

The Franco-Prussian War

The Franco-Prussian War was the war between France and Germany in 1870-1871.

After the Spanish were looking for an heir to the throne, they offered the Spanish throne to a Hohen-Zollern prince. Otto von Bismarck tried to persuade the prince to accept the offer, but the prince rejected the offer of becoming the King of Spain, because King Wilhelm I didn't want to have trouble with France, because a Hohenzollern prince on the Spanish throne wasn't acceptable to France. France was afraid of being surrounded by the Hohenzollern Kings. But France wanted more. Wilhelm I was asked by the French government to guarantee that the prince would never try to become the Spanish King and the French ambassador presented this demand to King Wilhelm I in the Spatown of Bad Ems. Wilhelm refused promising this. He described the reasons why he refused the demand and sent it to Bismarck in a telegram. Carefully the King's words were cut and rearranged, so it seemed Wilhelm I had offended and humiliated France. This led to a war with France which Prussia won.

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