

Creation of the German Empire

Confederation of the German Empire

The reason why the war was declared by the French, was the telegram of Bismarck to the King. When it was published the French felt provoked. In fear of a French attack the German the South German states joined the North German Confederation.

After two months of war, the French were defeated by the Prussians. On the 18th January 1871, Wilhelm I was proclaimed Emperor of the new German Empire at Versailles. In 1871 German had a population of 39 million people, much larger than Great Britain's 26 million and French's 36 million people.

The peace settlement of Frankfurt in May 1871 was an offense and gave reasons for future conflicts, because the German Empire demanded reparations of five billion francs, annexed territories and stationed an army in France for the four years the reparations should be paid. After the war Bismarck said that "Germany was satiated and ready for peace".

Germany did not wish to win any more territories.

Germany's unification changed Europe completely with its high industrial output and strong military power.

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