

Maksym Svysenko
G.L. Perviy, research supervisor
S.I. Kostrytska, language adviser
National Mining University,
Ukrainian-American Lyceum, Dnipro, Ukraine

Unification of Germany in the 19th Century as a Factor of its Socio-economic and Political Upheaval

In the period of Ukraine's European integration, to radically change the standard of living in Ukraine for the best, the country needs decisive steps made by top government authorities. For the correct execution of these steps, the experience of prominent reformist politicians in the history of mankind must be taken into account.

In Ukraine, there is an acute problem of decentralization of the state which clearly leads to fragmentation. United Germany is a bright example of land consolidation during the chancellorship of Otto von Bismarck.

Otto von Bismarck died more than a century ago, but the interest to his reform acts is still vivid nowadays [5].

Bismarck's main aim was to create the most favourable conditions for the reunification of Germany. This has been the focus of his activities as a politician-reformer [2].

In the course of three wars (Second Schleswig War, Austro-Prussian War and Franco-Prussian War) fragmented German states were united into a single large state – the German Empire (1871) [3].

After Germany had been united, Otto von Bismarck introduced the world a kind of historical-legal paradox: the conservative Prussian Junker fulfilled the main national task of the German revolution with the help of the method of "revolution from above" [5].

The emergence of the German Empire opened a new page in the history of international and diplomatic relations in Europe. United Germany has become a mighty power, designed to play a greater role in the international arena [1].

After the unification of Germany, no European country could seek to encroach on the territorial integrity of Germany, to replace its state boundaries, because the United Germany had Europe's largest military capacity which made Germany a stronghold of peace and tranquility not only in Europe but throughout the world. Besides, the victory over France contributed to the active development of the country. During the war, rich deposits of coal and iron ore of Alsace and Lorraine were captured. There was a strong population growth in the last third of the XIXth century, the population increased from 35 million to 50 million people. Because of this, the number of industrial workers tripled. The most intelligent people of Europe and the world came to progressive Germany with the aim of implementing their innovative ideas.

In German and generally Western European historiography, there are various, sometimes opposing, interpretations and evaluations of the activities of the first

Chancellor of the German Empire. He is estimated as an ardent conservative, "white revolutionary", the creator of the new Germany and the culprit of its problems in the twentieth century, a defender of peace in Europe and at the same time as the creator of the situation that led to the First World War [4].

United "by Bismarck", "by blood and iron" Germany was imposed autocratic political system and the aggressive military traditions of the old Prussia. It started with the plunder of foreign lands. The power of the Junkers and the big bourgeoisie was active in Germany for two decades. There was a dictatorship of Bonapartism, the key figure of which was Bismarck along with the Emperor and head of the General Headquarters. The results and consequences of this dictatorship were disappointing for the founder and detrimental for the country [6].

The German Empire did not survive for long. In less than fifty years since its formation, it lost the First World War and it was abolished after the November revolution of 1918.

As a conclusion, the following can be summarized:

1. A centralized state in the form of the Empire in the period of development can demonstrate high rates of economic and political growth.
2. The role of personality in the history of the state in certain periods can play an important factor in the political and economic dynamics.
3. Centralized Germany in its heyday was able to become one of the leading participants of the European political and economic processes.

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