German – Danish War (1864)

Since the Middle Ages, the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein were mostly settled by Germans and part of the German confederation, yet they had been ruled by the King of Denmark as duke. Bismarck wanted to act when the King of Denmark tried to annex the two duchies and to turn them into a part of Denmark. Bismarck declared war against Austria, to take control of the territories. The war was short and the Prussian army combined with the Austrian army, so they took over Schleswig and Holstein together.

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