

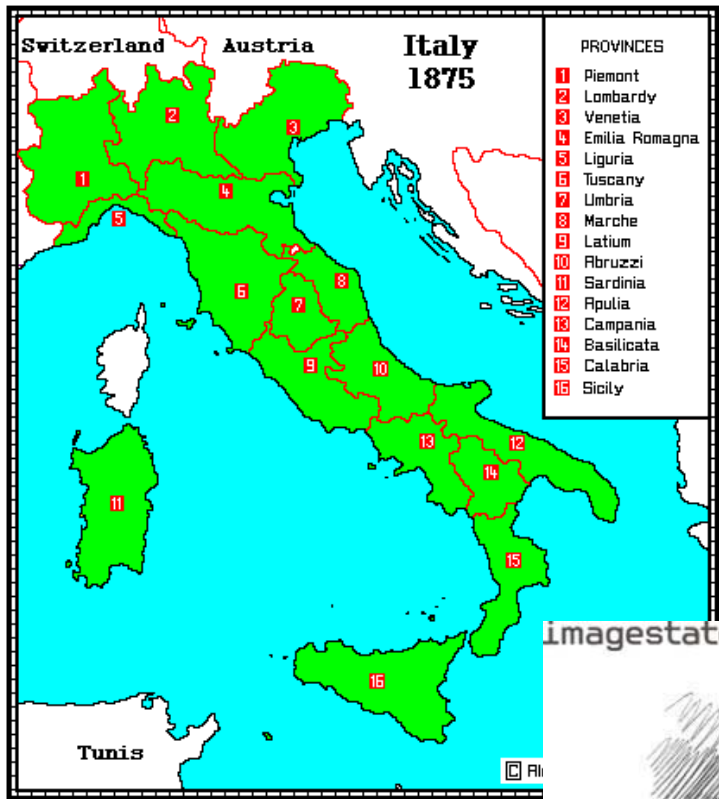
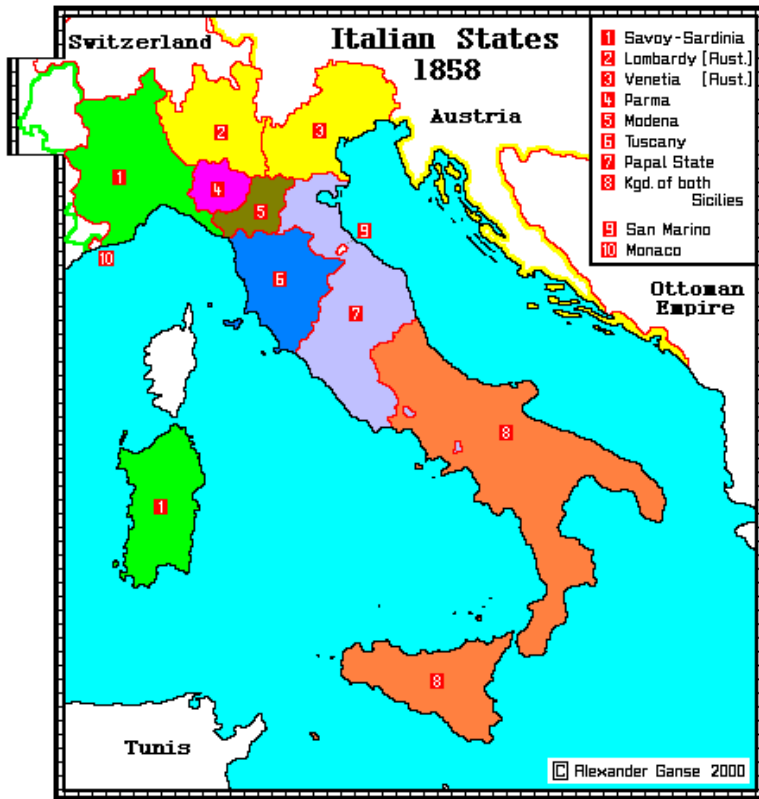
Unification of Germany & Italy, and The Great Powers of Europe

THE EUROPEAN MOMENT (1750 – 1900)



- **Nationalism** (ideology that stresses a nation, a community defined by common customs) & **liberalism** (ideology that stresses civil rights, freedoms, & representation) were two rather new political phenomena / concepts in 19th century Europe.
- Instead of being part of a country, people wanted to be part of a nation (an entity that usually shared the same language and/or faith of its fellow citizens) and have a greater say in political affairs.
- Conservative politicians (and kings & popes) were resistant to any revolutionary change (remember Metternich at the Congress of Vienna?!), however some realized change was inevitable and they should try to take advantage of the new political climate.

- Since the fall of Roman Empire, “Italy” was the label used to define the variety of semi- sovereign kingdoms & states on the Italian peninsula (some of which were controlled by Austria or the Papacy).
- In the 1860s Camillo di **Cavour** (the Prime Minister of the Kingdom Piedmont-Sardinia) sought to unify Italy through instigating conflict (started a war with Austria to rally Italians in the North to join Piedmont-Sardinia under the King Victor Emmanuel) and sidelining the plans of Giuseppe **Garibaldi** (led revolts in the south in hopes of forming a democracy) to form a united / conservative Italy in 1870.



RIGHT LEG IN THE BOOT AT LAST.

GARDNER: "IF IT WON'T GO ON, SIR, TRY A LITTLE MORE POWDER."

- “Germany” was a collection of German speaking Catholic/Protestant states.
- German aristocrat **Otto von Bismarck** (working for the king of Prussia) used a mix of diplomacy and war to unify these lands with Prussia to form Germany. Prussia had an advantage over its German neighbors because of the benefits of industrialization.



- Franco Prussian War (1870-71): The superior military minded Prussia starts a war with France. *Significance*: The war completed the “unification” of Germany and there would be lasting tension over the territories / border between France & Germany.



- Nationalism continued to spread in the last few decades of the 19th century.
 - Russia attempted to “Russify” diverse ethnic populations
 - In the U.S. immigrants were expected to learn English
 - The Catholic Irish resented Protestant British control
 - In Spain, the Spanish language was mandatory in newspapers
- Nationalism could be dangerous because it was hyper-patriotism and anti-foreign.
- As Bulliet wrote, “. . . *Politicians and journalists discovered that minor incidents involving foreigners could be used to stir up popular indignation against neighboring countries.*”



- Coupled with nationalism, rivalry for colonial territories was planting the seeds of international tension (**WWI is coming!**).
- Furthermore, industrialization was allowing “Great Powers” to come about.



Germany

- Under Bismarck Germany became a powerful state in Europe with pride .
 - They had the largest army in Europe.
 - Formed an alliance with Austria-Hungary & Russia (considered to be other “Conservative” powers and not “Liberal” powers).
 - Imposed high tariffs on manufactured goods & wheat (which discouraged foreign imports).
 - Social legislation like disability insurance & old-age pensions helped the working class.
- However, under the reign of Wilhelm II, Bismarck was dismissed. Germany began to seek out a colonial empire.

France

- France had a population & army about 2/3 the size of Germany's, and industrial growth was much slower.
- There were also divisions between the (mainly Catholic) “monarchists” and those who favored republicanism (usually anti-clerical).
- Dreyfus Affair: A Jewish military officer was falsely convicted of espionage, society was split on whether or not to reopen the case, it revealed deep-seated anti-Semitism in France.
- Despite these conditions, nationalism was strong.

Great Britain

- Republicanism in Britain allowed Liberal & Conservative political parties to smoothly rotate the positions of power through each election.
- Economically the British were being surpassed by German & American industries (steel, chemicals, & textiles). However, the income between rich & poor was narrowing.
- Their enormous empire also put a strain on the country's finances. They were too worried about maintaining their overseas empire to notice the rise of Germany.

Austria-Hungary

- Formally the Austrian Empire (They changed their name to appease Hungarian critics) had trouble obtaining the allegiance of all it's ethnically diverse citizens due to nationalism.
- It's attempt to dominate the Balkans region upset Russia, who saw itself as the protector of the Slavic people.



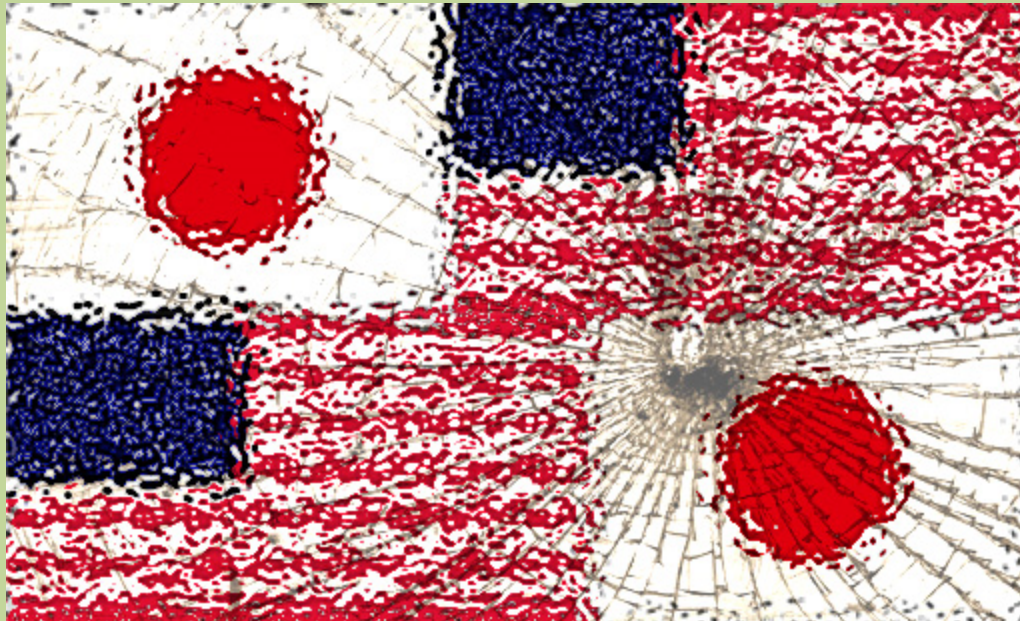
Russia

- Russia also had difficulties appeasing a diverse group of people, **only 45% of the population spoke Russian.**
 - Strongly anti-Semitic, pogroms (**massacres**) against Jews
 - Muslims in Central Asia & Poles resented their rulers
- Attempts to “Russify” led to divisiveness instead of national unity.
- Although serfdom ended in 1861, **(the hope was that a larger labor pool would promote industrialization, nonetheless the government continued to be the main sponsor of industrial activity)** peasants were still largely uneducated & had few legal rights.

- During the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) the imperial ambitions of Russia & Japan clashed over the territory of Manchuria in China.
- *Significance*: the better trained & equipped Japanese win, the shock of defeat caused an uprising in Russia leading to creation of a parliament (called the Duma). After rebuilding his army, Tsar Nicholas II went back to being a despot planting the seeds for resentment & future revolution.



- The Japanese victory shocked the “Great Powers” of Europe. Since the 1600s the power center of the universe to them was Europe, after all this is supposed to be the “European Moment.”
- Yet the rise of Japan & the United States (less shocking, almost predicted) was taking place.



Japan

- China & Japan responded differently to European imperialism; China was weak & succumbed - whereas Japan chose to open up after years of limiting foreign contact & then industrialize.
- The U.S. triggered this change in policy when Commodore Perry arrived in 1853 with a fleet of steamships demanding that they open up.



- After Perry's visit, a crisis mounted within the Tokugawa Shogunate; Japan was beginning to realize that during their years of isolation there were major technological advancements elsewhere.
- However, at the same time provincial leaders (remember the Shogunate was decentralized - daimyo or nobles still had some power) were upset with the Treaty of Kanagawa – Japan's opening up (Treaties that led to the opening up were done primarily by the shogun).
- This led to a short civil war (the Boshin War) and the overthrow of the Tokugawa Shogunate and the end of the samurai class (the shogun abdicated in 1867).

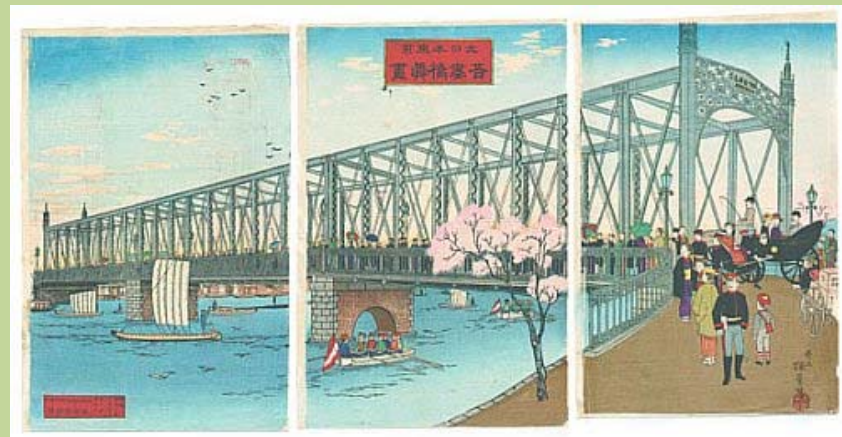


- The new regime was called the **Meiji Restoration** (the notion of *restoration* applied to the *restored* status of the emperor and the end of a shogun). The main goal of the Meiji Restoration was to protect Japan from Western imperialism by undergoing industrialization.

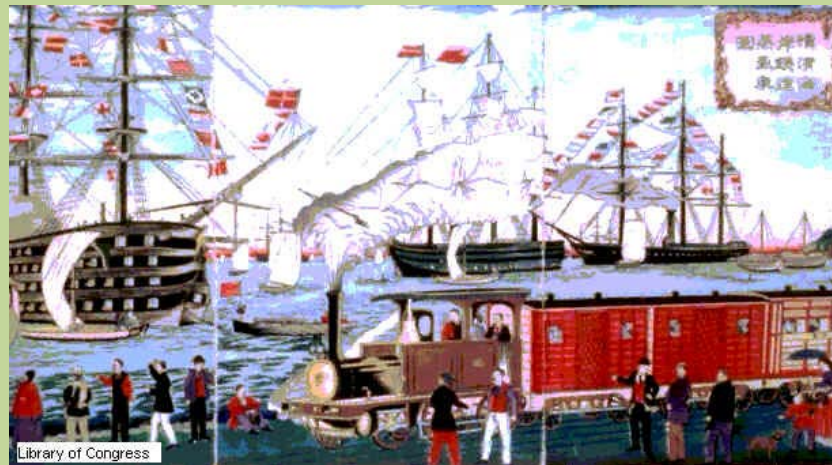
- Efforts to industrialize were government sponsored - similar to what occurred in Russia. This contrasts with the industrial revolutions in Britain and the USA where industrial changes were carried out by individuals & private companies.



The only way to stay independent is to change.



- Ironically, the Meiji leaders who opposed the shift in Tokugawa policy of opening up, greatly welcomed Westerners to help them industrialize—*but remember, they do this as a means of making Japan stronger and not vulnerable to Western imperialist desires.*
 - The navy & army were modeled after the British & Prussian, respectively
 - Government structure looked like Germany
 - They encouraged foreign fashions & pastimes
 - Railroads & factories were built
 - They sent students to the U.S. & Europe; while bringing in foreign experts





- However, the Japanese modeled themselves after these western powers not out of admiration, but because they thought it was the only way to progress.
- In many aspects, the Japanese tried to distance themselves culturally from the West.
 - The ancient Japanese religion of Shinto was restored to its former primacy. It also promoted the divinity of the emperor and that people should die for him if necessary.

- Changes due to the Meiji Restoration:
 - The end of the Tokugawa Shogunate
 - The increased importance of the emperor (daiyimos ceded their land to him too)
 - Edo was renamed Tokyo
 - Elevated importance of the Shinto faith
 - The samurai class was dissolved
 - Industrialization
 - Telegraph lines, gas lit streets, railways, steel mills, etc.
 - Sweatshops came about; 90% of the workers were women



- By the 20th century Japan had become a “Great Power” and although its *motive* for change was *defense*, the changes it made allowed it to go on the *offensive*.
- The Meiji believed that they needed to create a “sphere of influence” or buffer around them to preserve their independence.
- As a result they will fight neighbors (ex: Sino-Japanese War, Russo-Japanese War) take over Manchuria, Korea, etc. to become an imperial power.





Map 19-3
Ways of the World, First Edition
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Unification of Germany & Italy, and The Great Powers of Europe

THE EUROPEAN MOMENT (1750–1900)



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- Nationalism will cause the unification of smaller states into a single country – Italy (1870) and also Germany (1871).
- Due to the Industrial Revolution and then later fueled by imperialism powerful countries will emerge known as the Great Powers.
- Many of them will be affected by nationalism, imperialism, republicanism, and liberalism.
- Japan ends the Tokugawa Shogunate and decides to industrialize ([Meiji Restoration](#)), consequently it too will become a world power.