

National Unification and the National State

Big Idea

In the mid-1800s, the Germans and Italians created their own nations. However, not all national groups were able to reach that goal. As you read, use a table like the one below to list the changes that took place in the indicated countries during the nineteenth century.

Great Britain	France	Austrian Empire	Russia



Notes

Read to Learn

Toward National Unification *(page 630)*

Distinguishing Fact from Opinion

Decide whether each statement is fact or opinion. Write F beside the statements of fact. Write O beside the statements of opinion.

_____ *Russia should not have attacked Ottoman territory.*

_____ *The Crimean War broke up the Concert of Europe.*

_____ *Garibaldi was a greater leader than Bismarck was.*

_____ *Prussia had a strong leadership.*

Although the efforts of Italian and German nationalists failed in 1848, by 1871, both Italy and Germany were unified states. This became possible because the Concert of Europe broke down. Relationships changed because of the Crimean War between Russia and the Ottoman Empire (1853–1856). After Russia invaded Ottoman lands, Britain and France declared war on Russia. Austria did not support either side. Without working together, they were not strong enough to keep control.

Italian nationalists hoped to unite under King Victor Emmanuel II of Piedmont, in northern Italy. The king's foreign minister, Cavour, allied with the French and then got Austria to declare war in 1859. In the peace settlement, Piedmont got Lombardy from Austria. Other Italian states then revolted against their rulers and joined Piedmont.

In southern Italy, nationalist Giuseppe Garibaldi raised a volunteer army called the Red Shirts. They took control of much of Italy and turned their conquests over to Piedmont. The new state of Italy was proclaimed in 1861. Rome and other areas were added by 1870.

German nationalists looked to Prussia, known for its **militarism**, for leadership. King William I and his prime minister, Count Otto von Bismarck, built a strong army. Prussia won wars against Austria in 1866 and France in 1870–1871. William I was proclaimed **kaiser** (emperor) of Germany in 1871.

Nationalism and Reform in Europe (page 634)

Analyzing Information

What were some strengths and weaknesses of Louis-Napoleon's rule in France?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

After 1848 Great Britain grew more liberal. The governments of France, Austria, and Russia grew more authoritarian. Britain passed a law in 1832 letting more men vote. Most of the new voters were in the industrial middle class. Other reforms followed. The country was fairly stable during the long reign of Queen Victoria. Irish nationalists protested British control of Ireland, however.

In France, the **plebiscite**, or popular vote, overwhelmingly approved Louis-Napoleon's proposal to restore the empire. He became Emperor Napoleon III in 1852. He expanded the economy and rebuilt the city of Paris. His empire fell after France lost the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

The Hapsburg rulers of Austria kept firm control over minority nationalities before 1866, when they lost a war with Prussia. Then they agreed to a compromise with Hungarian nationalists. Austria and Hungary became separate, self-governing units under one monarch.

After losing the Crimean War, Russia remained isolated. Czar Alexander II freed, or **emancipated**, the serfs in 1861. His son turned against reform. He also began construction of the Trans-Siberian railway, which improved transportation and communication throughout Russia.

Nationalism in the United States (page 637)

Making Inferences

In the 1800s, why might government leaders in the United States have reacted differently to liberal ideas from leaders of countries in Europe?

Liberalism and nationalism were written into the United States Constitution. However, different factions had different ideas about how to interpret those ideals. Federalists wanted a strong central government. Republicans feared a strong central power.

By the middle of the century, the United States was deeply divided over the issue of slavery. The economy in the South depended on cotton plantations, worked chiefly by slave labor. Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin, a machine that removed cotton seeds quickly, increased the demand for slave labor. **Abolitionists** in the North thought slavery should be abolished.

After Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860, South Carolina voted to withdraw, or **secede**, from the United States. Other southern states did the same in 1861. The states that withdrew from the Union formed a new country, the Confederate States of America.

A bloody civil war between the Union and the Confederacy lasted from 1861 to 1865. The Confederacy was defeated, and the southern states were brought back into the Union. Slavery was ended throughout the United States.

