be abandoned is that Bismarck planned the events… in advance and that when he planned them the results were always what he had intended. … This view of Bismarck as the dynamic ruthless realist planning the whole of this campaign brilliantly and wickedly in advance is based not on the facts but on a legend; a legend created by Bismarck to minister to his own vanity as an individual and to the cause of his indispensability as a politician.

Question:

1. Why does Seaman say that the empire Bismarck created was not really a unified German empire?

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**Gerhard Rempel, *The Process of Unification***

Bismarck's ultimate goal was to unite the German states into a strong German Empire with Prussia as its core. On September 30, 1862 Bismarck made his famous blood and iron speech, which implied that if Germany was to unify it, would be with the use of military force. Following his speech, he dismissed the budget proposal and ordered the bureaucracy to collect taxes. This money would go to military use, and Bismarck would expand and strengthen the Prussian armies. These armies would then be used in three patriotic wars which Bismarck devised to unify the country. These wars were: The Danish War, 1864-65; The Prussian Austrian War, 1866; and the Franco-Prussian War, 1870-71. Bismarck's victory led to the support he needed from his people to create a united Germany. Bismarck made Germany the strongest military power on the continent. Geographically Germany was between large military powers. Bismarck had to be sure no country would attack Germany. This caused him to create a secret alliance with Austria-Hungary and a triple treaty including Russia, Austria and Germany: otherwise known as the Alliance of three Emperors. Bismarck united Germany, but later on the country he united would cause the First World War. His foreign policy created alliances which was a major long term cause of WW1. These alliances created tension within the continent and allowed Europe to get into a world war situation.

Question:

1. What methods did Bismarck use to create a unified German state?

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1. How did Bismarck use nationalism to ensure that Germany would be strong country?

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Task: With your partner Brainstorm at least 3 Arguments for each position based on the sources above:

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| --- | --- |
| **Nationalism was Constructive** | **Nationalism was Destructive** |
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