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World Civilization

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19th Century Germany

The 19th-century nationalist movement in Germany was of intense political and cultural activity with the goal of unifying Germany and establishing a strong German nation-state. This movement would bring together various independent German-speaking regions and establish a sense of nationalism among the German people. In the early 19th century, German romanticism was emerging with the ideas of the philosopher Johann Fichte, who argued for the creation of a German nation-state based on shared language, culture, and history. As the 19th century continued, the movement gained spirit as economic and social changes led to the emergence of a new middle class, which sought greater political representation and influence.

One of the key figures in the nationalist movement was the Prussian Leader Otto Von Bismarck, who was the architect of unification and chancellor of the new Germany. He was a strong advocate of German unification and pursued a policy whose goal was to secure the interests of Prussia and its allies through diplomacy, military, and economic growth. In the 1870s, his policies were directed against the Catholic hierarchy. In 1871, Bismarck succeeded in uniting the various German-speaking states into a single nation-state, the German Empire. The empire was ruled by the Prussian king, Wilhelm I, and had a centralized government, a strong army, and a rapidly growing economy. The unification of Germany was celebrated by many Germans as a victory of nationalism, and it marked the beginning new era of German power and influence. However, the nationalist movement was also marked by tensions and conflict amongst

the different ethnic and linguistic groups within Germany. The unification of Germany was largely based on the dominance of Prussia and the German-speaking majority, which led to alienation among other groups. The ultimate success of German unification was due to the common grounds that Germany agreed upon. Furthermore, to be a German during this time, meant to identify with and understand the importance of German culture, history, and language. It promoted the values of education, literature, and the arts. Nationalist thinkers and writers viewed German culture as a unique and valuable contribution to world civilization. The movement embraced the ideal of a unified German state bringing German-speaking regions under a single roof, promoting political and economic unity, as well as creating a powerful German state with a strong military force and government that could manage the economic and social changes of the society.

Works Cited

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