Nationalism: A Force for Unity or Disunity

I. Disunity - Austria, Russia, and Ottoman Empire:
   o Multiethnic
   o Edges of territorial control for these empires often shifted (war, royal marriages), affecting large & diverse populations
   o Ethnic nationalism will destroy the [absolute] monarchies of all three

1) Austria:
   - 1866: loses a war to Prussia, becomes weaker
   - Hungarians use opportunity to gain more power; Austrian Empire becomes Austria-Hungary (Austro-Hungarian Empire)
   - Ethnic tension and nationalism remain, until the empire collapses after WWI

2) Russia:
   - Absolute monarch (czar) attempts forced cultural assimilation of other ethnic groups within its borders: Russification
   - Policy has opposite intended effect: strengthens anti-Russian ethnic nationalism
   - Last czar abdicates during WWI / Communist Revolution

3) Ottoman Empire:
   - Turks ruled over many other ethnic groups (and religious groups)
   - [After Crimean War] UK & France pressured Ottomans into extended equal citizenship to non-Turks; conservative Turks reacted angrily, creating alternate internal political tensions.
   - Armenians received worst treatment (1890's, 1915): ethnic cleansing & genocide.
   - Broke apart after WWI

II. Unity – Italy & Germany:
1) Italy (1858 – 1870):
   - Led by the liberal constitutional monarchy of Sardinia (appeals to middle classes of the Italian states)
     o King: Victor Emmanuel II
     o Prime Minister: Count Cavour – skilled statesman
       ▪ Obstacle to uniting NORTHERN Italy: Austria
       ▪ Allied with France (Napoleon III) against Austria, wins brief war against Austria, gains control of NORTHERN Italian states
       ▪ Simultaneously aided Italian nationalists in SOUTHERN Italy
     o Nationalist soldier: Giuseppe Garibaldi & his ‘Red Shirts’ (nationalist army)
       ▪ Captures Sicily, SOUTHERN Italy
       ▪ Endorses unification of northern and southern Italian states into ONE united Italy, under the constitutional monarchy of the Sardinian king.
     o 1866: gains Venetia (Venice) from Austria (weakened in its war against Prussia)
     o 1870: gains the ‘Papal States’, and Rome, its new capital
     o New, unified Italy has early difficulties:
       ▪ Political volatility (competing regions & parties in Parliament)
       ▪ Economic volatility (peasant revolts in south, worker strikes & riots in north)
       ▪ Social volatility (different regional norms & customs, dialects... massive emigration to U.S.)
2) Germany (1865 – 1871):
- 1815: 39 German states comprise the German Confederation (originally dominated by Austria)
- PRUSSIA: leads effort to unify all German states:
  - Ethnically homogeneous (German!)
  - Large, modern, powerful army
  - More industrialized, strong infrastructure (i.e. railroads!)
- From revolutions of 1848, Prussia became more liberal, with a constitutional monarchy
- 1861: Wilhelm I becomes new king, does NOT like constitutional restrictions on his power… finds support among wealthy Prussian conservatives ( Junkers)
- Otto von Bismarck:
  - 1862: named Prime Minister of Prussia (similar to Metternich as a conservative, but much more aggressive, a ‘warhawk’… more concerned with Prussian expansion)
  - Political philosophy: ‘realpolitik’ – “politics of reality”; ‘power politics’; more about realism / pragmatism than idealism (‘keeps it real!’)
  - W/ Wilhelm I’s approval (and support from the Junkers), ignores Prussian parliament (Constitutional violations!), has contempt for liberalism (similar to Metternich, but has no interest in ‘balance of power’
  - A belligerent conservative – prefers war over rhetoric in pursuing goals: BLOOD and IRON!
- Unification - a three-step plan, ‘Blood & Iron’ in action:
  1. 1864: Defeat Denmark in a quick war, gain territory AND NATIONAL PRIDE TO FUEL MORE AGGRESSION
  2. 1866: Provokes a war with Austria (‘Seven Weeks War’)
     - Far superior army (equipment, training)
     - Industrial superiority
     - Humiliated and further weakened Austria (now the Austro-Hungarian Empire)
     - United all of NORTHERN Germany, under Prussian rule (still needs to gain control of SOUTHERN German states)
  3. 1870-1871: Franco-Prussian War
     - Bismarck provokes a war with France (Napoleon III)
     - Bismarck reasons that the threat of a French invasion through SOUTHERN German states to attack Prussia will motivate southern German Catholics to join northern German Protestants
     - Bismarck – a master manipulator: feeds newspapers manufactured stories of insults exchanged between French ambassador and Prussian king… France declares war (?!)
     - Bismarck anticipated French declaration of war (July, 1870), and, at the ready, immediately invaded and overwhelmed France
- France surrenders (January, 1871)… OUTCOMES:
  o Napoleon III exiled (France back to a temporary civil war between liberals and radicals… 20,000 executed for insurrection, before forming an unstable THIRD REPUBLIC in 1875)
  o Southern Germany unites with northern Germany to form a single, unified GERMAN NATION, under Prussian control
  o King Wilhelm I of Prussia becomes KAISER WILHELM I of GERMANY, ceremony held at Versailles, FRANCE
  o New German Empire: the SECOND REICH
  o European ‘balance of power’: destroyed (Germany and Britain getting stronger, France, Austria, and Russia getting weaker… also a result of variable success of each toward INDUSTRIALIZATION!)