



SSIC_{SIM}

2019

BACKGROUND GUIDE

GERMAN UNIFICATION: THE RISE
OF A SUPERPOWER



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Dear delegates,

I am grateful that you have taken interest in this committee! I find this general time period to be one of the most fascinating to learn about for a number of reasons. For one, many of us are taught about the World Wars comprehensively in high school but we do not delve much into the preceding century. Gaining an understanding of the 19th century is extremely helpful for comprehending the political context of ideologies that existed and decisions that were taken later.

Another reason why this period of history is great is because it was recent enough for there to be enough surviving information about it. This allows for us to host what will hopefully be an excellent, enriching experience at SSICsim. And considering just how impactful the unification of Germany remains to this day, this committee should be a deeply meaningful one.

I personally am a second-year student at UTSG pursuing a Finance and Economics Specialisation in the Bachelor of Commerce program. I have been involved in MUN for the past four years and in crisis committees specifically since last year. Regardless of whether this is your first experience, I truly hope that you all find crisis to be as fantastic of an engagement as I have.

This background guide should provide some base knowledge for committee participation; I suggest you research your own characters in further



depth. While I do not need you to memorize the information in this background guide, I do believe you will find most of it useful.

Good luck and see you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Raza Akbari, Director

INTRODUCTION

It is currently January of 1864 and the Schleswig-Holstein-Lauenburg question has once again come to the forefront of German and Danish politics. After Danish King Christian IX ascended the throne last year, the Germans have insisted that he is not a legal successor to the regions of Schleswig, Holstein, and Saxe-Lauenburg (which have historically been ruled by the Danish Kings from the House of Oldenburg). As a result, the German Confederation sent an occupation force in December 1863 to Holstein and Lauenburg but have not supported a further invasion to take Schleswig. However, Otto von Bismarck, the Minister President of Prussia, has just successfully convinced the Austrians to ignore the Confederation and use military force regardless. Thus, the Germans are yet again on the brink of war with Denmark. And although the London Protocol of 1852 didn't explicitly declare a defeat for the Prussians during the First Schleswig War, the resulting white peace was almost as humiliating.



But this time, the circumstances are different. Prussia and Austria are unified in their aims and international pressure is not as great as it was previously. Can they emerge victorious this time? And what long-term effects will the result of this conflict have on the goals of pro-unification factions?

Ever since Napoleon's policy of German mediatisation and the end of the Holy Roman Empire, the movement for a unified German state has grown exponentially. This culminated in the creation of the Frankfurt Parliament of 1848 which, despite coming close, failed to establish a unified constitutional monarchy. But it is not in the character of the Germans to give up so easily. Sixteen years have passed and there is a new opportunity to strengthen and promote German nationalism by swiftly defeating the Danes.

The stage is set for the Germans to change the course of history forever. Europe and the rest of the world watches in anticipation.

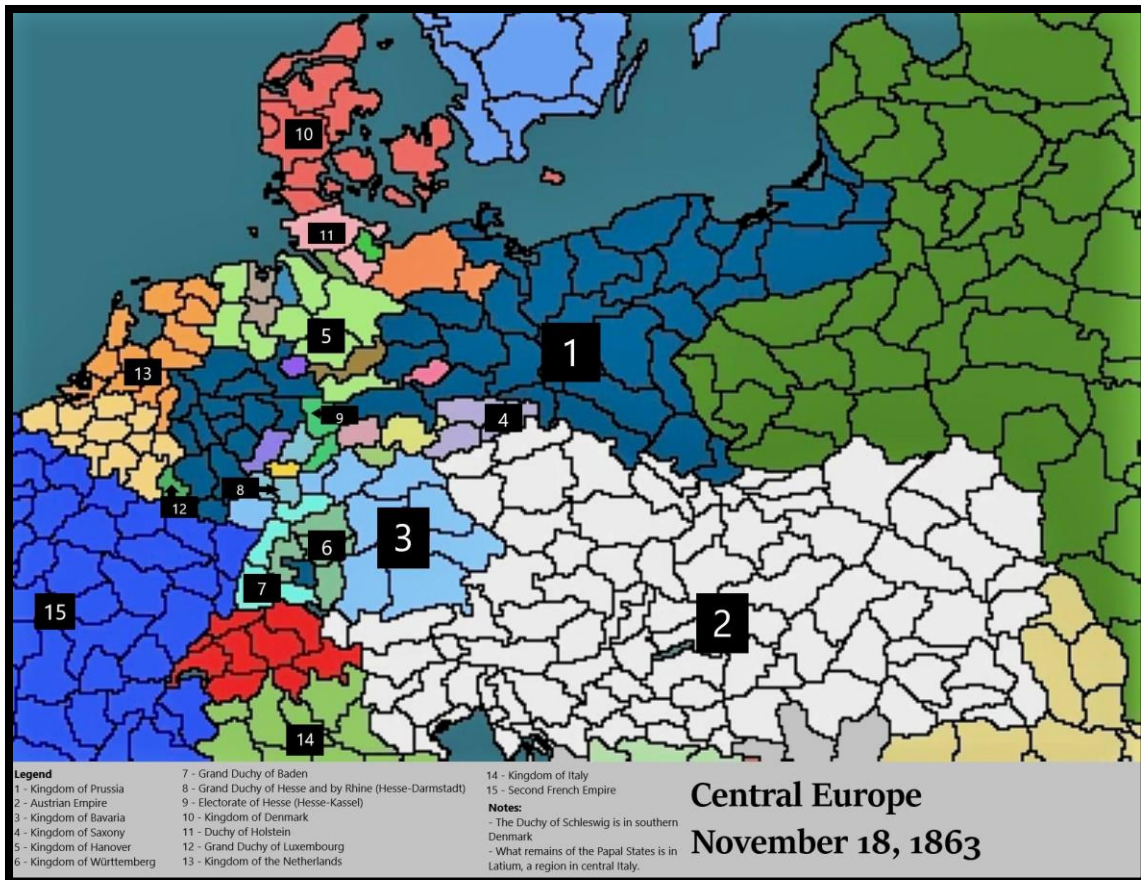
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Movement for a Unified Germany

Any semblance of German unity provided by the archaic Holy Roman Empire was lost with the conclusion of the Thirty Years' War in 1648. The Peace of Westphalia established an expectedly inconclusive status quo following one of the largest conflicts in human history. As it did not definitively solve the root cause of the Reformation by establishing a dominant religious force in the Holy



Roman Empire, the empire's already-minimal federal presence was diminished even further. This gave way to the extreme fragmentation of states and decentralization of power in the empire known as the *kleinstaaterei*.



The idea of Pan-Germanism began experiencing mainstream popularity during the early 19th century with the Napoleonic Wars. The French Emperor implemented a number of far reaching policies to secularize and greatly reduce the number of independent German entities from about 300 to just 39. This doctrine was known as German mediatisation and was widely disliked by the Germans themselves. Although they had never possessed any significant uniting



principles over the previous few centuries, this shared resentment of French authority started the rise of German nationalism in its modern sense. Quickly, this led to a movement for a unified German state to unite all German-speakers.

In 1806, the Holy Roman Emperor Franz II - who, at this point, had extremely limited authority - abdicated and dissolved the Holy Roman Empire in reaction to the French invasion. While the German Confederation was established following Napoleon's downfall just nine years later, the new organization was similar to its predecessor and did not solve most of its biggest issues. It was a loosely confederated collection of German states with almost identical borders to the Holy Roman Empire led by the Austrian Emperor. Its legislative body was known as the Federal Convention and was further divided into two branches: the inner council (which made the majority of decisions) and the plenary session (usually only used for constitutional amendments). The members of both branches were directly appointed by each individual state government or prince. Actions taken by the Federal Convention were binding but the execution of its demands remained under the control of the member states. Furthermore, the states kept full sovereignty over customs, police, defence, and more. It is easy to see from all this that the German Confederation was more of an attempt to create a balance of powers in Europe rather than a genuine effort to unite the Germans. This balance of powers established at the Congress of Vienna in 1815 was known as the Concert of Europe and was masterminded by the most influential European nations at that point in time.



After decades of brutal conflict, the leaders of Europe sought to create a continent on which there were several roughly equally-poised powers that kept each other in check, preventing the outbreak of another massive war. To this end, the negotiators at the Congress of Vienna decided that it would be in Europe's best interest to prevent the creation of a unified German state out of fear that it would upset the very balance they were trying to implement. Instead, partially due to the presence of the influential Austrian Foreign Minister Klemens von Metternich, Germany was reorganized but remained under Austrian leadership through its powers in the Confederation.

As one can imagine, this settlement did not satisfy nationalists who desired to unite the Germans under one sovereign nation. The thirty years following the Congress of Vienna saw a significant rise in the popularity of liberal nationalism among the middle and upper classes, spurred in large part by well-known figures in literature, the arts, and academia. Both the Prussian and Austrian governments responded to this with very strict censorship during an approximately thirty-year-long named the Vormärz. While there were a few small uprisings during the Vormärz, the true climax came in 1848 during the continent-wide wave of revolutions. In Germany, this most notably led to the creation of a liberal democratic legislative body known as the Frankfurt Parliament. In May 1848, the Frankfurt Parliament presented the Frankfurt Constitution which, like the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of the Rights of Man, established a comprehensive set of fundamental rights. Perhaps even



more notably, the Frankfurt Parliament declared a united German Empire. This empire was to be a constitutional monarchy but its territory was a serious matter of dispute. Prussia ideally wanted a 'Lesser Germany' (Kleindeutschland) that excluded the Austrian Empire so that they would be the dominant force. The Austrians on the other hand pushed for a 'Greater Germany' (Großdeutschland) which would have united Germany under Austrian leadership, possibly also including Austria's external territorial possessions. One of the main complaints of those who opposed the idea of a greater Germany was that the Austrian Empire included too many non-German ethnicities. While this conflict was not settled until unification itself, the most prevalent idea was to include all Confederation territory and external Prussian territory but exclude external Austrian land. Instead, the Austrian Empire would have been divided up and ruled in personal union.

After the Frankfurt Constitution was signed, the King of Prussia, Friedrich Wilhelm IV, was appointed to be the first Emperor of the Germans; however, alleging that the Frankfurt Constitution would unfairly restrict the power of the individual German princes, Friedrich Wilhelm IV rejected the offer. While this may sound like a weak excuse, this concern was not misplaced as a complete loss of sovereignty was a significant concern for the smaller German states. Regardless, the disapproval of the Prussian King was seen as a huge failure and soon thereafter, the Frankfurt Parliament was officially dissolved.



Although the Prussian King may have turned down the offer to become German Emperor, he had a plan which he executed directly after the collapse of the Frankfurt Parliament. Prussia formed an alliance with the Kingdoms of Hanover and Saxony who agreed to support a newly-proposed plan for unification known as the Erfurt Union. This Union excluded Austria and it was intended to be a much more conservative plan for unification. For example, unlike the universal and equal suffrage found in the Frankfurt Constitution, the Erfurt Union applied a three-class franchise system. The three classes corresponded to different levels of taxation; those who paid the most in taxes would be in the first class while those who paid the least would be in the third class. Furthermore, the tax revenue from each class would be equal meaning that the third class would be significantly larger in population when compared to the first and second classes. Each class then gets equal representation in voting. When Prussia used this system in 1849, the first class made up 4.7% of the population, while the second and third classes made up 12.7% and 82.6% respectively. Therefore, each first class vote was worth 17.5 times that of one third class vote.

Therefore, it should be easy to see why although it got a decent level of recognition from the other German princes, the Erfurt Union elections held in January 1850 received very little public support. There were widespread boycotts and Saxony and Hanover even abandoned the plan once it became apparent that it would fail. Prussia's humiliation was completed when Austria



pressured them into signing the Punctuation of Olmütz. It forced Prussia to abandon the idea of the Erfurt Union and instead support a return of the Federal Convention of the German Confederation. Thus, it was subsequently recalled in 1850, putting a temporary end to efforts from both sides of the political spectrum to permanently undermine Austrian hegemony in Germany. From a more general perspective, this slowed down the decades-long trend of declining Austrian power that began with losses in the Silesian Wars, the War of the Austrian Succession, the Seven Years' War and the French Coalition Wars.

It must be noted, however, that Austrian liberals did manage to win some concessions over the next few years; most notably, the Austrian Empire adopted the Imperial Constitution of 1861 (also commonly known as the February Patent). This significantly reformed the Reichsrat and transformed it from an elite council of nobles into a bicameral legislature. The upper house was wholly appointed by the Emperor and members held their positions for life while the lower house was indirectly elected by the populous. However, as is the case with most compromises, the February Patent ultimately pleased neither side. The liberals viewed it as a mere illusion of democratic principles while the conservatives believed it wrongfully undermined the power of the nobility. On top of this, most ethnic minorities - many of whom were very liberal - refused to participate in the reformed Reichsrat. Therefore, the February Patent was suspended towards the end of 1865 and it was effectively replaced by the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867.



After the Punctuation of Olmütz, the Austrians tried to capitalize on the failure of the Prussians to push for yet another unification proposal. This was called the Frankfurt Reform Act of 1863 (Frankfurter Reformakte in German) and was the most comprehensive plan yet. It aimed to reform and strengthen the German Confederation by introducing a federal directorate with executive authority and several representative legislative bodies with legally-binding power. It also would have created a fully-fledged federal court system. Because the Frankfurt Reform Act would have been a restructuring rather than a replacement of the Confederation, it likely would have inherited its borders. Deciding the borders of a united Germany was an obstacle to the unification efforts in 1848-1850; therefore, avoiding the issue entirely was a good sign for the viability of the Frankfurt Reform Act. However, it was still opposed by almost every other German state for fear of Austrian domination in the new federal executive branch. As such, the Frankfurt Reform Act was never voted on; it also marked the last significant effort to establish a Greater Germany.

The Punctuation of Olmütz had stopped progress from being made on unification elsewhere in the Confederation. Nevertheless, since the end of the Vormärz, a moderate nationalist party-like organization had formed to politically promote the unification of a Lesser Germany; it was known as the German National Association. This organization was at its most effective in its first few years after formation in 1859. When Prince-Regent Wilhelm of Prussia started assuming more responsibility in 1858, he began working with the National



Association to usher in a moderately liberal “New Era” in Prussian politics during which concessions were made to the middle and upper classes.

This New Era came to an end with the Prussian constitutional crisis of 1862. The Chief of the Prussian General Staff Helmuth von Moltke the Elder and Minister of War Albrecht von Roon proposed a series of sweeping military reforms that the Prussian Diet refused to provide funds for. Frustrated by the Diet's unwillingness to comply, Wilhelm I - now King of Prussia after the death of his father one year prior - appointed foreign ambassador Otto von Bismarck to the office of Minister-President to deal with the crisis. One of the first speeches he gave in this position was also likely his most-well known. It is often called the “Blood and Iron Speech”, in reference to the following frequently-quoted section:

"The position of Prussia in Germany will not be determined by its liberalism but by its power [...] Prussia must concentrate its strength and hold it for the favorable moment, which has already come and gone several times. Since the treaties of Vienna, our frontiers have been ill-designed for a healthy body politic. Not through speeches and majority decisions will the great questions of the day be decided—that was the great mistake of 1848 and 1849—but by iron and blood."

From this, it should be evident that Bismarck believed that only through military force would the matter of German unification be settled. He solved the military



budget crisis by first asking Wilhelm I to dissolve parliament. Because budgets could only legally come into effect upon the agreement of both the Diet and the King, Bismarck argued that if the Diet was dissolved and unable to pass a budget resolution, no new budget could be agreed on for the year of 1862. Thus, he had found a constitutional loophole whereby the budget defaulted to that of the previous year. This allowed certain taxes to be extended, making sufficient funds available for the requested military expansion. From early on in his term as Minister-President, Otto von Bismarck had made his clear belief in Realpolitik - the idea that politics should not be aligned with any specific ideology and instead be driven entirely by ruthless pragmatism. Therefore, it should not be a surprise to learn that Bismarck was very unpopular in the first two years after assuming his position.

Even so, Bismarck had also insisted on attaining the position of Foreign Minister and his performance in this role tremendously boosted his popularity and cemented his legacy as the man who united Germany. His first significant opportunity came in 1863 during a Danish constitutional crisis. It had been determined by the London Protocol of 1852 that the Duchies of Schleswig, Holstein, and Saxe-Lauenburg - of which the latter two were also in the German Confederation - would remain equally independent from but in personal union with the Danish ruling dynasty. However, when King Frederik VII died heirless in 1863, the ruling dynasty of Denmark should have diverged from those of Schleswig, Holstein, and Saxe-Lauenburg. To prevent this, the succession laws



were pre-emptively unified. Under immense pressure from Danish liberals, the new King Christian IX also signed the November Constitution which incorporated Schleswig into the Danish parliamentary system. This was a direct violation of the London Protocol and it incited a wave of anger across Germany. Soon thereafter, the Kingdoms of Hanover and Saxony sent troops to occupy Holstein and Lauenburg to liberate the local German population from the Danes. While the vast majority of the German states were satisfied with this action, Prussia and Austria decided to go one step further and declare war on Denmark to also liberate the Duchy of Schleswig and reunite it with Holstein and Lauenburg which it had historically been unified with. Although the Confederation strongly disapproved of this, they did not wish to challenge the combined strength of both Prussia and Austria. The ensuing conflict was called the Second Schleswig War; it resulted in the Prussian annexation of Schleswig and Lauenburg and the Austrian annexation of Holstein. It was seen as a huge victory by German liberal nationalists and Bismarck's popularity finally saw great improvement.

Over the next seven years, Bismarck indirectly instigated a war against Austria and another against France. By defeating Austria, he managed to finally and definitively put an end to the idea of a Greater Germany and united all of the northern German states. His crushing victory against France finally won him the approval of the rest of the German states and in the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles on January 18th 1871, the German Empire was proclaimed when Wilhelm I accepted the title of German Emperor.



Thus, a superpower was finally born - after decades of efforts from all ends of the political spectrum - not by “speeches and majority decisions”, but by blood and iron.

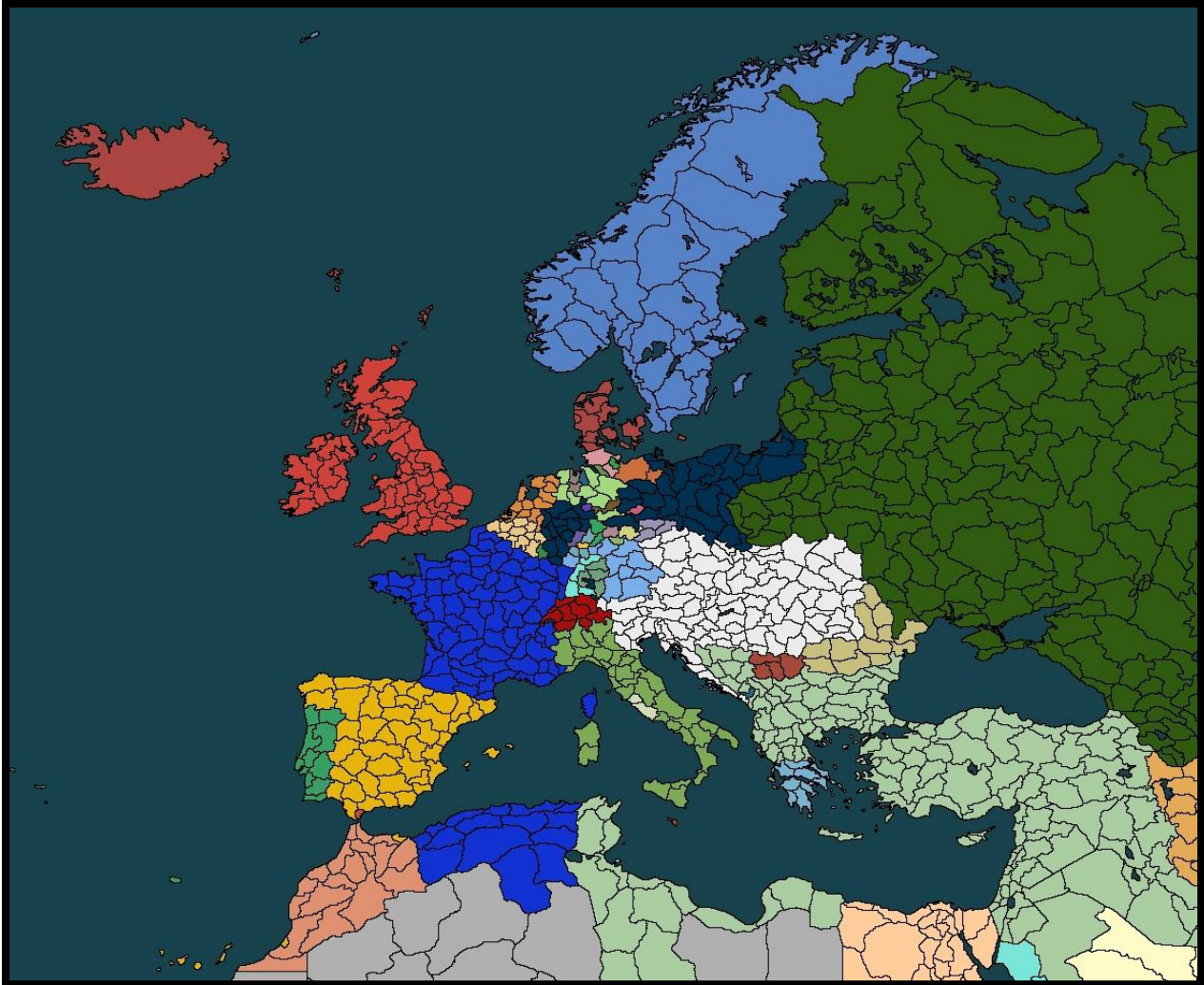
THE MOVEMENT FOR A UNIFIED ITALY

The unification of Italy bore many similarities to the unification of Germany. The Italian peninsula had not been unified since the fall of the Roman Empire; and in fact, Italy had not been free from foreign control for most of the past one thousand years. The French, Spanish, and Austrians all possessed Italian land either directly or as client states at various times throughout history. Napoleon exerted his influence in Italy through the Coalition Wars but his efforts were reversed at the Congress of Vienna in 1815. This meant that the Austrian hegemony that had been established in 1797 in the northeastern region of Lombardo-Venetien was restored.

Just like in Germany, the Italian peninsula also saw the rise of Romantic nationalism during and after the Napoleonic Era. This was known as the Risorgimento and it involved the promotion of liberal nationalism among the middle and upper classes primarily by well-known figures in the arts and academia. The most prevalent nationalist theories were linguistically driven; they believed in uniting all Italian-speaking people. From very early on, the northern states of Italy and the Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont were united in ideology



but the greatest obstacles were to unification were invasive Austrian influence and the Bourbon-controlled Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.



The former issue was partially dealt with during the Second Italian War for Independence in 1859. The Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont, led by King Vittorio Emanuele II, asked the French for help in a war they incited against the Austrian Empire in exchange for the cession of Savoia and Nice to France. Italian national hero Giuseppe Garibaldi commanded troops in this war and, with the



help of the French, the conflict was concluded in a matter of months. As a result, Sardinia-Piedmont annexed the region of Lombardy from the Austrians and the Grand Duchy of Tuscany.

Sardinia-Piedmont then dealt with the Two Sicilies in 1861 when Giuseppe Garibaldi led the Expedition of the Thousand. With some help from the British navy and local pro-unification militias, Garibaldi landed in Sicily with only about one thousand volunteers and managed to overthrow the Bourbons and annex the nation. Because the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies was allied to the Pope, Sardinia-Piedmont also simultaneously annexed most of the Papal States. Most of this territory was soon overrun by bandits and it took almost four years to establish a proper level of control. This period of time was known as the Brigantaggio. Regardless, after having incorporated most Italian territory, the Kingdom of Italy was declared on March 17th 1861. Vittorio Emanuele II therefore became the first King of Italy.

Even so, Italy still needed to liberate Venetia from the Austrians and fully annex the remainder of the Papal holdings. The liberation of Venetia came during the Third Italian War for Independence which occurred simultaneously with the Austro-Prussian War. The Kingdom of Italy had been promised the cession of Venetia by Prussia in exchange for a military alliance to fight Austria. Because Italian forces did not contribute significantly to the swift victory, Austria refused to cede Venetia directly to Italy, instead opting to hand the region over



to France. However, as per a prior secret agreement made between Italy and France, control over Venetia was immediately transferred to Italy.

For a number of years, the Italians were not able to annex what remained of the Papal States because France had sent a garrison to protect the city of Rome and they likely would have viewed a military invasion as a declaration of war. However, they seized an opportunity that arose in 1870 when the French garrison was recalled in order to strengthen the forces fighting in the Franco-Prussian War. The Italians immediately sent forces to capture the city and Papal sovereignty was restricted to the Vatican City. In 1871, the capital of Italy was shifted from Florence to Rome.

Thus, Italian territorial acquisitions had concluded - for now. The Italians sought more Austrian territory in regions like South Tyrol and Dalmatia but these claims would not be seriously contested until World War I.

MECHANICS

Inner Council of the German Confederation's Federal Convention

In this committee, general public directives will be weakened. Instead, greater emphasis will be placed on joint directives between individual heads of state. Alternatively, the German Confederation may be used by German characters to promote their views.



The Inner Council was the strongest federal authority in the German Confederation. It consisted of seventeen seats all appointed directly by German princes. While one seat was shared among the four free cities and five more were shared between small principalities, eleven seats were given to individual states.

While the six shared seats will be controlled by Crisis, the eleven individual seats are all represented by characters in the committee. Their monarchs will sit together occupying the front half of the committee room. Any one of these monarchs can, at any time, introduce an Inner Council resolution that would officially be approved by the Confederation if voted upon.

However, keep in mind that the Confederation had very little federal authority to enforce its demands. Furthermore, it will likely be abolished/replaced part of the way through the committee; this is perfectly acceptable. The survival of the Confederation depends almost entirely on the actions of the committee.

Simplified National Budgets

To assign some degree of objective progress, this committee will make use of a simple form of national budgets. However, for the sake of simplicity, delegates will use relatively low integer values instead of precise currency figures. Furthermore, the scope of this mechanic will only extend to a few areas such as development, military division training, technology level, and number of



spies available. Development will represent the economic power of a nation; a nation's national income will therefore directly correlate to its level of development. It will also determine the level of manpower in a country which will be the limit on annual military recruitment. Finally, increased development will also lead to an increase in espionage resources. Aside from development, points can also be consumed to train military divisions and improve technology. Technology requires a high level of investment to increase but it may be impactful in deciding the outcome of some military engagements.

Only the heads of state of each country (i.e. Wilhelm I of Prussia and Franz Joseph I of Austria) can approve national budgets, but this power can be devolved to other delegates at the behest of the monarch. The first budgets will be allocated near the beginning of the committee, and can be changed at the start of each quarter (otherwise the previous quarter's budget will be applied to the new quarter). Over the course of the committee, these stats can be improved or harmed through both the actions of delegates and crisis updates. If the points increase or decrease at the start of a quarter, delegates will be informed, and will need to change their budget.

More specific details will be revealed in committee.

Estate Opinions

Not every leader rules alone, and there is always the possibility that the population will revolt. While delegates are the start of the committee will have



populations that generally support their actions, popularity is subject to change. Losing wars, being humiliated on the global level, and bad decisions are just some of the examples that could lower popularity. Each estate (the nobility, the middle class, the working class for example) have different opinions on every decision delegates take, and any action can change their views on the delegate. While it's unrealistic to inquire about the estates for their opinions before every decision (just like in real life), it's important to understand the implications of what happens when popularity is low. As mentioned in the industrial points description, if wars are unpopular, not all military will deploy due to mutinies. While hopefully unlikely, delegates with a record of bad decision making may also see revolts from the working class, assassination attempts, and ultimatums from the nobility. It is important to balance your agenda with the opinion of your country.

Standardized Time Flow

When not at war, the committee will follow a standardized time flow. This means that time in the committee will pass at a constant, established rate. This rate can be set and changed by the chair/moderator but will likely remain more or less the same throughout the course of the committee.



APPENDIX: CHARACTER LIST

Name	Role(s)
Franz Joseph I von Habsburg-Lothringen	Emperor of Austria President of the German Confederation Supreme Commander of the Austrian Empire
Alexander von Mensdorff-Pouilly	Foreign Minister of the Austrian Empire
Archduke Albrecht von Habsburg-Lothringen	Commander-in-Chief of the Austrian Empire
Wilhelm I von Hohenzollern	King of Prussia Commander-in-Chief of the Kingdom of Prussia
Otto von Bismarck	Minister President of Prussia Minister of Foreign Affairs of Prussia
Helmuth von Moltke the Elder	Chief of the Prussian General Staff Prussian Field Marshal
Albrecht von Roon	Minister of War of Prussia Prussian Lieutenant-General
Ludwig II von Wittelsbach	King of Bavaria
Johann von Wettin	King of Saxony
Georg V von Hanover	King of Hanover
Karl I von Württemberg	King of Württemberg
Friedrich I von Zähringen	Grand Duke of Baden
Friedrich Wilhelm I von Hessen	Prince-Elector of Hesse-Kassel
Ludwig III von Hessen	Grand Duke of Hesse and by Rhine
Christian IX Glücksburg	King of Denmark Duke of Schleswig



	Duke of Holstein Duke of Saxe-Lauenburg
Willem III van Oranje-Nassau	Grand Duke of Luxembourg King of the Netherlands
Vittorio Emanuele II Savoia	King of Italy
Giuseppe Garibaldi	General in the Royal Italian Army Italian Senator
Louis Napoléon III Bonaparte	Emperor of the French
Pius IX	Pope Sovereign of the Papal States



Franz Joseph I von Habsburg-Lothringen began his reign in 1848 under pressure, spending much of his early days defending his right to rule from constitutionalism, which sought to limit his powers. As emperor of one of the great powers of Europe, he seeks to preserve Austria's place in the world. It is clear the German Confederation will not last indefinitely, and it is imperative to ensure that House Habsburg remains the dominant ruling family. Whether that means uniting the German people under the Austrian banner is up for debate. However, Prussia's growing strength may prove to be a threat. It would be a national humiliation for Franz if the Prussians overtake Austria, so he must be willing to seek any opportunity to roadblock Prussia. If the emperor is exhausted with German affairs, he should look to other ways of expanding Austria's power. This may mean looking at its eastern borders, or across the Atlantic. As the highest authority in the Empire, Franz should use his powers for the good of Austria however he deems fit...

Alexander von Mensdorff-Pouilly became the Austrian Foreign Minister in 1864, immediately having to deal with how the two major German countries would continue moving forth. Alexander believed that the best solution was a conservative alliance between Austrian and Prussia, with Austria at the helm. As an Austrian nationalist, Alexander refuses to yield any territory in the empire, regardless of who's the enemy. While large military affairs were left up to other people in the Empire, Alexander found himself head of the intelligence network.



With the Habsburg influence spread throughout all of Europe, spies are an abundant and reliable resource for Alexander. His will could win battles before they are even fought, or eliminate threats before they arise. While it may seem under-handed to many, it's all for the greater good of the Empire at the end of the day.

As commander-in-chief of the Austrian military, Archduke Albrecht von Habsburg-Lothringen was second only to the Emperor himself on military affairs, although Emperor Joseph effectively gain him near total control. He has big plans for the Austrian military through reforms and restructuring, but the state of the army is in disarray according to his own view. War may break out at anytime, so it's most prudent for Albrecht to make the Austrian army into that of the Prussian army, a well-oiled fighting force. Moreover, while never too politically active, he did believe in helping those in need, especially the poor who were suffering under the harsh imperial system. This gave him widespread fame as a kind-hearted man, which may prove to be both a boon and a bane.

Wilhelm I von Hohenzollern held an extensive military career before being crowned in 1861. This gave him insight on how the military operates, which would prove useful if wars break out and he needs to discuss with generals. Despite being a Conservative, Wilhelm held more moderate views towards classical liberalism compared to many other rulers at the time. With Otto Von



Bismarck as his loyal and trusted Minister President, the two would share a long and persevering relationship through the years, although at times Wilhelm might feel uneasy about some of Bismarck's more radical ideas. It is his duty as king to help Prussia and its people grow and prosper, but it is difficult when the German people are divided, something Wilhelm seeks to correct. Furthermore, Austria seems to want to stop Prussia from achieving greatness, and that cannot be allowed to stand. Wilhelm delegates most decision making to Bismarck, although as King of Prussia, he does have the final say on matters...

Otto von Bismarck became the Minister President to Wilhelm I von Hohenzollern in 1862, giving him near ultimate control on both domestic and foreign affairs, answering only to the King himself. As a Conservative and dedicated Monarchist, Bismarck is appalled at any attempt to strip power away from the Crown, and has fought all his life to preserve it. Moreover, he sees the German people as divided and in disarray, and only through the leadership of Prussia can people unite. This means uniting the people by any means necessary, including blood and iron. Through political maneuvering along with calculated strikes, Bismarck dreams of making a united Germany a reality, but obstacles stand in the way. However, empires are not made in a day, and Europe is watching his every move. One misstep may lead to ruin...



Helmuth von Moltke the Elder distinguished himself in the military countless times, earning him the rank of Chief of the Prussian General Staff. With his tactical brilliance, the railway system was first effectively utilized and revolutionized military warfare. Understanding the changing of times, Helmuth revamped the Prussian army to a decentralized command structure, allowing field commanders to execute order however they deem fit. As a soldier, his duty is to preserve Prussian tradition and destroy her enemies. With unwavering loyalty to King Wilhelm and a mutual understanding with Bismarck, Helmuth must now utilize his skills to further Prussia's agenda...

Albrecht von Roon was a man that many would describe to be the true hero of Germany. While Bismarck played his political games, it was Albrecht that led the Prussian on the battlefield to victory. Bismarck would find it very hard to carry out his plans without Albrecht's help, so it is critical that both men share a mutual understanding. This isn't hard to do, as both are staunch conservatives who believe in the honour and integrity of the Prussian Crown. Furthermore, as a Prussian nationalist, it is imperative that Albrecht militarily crush his King's enemies swiftly and decisively without mercy. With all the aggressive neighbours Prussia has, it seems that he has his work cut out for him.

Ludwig II von Wittelsbach was born in 1845 as third in line for the Bavarian throne. While not being particularly close with either of his parents, the young



Ludwig adored his grandfather whom he was named after, King Ludwig I. Through this relationship, he discovered a passion for the arts, something he would never truly lose for the rest of his life. As the great powers of Austria and Prussia prepare to begin their game of chess, Bavaria is caught in the middle. Will he choose a side, or stand alone and forge his own path? Perhaps the eternal bond he created with his childhood friend, Duchess Elizabeth of Bavaria, could sway his decisions...

Johann von Wettin, the King of Saxony, had a deep and profound understanding of economics, and it was the major focus during his reign. Ideas that other nobility in Europe thought radical at the time, such as free trade, were implemented in Saxony to great success. Seeing that Saxony had to be more connected with the rest of the continent to thrive, railway lines were extended, and diplomatic relations were improved with the surrounding nations, most notably France and Italy. With a devout love for the arts, Johann spent much of his free time reading the classics, and even wrote literature that he would treasure forever. As a German question became the forefront of European politics, the Saxon king looked towards a Greater Germany under the leadership of the Austrians. In his mind, is there truly any other future?

Georg V von Hanover, King of Hanover, began his reign in 1851. He was immediately thrown into the politics of the German Question. With his pro-Austria



position in the German Confederation, Georg painted himself as a target to Prussia, who may seek to overthrow him one day. Despite this pressure, the Hanoverian king was a major supporter of industrialization, leading his kingdom to become a major exporter of iron and steel, which may prove beneficial one day. Understanding that the balance between Austria and Prussia will crumble, Georg must guide his kingdom towards a brighter future, or risk annexation by the major powers. If war were to ever break out within the German Confederation, will Hanover survive in the coming battles?

Friedrich I von Zähringen became the regent of the Duchy of Baden in 1852 after his elder brother Louis II was diagnosed with mental illness. After officially taking leadership in 1856, Friedrich began his reforms, most notably legalizing civil marriages and holding elections for the country's Lower House of Parliament. Being a constitutional monarchist, he believed that the ideal government included input from both the high nobility alongside the people, and his reforms clearly showed his commitment. He also had positive views on Zionist movements, which may affect some of his decisions later on. Marrying Princess Louise of Prussia, he tied himself to the much larger German state. However, the nobility - especially those in the parliament - feel a stronger bond with Austria. When it inevitably comes down to it, Friedrich I will likely have to make a decision; which side will he take?



Ludwig III von Hessen succeed his father as Grand Duke of Hesse and the Rhine during the March revolution, when his father was forced to abdicate. Understanding the importance of railways, Ludwig, in joint cooperation with several other German states, created rail systems that extended through their territories, connecting the states geographically and economically. Worried about the looming tension between Prussia and Austria, Ludwig knew that a traditional war against either power would spell disaster for his duchy. Only political maneuvering and battles fought behind the scenes can save him. Maybe it's time to reach out to some powerful in-laws...

Christian IX Glücksburg holds many titles, such as the King of Denmark and the Duke of both Schleswig and Holstein. With this comes many enemies who are eyeing his holdings. Under immense pressure from Danish liberals, he has just been forced to choose the lesser of two evils by signing the November Constitution and uniting the Duchy of Schleswig with the Kingdom of Denmark, but also violating the London Protocol of 1852 in the process. The Germans are outraged by this; they waged war against his predecessor (and lost) in the First Schleswig War and now there will very likely be a second. If so, Christian must prepare for the worst, but he will not so easily lose. The full might of the Danish Kingdom is behind him, ready to defend its national interests. Both his duchies and his pride are on the line against the Germans' inevitable invasion. But perhaps he need not fight the entire German Confederation. The



Confederation is not united and perhaps Christian IX can capitalize on that fact. The future of his legacy may depend on it.

Willem III van Oranje-Nassau is both King of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxembourg. As such, he holds some influence in the German Confederation with Luxembourg, although he is overshadowed by the great powers Prussia and Austria. With Luxembourg being situated between France and Prussia, Willem knows that any war between the two could lead to disaster. This, coupled with his own financial troubles, may weaken Luxembourg in the near future. Although, the protection of the Netherlands seems to deter any unseemly desires at the moment, who knows what the future holds? Willem must tread carefully and craft strong relationships quickly, or he might just find himself caught in the middle of a war he cannot hope to come out unscathed from.

Vittorio Emanuele II Savoia was born the heir to the Sardinian throne, but became the first king of a semi-united Italy in over a millennium through a series of wars and diplomacy. With the dream of ruling all Italian lands, Vittorio sought out any chance to capitalize on gaining more land, regardless of how underhanded it seems to the rest of Europe. However, by annexing most of the Papal States in 1860, he made an enemy of the Pope, who retreated behind the Vatican's walls. While Emanuele II may not have to worry about divine intervention anytime soon, he does have to worry about the Catholics in Europe



who may want retribution, including his own subjects. Moreover, Italian unification is not yet complete, as other great powers still control territory in Italy. Both the Austrian control of Venetia and the French occupation of Rome are national embarrassments that must be eliminated...

Giuseppe Garibaldi was the key to Italian unity and prosperity. As both an Italian senator and general, Giuseppe led his majesty's armies across the Italian peninsula, crushing his opponents with decisive victories through a mixture of tactical brilliance and calculated boldness. His charisma and natural confidence quickly grew his popularity among all Italian people, regardless of which side they were on. While initially a republican, Giuseppe would faithfully serve King Vittorio in their shared goal of Italy under one banner. With Rome in their sights, their dream may be within their reach. Aside from Rome, all that is left is to liberate Venice, although the Austrians have much to say on that matter. Giuseppe must play his cards carefully, for unchecked ambition is commonly correlated with eventual defeat.

For years, everyone regarded Louis Napoléon III Bonaparte as the pathetic shadow of his more famous uncle, whom he is named after. From failed coup attempts to a reputation as a womanizer, the French people were wary of Napoléon III's schemes. Regardless, after a well crafted political strategy, he gained the presidency of France, and took a page from his uncle,



declaring himself Emperor. Trying to increase French influence around the world, he sought to conquer more land abroad, such as Indochina and Mexico. However, Europe still treats him like an outsider because of his lack of royal blood. The British mock him, the Russians spite him, and the rest of Europe laughs. Most importantly, Prussia is gaining power rapidly, and may threaten France one day. Enough is enough. It's time to show the world what Napoléon III is capable of...

Pius IX is growing increasingly worried. As the divine servant of God, Pius IX can sense heresy from a mile away. Vittorio Emanuele II Savoia invaded the Papal States and trampled over holy land without a thought, and is threatening to invade Rome itself. On top of that, Europe is on the brink of war due to selfish greed and arrogance. Ever since the Thirty Years' War, Protestant nations have continuously grown in power. The Protestant UK continues to expand its colonial empire and Prussia keeps finding opportunities to undermine Austria and subjugate the Catholic Germans. The power of the infallible Pope is on the decline, which means that God's teachings are forgotten day by day. Pius IX knows he must act quickly, before the Lord deems humanity doomed.



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