

Germany 1815-1918

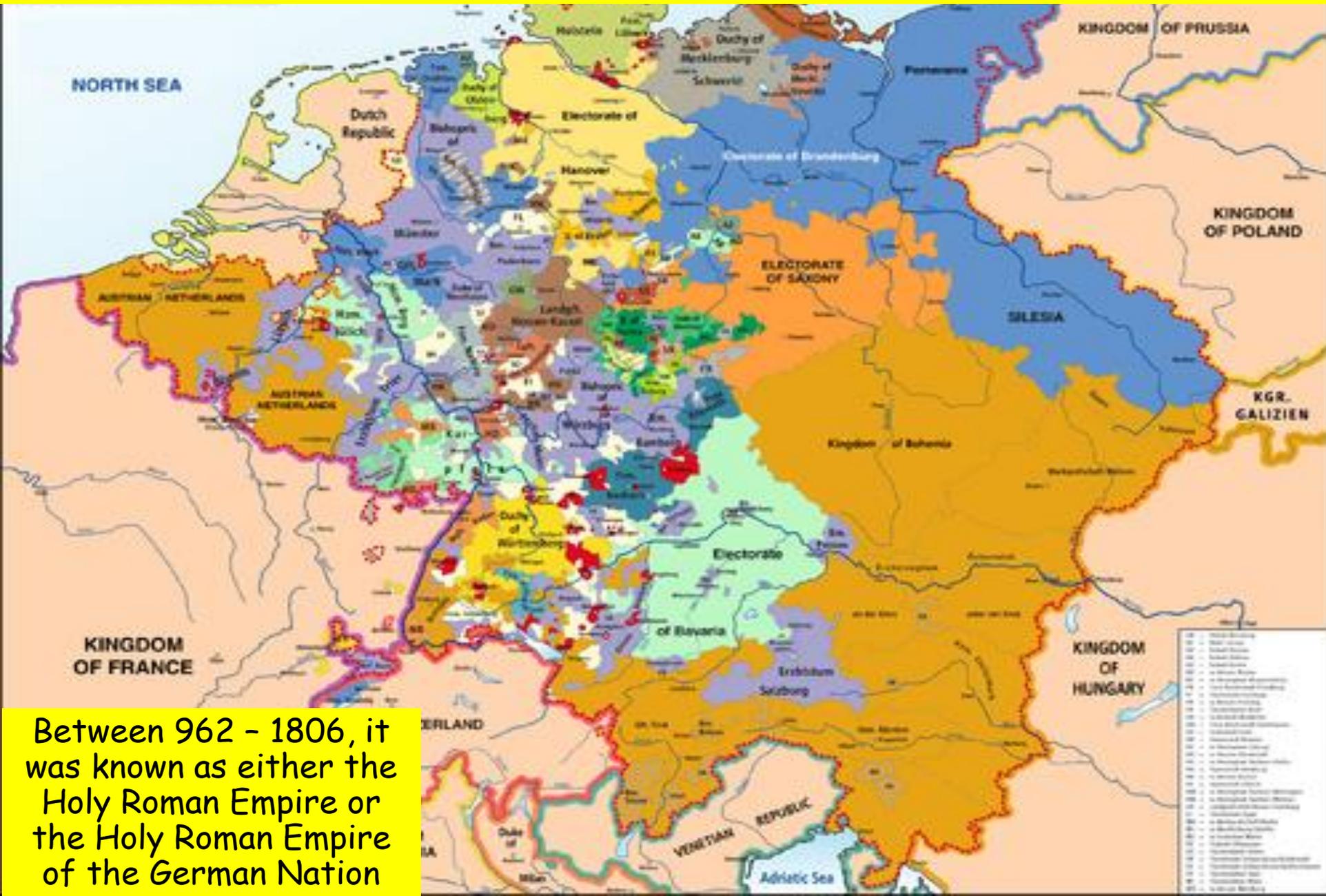
Learning Goal= Rise of German Nationalism

How was Germany created?

Life in the Second Reich-Kaiser Wilhelm II

Consequences of WW1

Before this it was known by several different names and consisted of almost 400 separate states



Between 962 - 1806, it was known as either the Holy Roman Empire or the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation

- They associated themselves more with their state than the country
- Despite being separated into different states, the people shared a common language, heritage and customs
 - This was seen as a reason to unify
- Many of the states had their own monarchy but they all swore allegiance to the Emperor

Napoleon's Organisational Skills

- When Napoleon successfully invaded the Holy Roman Empire in 1806, he decided that for (mainly) administrative reasons it would be easier to reduce the size of the Empire. He consolidated many of the states and created the Confederation of the Rhine
 - This consisted of 39 states and appeared to be a step towards German Unification - but it did not include Prussia

Economic Factors

- The population in the *German states* grew=so more workers began to work in factory production work.
- *German States* produced 1.6 million tonnes of coal per year in the 1820s and this increased to 6.1 million tonnes by the 1840s.
- So as the *German States* became more industrialised, it became increasingly important that they co-operated more together
- Prussia=Gained the Rhineland after 1815
 - Rich in coal and iron
 - Now had land in East and West *Germany*
 - Wanted more co-operation and free trade with it's neighbours
 - As Prussia began to draw upon its newly acquired resources, the balance of power within the *Confederation* began to shift in her favour



Who was Bismarck?



Count Otto Eduard Leopold von Bismarck (1 April 1815 - 30 July 1898) was a Prussian statesman and an aristocrat (Junker).

- He was a upper class gentleman and as such had no time for the solely middle class notion of *German Nationalism*.
- Although he was not really an officer in the Army he loved the militaristic way of life and was often seen wearing military uniforms.
- After two years of political deadlock, Wilhelm I asked Bismarck to take up the post of Chancellor in 1862
- Bismarck was known as a brilliant politician and a strong supporter of the monarchy
 - “The great questions of the time will not be resolved by speeches and majority decisions--that was the great mistake of 1848 and 1849--but by **iron and blood**”



- Prussia then waged 3 wars...and won them all!

- Denmark
- Austria
- France

- On 18 January 1871, Wilhelm I Kaiser of Prussia became the first Emperor of a united Germany - Bismarck its first Chancellor
- This was a Prussian dominated Germany
 - The government was hand picked by Wilhelm I and only contained members of the aristocracy

A Growing Economy

- After the unification of Germany, it rose to be the Industrial giant of the Europe.
- Germany's chemical and electrical industries were beyond any other industries in the world.
- Germany's coal and iron resources resulted in massive growth of the economy.



- A work force and rapidly growing population also aided in the development of the economy

All change!

- 1880- New Kaiser (Wilhelm II)
- Bismarck=fired!



Who was Kaiser Wilhelm II

- What type of person was the Kaiser? Sources sheet

What was life like?(highlight +/-)

- The growth of parliamentary government The Kaiser had extensive powers. He alone had the right to appoint and dismiss the Chancellor and his State Secretaries, completely independently of any views in the Reichstag (Parliament). Government ministers were answerable only to the Kaiser. No major decision could be taken without the Kaiser's agreement. The Reichstag could discuss, amend and vote on new legislation, but it could not decide on the topics in question. The army maintained a strong level of influence.
- Yet, at the same time as the Kaiser dominated decision-making, political parties developed in terms of organisation and importance. There were several main political parties, but never in the years 1871–1914 did any one of them come close to gaining a majority. In the early years of Wilhelm II's reign, the RIGHT-WING conservative parties usually joined together to pass government laws. However, by 1914 these parties had declined in influence. Others gained support, especially the more LEFT-WING SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY, which appealed to Germany's growing numbers of industrial workers.
- Many members of the middle class were happy with this right-wing dominated government because they were afraid of the growing political strength of the industrial workers. This meant that the people in power were mostly nationalist in their views. They were also traditionally hostile to the Jews. This is known as anti-Semitism.

WW1

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hl5OqQV_aD9Y

Using the info sheet find out examples for the following=

The war had brought :

- economic disaster to Germany
- a serious loss of man power
- near total disrespect for the government
- many thousands of armed and disillusioned former soldiers roaming the streets
- a civilian population traumatised by the impact of the war
- This was all before the anger that was to occur in Germany over the Treaty of Versailles.



“Jusqu’à un certain jour, l’Allemagne fut la plus grande et la plus puissante force militaire de la guerre mondiale. Un instant le colosse a touché terre ; mais la blessure mortelle n’est pas venue de l’extérieur, elle vint de l’intérieur. (Arbeiter Zeitung de Vienne 26 mars 1919).”
Carte postale autrichienne contre la démocratie que certains estiment juive.

Write down some questions you would ask about this cartoon

Weimar/Nazi Timeline

- Colour coding task

Germany Summer work

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITQ4TILv3RQ>

- VLE wider reading
- Profiles of key individuals.

Task-complete a profile on each of the following=Ebert, Hitler, Stresemann, Rosa Luxemburg, Kapp, Hindenburg, Luddendorf, Gregor Strasser, Goebbels, Goering.