Chapter 14: The unification of Germany

Further reading


Websites

The best website for German history is German History in Documents and Images, [http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/about.cfm](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/about.cfm)
It is subdivided into periods, the relevant ones being 1815–1866, 1866–1890 and 1890–1918.
Each section is further divided into topic areas, and each document or image is listed and numbered within the topic area.
The following documents have been selected for their relevance and importance in the story of German unification. Maps and images have not been selected but are well worth examining.

1815–1866

**Government and administration: confederation or nation state?**
2. German Federal Act (8 June 1815)
3. Carlsbad Decrees: Confederation Press Law (20 September 1819)
4. Final Act of the Viennese Ministerial Conference (15 May 1820)
12. Excerpt from Bismarck’s ‘Blood and Iron’ speech (30 September 1862)

**Parties and organisation**
5. The Conservatives: Friedrich Julius Stahl ‘What is the Revolution?'
6. The Liberals: Founding Program of the German Progressive Party (9 June 1861)
7. The Socialists: Ferdinand Lassalle, Excerpt from ‘Open Letter’ (1863)

**Military and war**
1. Carl von Clausewitz, Excerpts from *On War* (1833), see especially pp. 23–29
4. Helmuth von Moltke, Memorial on the Possible War between Prussia and Austria (1866)

1866–1890

**Politics: Forging an empire**
1. Bismarck’s Diplomatic and Military Gambling through British Eyes (February–August, 1866), The Diplomatic Reminiscences of Lord Augustus Loftus, British Ambassador to Prussia
4. Bismarck remembers the Evening the Ems Despatch was edited (13 July 1870)
13. Count Friedrich von Beust in praise of the German Confederation (1887)
18. Constitution of the German Empire (16 April 1871)
27. August Bebel, speech in the Reichstag (8 November 1871)