



Course: SELECTED CHAPTERS OF CZECH AND WORLD HISTORY

T3 The Rise of National States and Establishing of Antagonist Blocs from 1848 to 1914

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The Rise of National States and Establishing of Antagonist Blocs from 1848 to 1914

The development in Europe since 1848 was aiming at establishing of national states. In this respect the decisive period was an era from 1859 to 1871. During this time there were unified two large states, Germany and Italy, and Hungarians gained independent state that was united with Austria only by person of Emperor and three ministries.

In the years that preceded the outbreak of First World War the core of creation of national states shifted into Balkan Peninsula. The complicated situation in this area bounded attention of European powers and became key element in development in 1914 to 1918.

Unification of Italy 1859 to 1870

Before its unification Italy was divided into **six major independent states**, the largest one was Kingdom of Naples, but other states were in comparison with other European countries small:

Kingdom of Naples	144 426 km ²
Sardinia	64 094 km ²
Papal State	52 922 km ²
Tuscany	24 104 km ²
Parma	3 206 km ²
Modena	2 590 km ²

Except these there were territories under Austrian (Milan and Venice) and French superiority (Corse) and few very small states (Republic of San Marino, Benevento, and Monaco).

The leading figure in movement called Risorgimento, i.e. Italian unification, was Prime Minister of Kingdom of Sardinia **Camillo Cavour**, founder of Liberal Party. He commenced aggressive foreign policy in order to improve the position towards Austria. He tied the Sardinian Kingdom with close relation to France and especially to Emperor Napoleon III. Cavour initiated conclusion of **Plombières Agreement**. In this act Napoleon III agreed to help the Kingdom of Sardinia in case the war with Austria.

Sardinian troops advanced into Austrian Northern Italy and together with French enforcement prevailed in **Battle of Magenta** on 4 June 1859 and later on in **Battle of Solferino** on 24 June 1859. Sardinian troops were supported by one of the

most famous persons and hero of 1848, Giuseppe Garibaldi and his units of **Red-Shirts**.

But Napoleon III was considered of development in Italy and forced the Sardinia to close peace treaty with Austria. According to the Plombières Agreement French gained territory of Savoy, while according to peace treaty Kingdom of Sardinia gained Duchy of Milan.

The development of war induced revolts in other Italian states: In

- **Modena, Parma, and Tuscany** nationalists seized the power and these countries were unified with Kingdom of Sardinia.

But Italy was not still unified. That is why Garibaldi initiated invasion of his Thousand Man on Sicily on 6 May 1860. Soon after revolts began in Sicily and Garibaldi could formed whole army and defeat the troops of King of Naples Kingdom. During October 1860 the South of Italy joined to Kingdom of Italy.

In the middle of Apennine Peninsula there was Papal State. In the beginning of 1861 majority of its territory (Umbria) were occupied by Sardinian armies and

- **unified Italy** was declared on 4 March 1861.

Declaration of sovereign Italy ended first stage of Risorgimento. But according to Italian nationalists outside of Italy there were still important territories of the rest of Papal State (11 770 km²) with Rome, Savoy (handed over to France), Corse (French territory), Venetia (Austria), and claimed lands in Alps (Tirol) and in Adriatic shores (Dalmatia).

The un-complete unification was reason why Garibaldi attempted to conquer the Rome in 1863. But he was not successful, even Italian state did not support his activity.

The second stage of unification of Italy took place together with Prussian efforts to unify Germany:

- In **1866** Italy was ally of Prussia in Austro-Prussian war in 1866. After defeat of Austria Italy annexed Venetian territory.
- In **1870** Italy was ally of Prussia in war with France, former Italian ally (!). Because of defeat of French troops Italy finally annexed the Papal State and declared Rome to be the Italian Capital.

Despite the fact that whole Apennine Peninsula was under Italian rule, Italian nationalists were not satisfied with territorial gain. Demands for following territorial

expansion was one of the reasons Italy betrayed their allies in 1914 and then the Fascist gained the supreme political power.

January Uprising 1863

The defeat of Polish uprising in 1830 and in 1846 did not solve the demands of Poles for their own sovereign state. The next attempt to proclaim independent Poland took place in 1863. So called

- **January Uprising 1863** began to be prepared since October 1861 when Central National Committee was established. Its members attempted to make use the fact that Russia was weakened during and after Crimean War (1856 to 1863).

On 22 January 1863 Committee declared itself to be **Provisional National Government** and issued the act of mobilization for Polish army. Except regular Polish army guerrilla troops in vast territory of Poland, Lithuania, and Ukraine were formed.

But as same as in 1830 the uprising was defeated by numerically superior Russian army and Poles remained under Russian rule until 1916.

Wars for Unification of Germany

Despite the fact that Germany was divided into 30 independent states, in comparison with Italy there were two major state that play the decisive role in European diplomacy and struggle to unify Germany. Those were Austria and Prussia. In its beginning there were three main concepts of German unification. First of them was so called **Small Germany Solution** that meant that all German states except Austria should unify into one state. The next was Large Germany Solution that meant unification of all German states in territory of German Confederation. But there was also concept of Third Germany. Its representatives demanded to unify all German states except the largest two, Austria and Prussia.

Prussia	347 509 km ²
Bayern	75 863 km ²
Württemberg	19 507 km ²
Baden	15 070 km ²
Saxony	14 993 km ²
Meklenburg-Schwerin	13 304 km ²
Oldenburg	6 414 km ²
Braunschweig	3 690 km ²
Meklenburg-Neustrelitz	2 930 km ²

Hamburg	410 km ²
Lübeck	298 km ²
Bremen	256 km ²
Helgoland	0.5 km ²

The Prussia under rule of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck led series of war in order to unify Germany under Prussian influence. These wars for unification of Germany took place between 1864 and 1871.

First of them there was **Second Schleswig War in 1864**. Union of Prussia and Austria made use the fact that Kingdom of Denmark breached the norms of Constitution of German Confederation and annex territory of two German lands, Schleswig and Holstein directly to Denmark. Danish forces were defeated. Schleswig was according to **Gastein Convention** occupied by Prussia and Holstein by Austria.

But soon after this victory disagreements between Prussia and Austria headed into next clash between these former allies.

That is why Second Schleswig War became prelude to **Austro-Prussian War in 1866** or **Seven Week's War**. Otto von Bismarck and Camillo Cavour concluded ally agreement between Prussia and Italy on 8 April 1866. Otto von Bismarck also dealt with Napoleon III in order to gain French neutrality in conflict.

Situation before the war was as follows. On one side there was Prussia and Italy and few small German states, e.g. Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin or Free City of Hamburg. On the next side there was Austria and majority of German states, among them kingdoms of Bavaria, of Saxony, of Württemberg, of Hannover and others.

Then on 14 June 1866 Prussian army invaded into Austria and Bohemia, respectively. In Northern Bohemia Czech theatre became decisive battlefield in the war. During June fights near **Trautenau** (on 27 June 1866) and near **Nachod** (on the same day) ended up without clear victory.

In the beginning of July both sides decided to undertake decisive battle. The Battle of **Königgrätz/Sadowa** took place on 3 July 1866. The Prussian army under commandment of Chief of Staff General Helmuth von Moltke that was before the battle divided into three marching formations had joined. While Prussian 1st Army attacked directly to the position of Austrian North Army from West, Prussian 2nd Army assaulted in the right flank from North.

That is why Prussian could prevail in the battle despite Austrian numerical superiority.

Austrian commandant General Ludwig von Benedek decided to retreat into Southern Moravia. There in city Mikulov armistice treaty was signed on 26 July 1866. This armistice in fact ended the war in German theatre in the middle of German Confederation in favour of Prussia.

Contrary to the situation in Bohemia in Italian or German battlefield Austrian forces reached victory in **Battle of Custozza** on 24 June 1866. But this Austrian victory was without impact on course of the war.

According to the peace treaties with Austria and its allies territorial changes and in power occurred. Austria had to surrender the province Venetia to Italy and Holstein to Prussia. Some of Austrian allies, especially Hanover, became Prussian provinces. The Northern part of dissolved German Confederation was transformed into **North German Federation**. Federation comprised of

- 22 independent states of northern Germany, while
- out of its borders there were except Austria two German states, Bavaria, Württemberg, and Baden.
- Federation has its parliament and own constitution and became basis for German Empire.

Otto von Bismarck was able to gain French neutrality in 1866 but Napoleon III did not agreed with the fact that western of French borders new power was created. That is why after 1866 mutual relations deteriorated badly. The crisis broke out in late 1860s when talks about successorship in Spain took place. Hohenzollern Dynasty, ruler in Prussia and in North German Federation, attempted to gain Spanish crown. That could lead in situation when France could be surrounded by Spanish-German alliance. The concerns of French diplomacy went into intervention into Spanish-German relations. Despite the fact that France push through German claims for Spanish throne, Otto von Bismarck faked so called Ems Telegram with note of French-Prussian negotiations and insulted Napoleon III. Trap of Otto von Bismarck was successful. Napoleon III declared war to Prussia and commenced **Franco-Prussian War** that lasted in 1870 and 1871.

The war was declared on 19 July 1870, but Frenchmen, in fact they were the aggressors, did not mobilize its army. Contrary to this Chief of Staff General Helmut von Moltke commenced rapid mobilization and gathered nearly 500 000 men. That is why that since the beginning of the war Prussian army took over the initiative and invaded France.

The decisive battle took place in Metz when the **siege of Metz** lasted from 19 August to 27 October 1870. In this battle French 2nd Army had numerical superiority, but Marshal François Bazain could not make use of it. Some 180 000 men were surrounded by 130 000 men of German army and at the end of October majority of them enlisted into captivity.

In order to help to surrounded army Napoleon III commenced military campaign of 1st Army under General Marie Mac-Mahon. After **Battle of Beaumont** on 30 August 1870 decisive **Battle of Sedan** took place on 1 September 1870. In the battle Prussian army had distinctive numerical superiority. Against 200 000 Germans there were only 120 000 soldiers of French troops. The result was the catastrophic defeat of French army. Emperor Napoleon III was captured and all army surrender to Germans.

These two large and decisive battles sealed the fate of France.

French government that meantime left Paris pleaded for armistice. The **Frankfurt Peace Treaty** was finally signed on 10 April 1871 when whole Northern France was occupied by German troops. According to the agreement France had to hand over territory of Alsace-Lorraine and to pay reparations in height of 5 million Francs.

During the war three remaining German states joined North German Confederation and German Empire was declared in Versailles on 18 January 1871. This was meant that Germany was unified according to Small German Concept under superiority of Prussia.

Establishing of united Germany led not only to shift in power among German states (Austria lost its influence in Germany once for all), but also among European powers. In European continent the most powerful country had emerged.

Emancipation of Hungarians

After defeat of in Austro-Prussian war Austria get into internal crisis. Representatives of Czechs and Hungarians demanded constitutional changes in favour of their nations. But only Hungarians were successful and Austrian government commenced talks with representatives of Hungary who requested dividing monarchy into two autonomous parts.

- In 1867 Hungarian government under Gyula Andrássy was appointed and legislative body passed Hungarian constitution.

- In December 1867 new constitution was declared. It was beginning of so called **dualism of Austria-Hungary**. Austria was then comprised of two states, **Cisleithania** that was made of Austrian countries and **Transleithania** that was made of Lands of the Crown of Saint Stephen, i.e. Hungary.

Development in both parts of Austria-Hungary was different. While in Hungary strict “Hungarization” became the key political program (national law passed on 29 November 1868, in Austria development of political system aimed at representative democracy with possibilities of development of each nation, especially of Germans, Czechs, Poles, and Slovenians.

Creation of Austria-Hungary and declaration of German Empire ended the first stage of creation of national states in Middle Europe.

Balkan and Ottoman Issue

Since beginning of 19th century emancipation of Balkan nations from domination of Ottoman Empire took place and three sovereign states was declared in former territory of Ottoman Empire; those states were

- **Greece** in 1832,
- **Romania** in 1858, and
- **Serbia** in 1867.

At that time Ottoman Empire got into long-term internal crisis and became object of expansion of Russia that demanded control of Bosphorus and Dardanelles and United Kingdom that gradually become under control of United Kingdom.

These two countries clashed in **Crimean War** that lasted from 1853 to 1856. In the war the Russian armies were defeated by coalition of:

- **Ottoman Empire**,
- **United Kingdom**,
- **France**, and
- **Kingdom of Sardinia**.

But Russians did not give up their attempts to control the Straits and Black Sea and Tsar Alexander II made use of uprising that broke out in Bulgaria and in Bosnia and Herzegovina and also of war of Ottoman Empire with Serbia and Montenegro (1876 to 1878) and commenced **Russo-Turkish War in 1877 and 1878**.

Despite the fact that Russians defeated Turks the so called **Balkan Crisis of 1876 to 1878** the conflict was decided in Congress of Berlin.

Before the congress took place Russia and Ottoman Empire signed **Treaty of San Stefano** in 1878. According to this treaty Great Bulgaria as an independent state was established in former territory of Ottoman Empire in South-Eastern Balkan, but this state was in strong influence of Russian diplomacy.

Otto von Bismarck who tracked the development in Balkan Peninsula with concerns of German superiority in European Continent summoned Congress of Berlin. In this congress the representatives of European powers met and passed the decision over Balkan Peninsula in which Great Bulgaria became only an autonomous part of Ottoman Empire and Balkan states, i.e. Serbia, Montenegro, and Greece extended their territory.

This congress once again pulled over Russian expansion in Balkan and in Straits.

Bismarck's System

In 1871 when Germany was unified the new most powerful country in Europe had emerged. This fact led to changes in balance of power in Europe.

Otto von Bismarck, Chancellor of Germany, immediately after defeat of France commenced policy of isolation of France. During 1871 and 1887 number of ally agreements between Germany and European power were closed:

- **League of the Three Emperors** (Germany, **Austria-Hungary**, **Russia**): 1871-1887
- **Society of Three** (Germany, Austria-Hungary, **Italy**): 1882-1914
- **Mediterranean Agreements** (Society of Three and **United Kingdom**): 1887 to half of 1890s

This world order reached its peak during Congress of Berlin in 1878 when Germany could determine international relations.

But situation had changed in 1888. After death of short-time period of rule of Friedrich III (99 days in 1888) his son William was promoted to Emperor of Germany as **William II** (Wilhelm II). Soon after his ascension to the throne William II commenced policy of so called **New Course**, i.e. alliance with United Kingdom to the detriment of relations with other countries. The reason was fact that William II was grand-son of English Queen Victoria. But this alliance was not fulfilled and Germany lost its important ally, Russia, and later on also Italy and finally United Kingdom.

Socialism

While in first half of 19th century the key political ideology was Nationalism and Liberalism, in its second half ideas of **Socialism** spread among members of intelligentsia and of labourers. Socialism is both political ideology and movement that was formed after beginning of 19th century. The main demands were to conduct political changes in interest of labourers, i.e. demands for adjustment of work conditions, social system etc.

Karl Marx together with Friedrich Engels are named to be two decisive representatives of Socialism while the ideas of Karl Marx became branch of socialism, so called Marxism.

- But in its beginnings socialist parties were barely legal. They were without parliamentary representation due the fact that electors of socialist party – solely labourers – did not dispose with suffrage.

Marxism in praxis was realized by **social democratic movement**. This movement was established in Germany, birthplace of Karl Marx. The first Social Democratic Party was established in Germany in 1869 and 1875, respectively. This party exists up this days and German SPD, Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands.

Social democratic movement created new model of political party based not on the favour of voter, but on the number of sympathisers or members, that later on became also voters.

This type of party spread especially in Middle and Eastern Europe, to Austria in 1888 and also into Czech Lands and to Russia and Poland (1898).

The representative of social democratic movement established

- **International Workingmen's Associations**. This was association of socialist and workers' parties and societies with its aim to coordination of politics in each state. During its history there were established few of these associations.
- So called First International was founded in 1864 and lasted till 1876. This organization united both Socialist and Anarchist organizations.
- So called Second International was found in 1889 and exists until present day.

Despite the fact that social democratic parties could not gain a representation in legislative bodies of European countries before the end of 19th century, their

demands affected social situation due to issued state control of employees' conditions and social conditions of citizens. Those were, e.g.:

- **Factory law (Labourers' legislation)** = in majority of industrial countries of Europe, esp. limitation of work hours.
- In United Kingdom after 1802 (limitation of children work hours), German countries after 1830s, later esp. Scandinavian countries.
- **Anti-Socialist Laws** = Germany 1878 to 1890 (**O. von Bismarck**): on one hand ban of socialist parties, on second hand improvement of living conditions of labourers, social insurance, right on state support/pension etc. = beginning of **social state**.

The result of above mentioned was existence of so called **welfare state**, i.e. state that was fully developed after 1918 and 1945 respectively.

Integral Nationalism

After 1848 inside nationalist movement great changes occurred. The revolution of 1848 and 1849 ended the phase of cooperation of representatives of nations; hence the nations became the enemy to each other.

The complementary connected phenomenon was radicalization of Nationalism.

- **Chauvinism (Jingoism)** is term that involved idea that own nation is superior to each other. This term originated during French Revolution and came out of name of Bonapartist soldier Nicolas Chauvin who considered the French to be superior to each nation and who looked down on all other nations.
- **Pan-movements** were ideologies and also stage in development of Nationalism in which each nation is supposed to be part of broader collective ideology. Those Pan-movements were especially **Pan-Slavism** and **Pan-Turkism**, ideas that all Slavs and Turks, respectively forms large collective identity (of all Slavs or all Turkic nations). The pan-movement could also be demand for unification of nation into state that did not united all members of nations, e.g. **Pan-Germanism**, i.e. request of unification of all Germans (not Germanic people).
- **Anti-Semitism** emerged during second half of 19th century. Despite the fact that in Europe there was long-term Christian tradition of Anti-Judaism, after 1848 new concept was formed. Anti-Semitism became protest against integration of Jews into society that affected all nations, e.g. Czechs (Jan

Neruda, Czech writer). Because Anti-Semitism did not respect religious aspects soon was contaminated with **racism**.

- **The reaction to Anti-Semitism was formulation of Zionism**, i.e. ideology of Jewish nationalism that demanded immigration of Jews into Palestine and creation of Jewish national state. The main representative was Theodor Herzl, Viennese journalist.

Representative Democracy

Due to demands of Liberalism, of Nationalism, and of Socialism, representative, or indirect democracy was implemented in majority of European countries.

- Legitimization of state power in elections by citizens. This idea was formulated in 17th century by John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau (volonté général) and was incorporated into Bill of Rights. In praxis was incorporated in Constitution of United States.
- Struggle for universal suffrage (general, equal, direct, and secret right to vote) took place. The general suffrage was implemented in **New Zealand** in 1893 and in **Finland** in 1906.

Until 1914 universal suffrage (without limitations) was restricted to men, e.g. in **Germany** in **1867**, in **France** in **1875**, and in **Austria** in **1907**. In **United Kingdom** unequal suffrage from 1884 comprised ca. 40 % of adult man population, in **United States** was restricted to literates.

Excursus: Suffrage in Czech Lands

- **First elections in 1848**
 - Of parliament of Frankfurt (Germany) and of Vienna parliament (Austria)
- **Constitution of 1861**
 - Suffrage restricted with height of taxes (census) and social affiliation („Kurie“)
- **„April“ Constitution 1873**
 - Direct elections of Vienna parliament
- **Lowering of census in 1882**
 - „Five-Gulden“ Voters
- **Reform of Voters Groups („Kurie“) of 1896**

- New Group of Voters: „Universal Kurie“
- **Universal suffrage 1905-1907**
 - Right to vote for all man over 24 years

Colonialism

Colonialism is term for political, economic, and military expansion of European countries to the detriment of other countries of America, Africa, Asia, Australia, and Pacific from 15th to 20th century.

After the decay of Spain and Portugal around 1800 new phase of colonialism started in second half of 19th century.

- Until 1870 colonial powers:
 - **United Kingdom** (India, Canada, Australia), **France** (after 1815 rebuild of colonial empire, Algeria), **Netherland** (Indonesia), **Portugal**, and **Spain**.
- After 1870 the colonialism reached its peak stage („Imperialism“ according to Lenin or Arendt):
 - **Germany** (Africa, Pacific), **Italy** (Africa), **Belgium** (Africa); **Japan** (east Asia, Pacific), **USA** (Caribbean, Pacific).

The result of colonialism was the fact that in the beginning of 20th century the whole world was divided into colonies and spheres of influence and relations of powers became more explosive.

Forming of the Triple Alliance

At the end of 19th century decay of Bismarck System led to fact that Germany gradually lost its ally:

- 1879 **German-Austrian-Hungarian** agreement concluded (Two-Alliance) was Defensive coalition against Russia.
- 1882 tripartite agreement of **Germany**, **Austria-Hungary**, and **Italy** (Triple Alliance) was defensive coalition against Russia and France (!) in which each member promised mutual support in the event of an attack. The peak of tripartite agreement lasted from 1882 to end of 19th century. It was also period of close cooperation and unsuccessful attempt to conclude alliance with **United Kingdom**.

- **Franco-Italian agreements** that were concluded in 1898 to 1902 were settlement of disagreement, guarantee of mutual neutrality between France and Italy. It meant weakening of integrity of the Society of Three + acceleration of rivalry between Italy and Austria-Hungary.

Triple Alliance that was formed around Germany was result of the fact of weakening position of Germany and **could not remain the outbreak of First World War**.

Forming of Entente

Contrary to development of Germany brand new coalition of states was formed around France:

- **Franco-Russian alliance** was Military alliance created by agreements of 1891 to 1894. These agreements ended political isolation of France (after 1871) and was aimed against the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria – Hungary, Italy).
- **Entente cordiale 1904** was next agreement that was concluded between United Kingdom and France, settlement of disputes, did not aim against the Triple Alliance.
- **British-Russian agreement 1907** was concluded after defeat of Russia in Russo-Japanese War. Russia ceased to be opponent for United Kingdom in Far East, but did not solve all issue of mutual relations.

Formation of Entente, or Triple-Entente, became final **separation of Europe into two political blocs**. This fact eliminated possibilities of diplomatic solution of international crisis and was responsible for **increase of number of military conflicts** since the end of 19th and beginning of 20th century.

Military Conflicts in the Beginning of 20th Century

Since the end of 19th century number of wars took place:

- **Second Boer War 1898-1902**
 - War between Boer states Transvaal Republic and Orange Free State with United Kingdom
 - Victory for Britain and the annexation of both republics
 - Incorporation of African states into South African Union (1910), escalation of relations between United Kingdom and Germany
- **Spanish-American War 1898**

- American support of Cuban and Philippine independence
- The result (Treaty of Paris) allowed temporary American control of Cuba and ceded indefinite colonial authority over Philippine islands etc.
- Collapse of the Spanish Empire
- Fundaments for American colonial dominion (the Philippines, Pacific, Cuba)
- **Russo-Japanese War 1904-1905**
 - Conflict about hegemony in Far East (Manchuria), battle of Mukden and of Tsushima
 - Japanese victory
- **Italo-Turkish War 1911-1912**
 - Dispute over north African territory, Italy occupies Dodecanese and Libya (Treaty of Lausanne)

Balkan Wars 1912 to 1913

Defeat and weakening of Ottoman Empire in Italo-Turkish War of 1911 and 1912 was used by Balkans countries. At the same time Young Turk Revolution took place and Austria-Hungary annexed the province of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- **First Balkan War 1912-1913**
 - Origin of **Balkan League** (**Bulgaria**, **Montenegro**, **Greece**, and **Serbia**) against **Turkey**; aim to territorial expansion
 - London Peace Treaty: division of the Balkans, Turkey keeps only perimeter near Istanbul
- **Second Balkan War 1913**
 - Disputes among Balkan countries over acquired territory, esp. Macedonia; **Serbo-Greek** alliance against **Bulgaria**; Romania and **Turkey** also against **Bulgaria**
 - Bucharest and Istanbul Peace Treaty, territorial losses of Bulgaria

Summary

Period of 1848 to 1914 was era of transformation of dynastic states into **national states** in Central Europe and in Italy. These states were established as **democratic states** in Western and Central Europe and partly also into **social states**, especially Germany.

These states in fact were in all respects modern civil states.

After so called “Thirty Years’ War of 19th Century” that lasted from 1848 to 1878 new international system was formed. But this system under German supremacy gradually transformed into world order of **two stable and antagonist power’s blocs** that became precondition of outbreak of First World War.

Recommended Sources

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