

AQA History

The Quest for Political Stability: Germany 1871-1991

Transition work

Activity One – Research

This work can be produced in whichever format you choose e.g. Word document, PowerPoint, poster, handwritten notes.

(1) Germany was established as a single country in 1871. This unit starts with the Second Reich being declared, with Wilhelm I as Kaiser and Bismarck as Chancellor.

It will be useful for you to gain an understanding of how Germany became unified. To do this, you should research the following points:

- Which states made up the Holy Roman Empire
- How it was destroyed in 1806
- 1815 Congress of Vienna
- Creation 'North German Confederation' in 1867
- The Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871.

(2) A knowledge of the geography of Germany will help you understand its history.

Consequently, you should research the following points to gain a greater awareness:

- The geographical location of Germany
- The countries it shares a border with
- Access to the sea
- Its terrain
- Its natural resources.

Activity Two – Extended writing

Use your research to answer the following question.

What role did Bismarck play in the unification of Germany in 1871?

For further queries or to submit work, please email jmanton@wigstonmat.org .

Below is the suggested reading list for the Germany unit. This is not part of the transition work but is a guide for anyone who wishes to complete reading during the summer holidays.

- B Whitfield, Germany 1848-1914, Heinemann, 2000
- R Whitfield, Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-1945, Nelson Thornes, 2009
- L Abrams, Bismarck and the German Empire, Routledge, 1995
- A Farmer, The Unification of Germany 1815-1919, Hodder Murray, 2007
- M Fulbrook, Interpretations of the Two Germanies 1945-1990, Palgrave Macmillan, 2000
- D Geary, Hitler and Nazism, Routledge, 2000
- S Lee, Imperial Germany 1871-1918, Routledge, 1999
- S Lee, The Weimar Republic, Routledge, 1998
- S Lee, Hitler and Nazi Germany, Routledge, 1998
- J Thomanek and B Niven, Dividing and Uniting Germany, Routledge, 2000
- D Williamson, Bismarck and Germany 1862-1890, Longman, 1997
- D Williamson, The Third Reich, Longman, 1995

Visual sources and websites

- M Sturmer, The German Century, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1999
- P Adam, Art of the Third Reich, Harry N Abrams, 1992
- DDR Design, 1949-1989, Taschen, 2004
- www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk
- www.germannotes.com
- www.schoolshistory.org.uk
- www.thehistorychannel.co.uk
- www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa