



Prussian Ascendancy and the Nationalverein

1851-59



Success for Prussia

- 1850s and 60s – economic growth
- Leading industrialists such as Krupps, Bosig and Siemens emerge
- By 1860, 2/3 of all German ironworks were in Prussia
- Education system / natural resource
- Start of major armaments programme
- Spread of railways
- Balance of power shifting to Prussia

Problems in Austria I



François-Joseph Ier jeune - Empereur d'Autriche.

- Emperor Franz Josef initially rejuvenated Austrian government
- Schwarzenberg repressive
- Restored aristocratic privilege
- Declared 'Fundamental Rights of German People' null and void

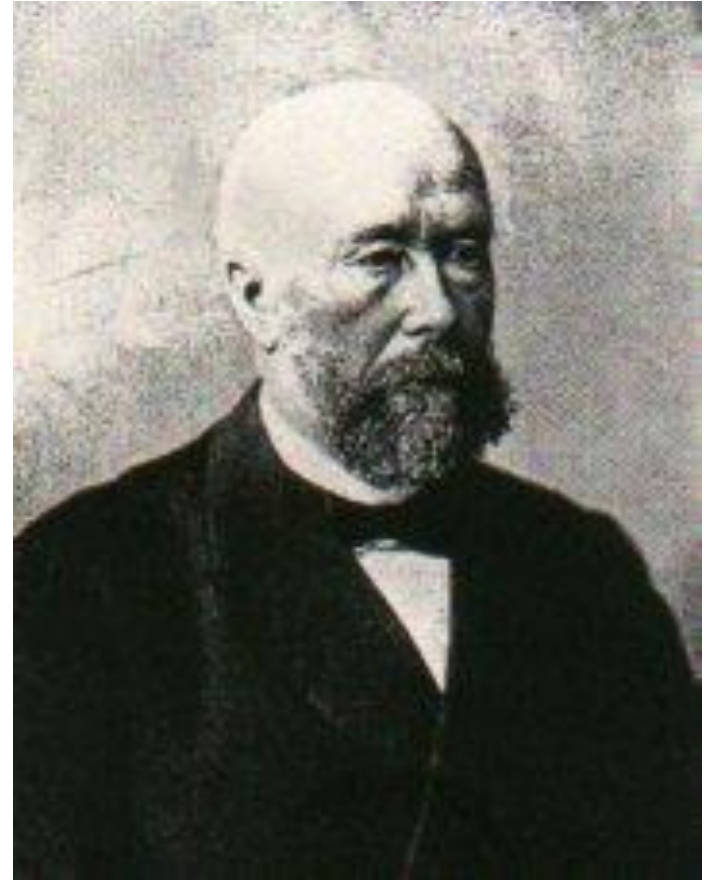


Problems in Austria II

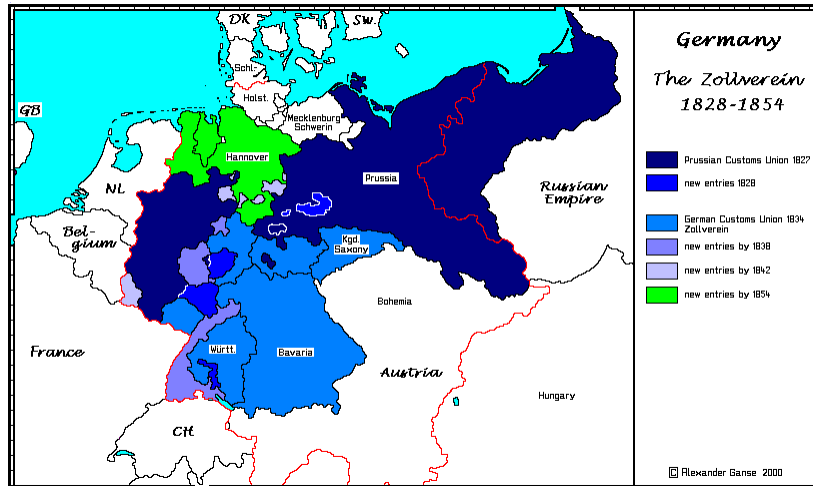
- Failed to join Zollverein or create its own Zollunion
- Austrian economy isolated
- 1854 – Crimean war
- By 1856 – financially vulnerable
- War against Piedmont and France in 1859

The Deutscher Nationalverein

- Imitated the Italian 'National Society'
- September 1859-68
- Rudolf von Bennigsen
- Kleindeutsch
- Prussian leadership
- *Realpolitik*
- *25K members 1862*
- *Wochenschrift*
- *Choral societies; Gynasium; Riflemen's Movement rallies of 100K in early 1860s*



Nationalism in Prussia



- Prussia: only ally
- Austria: not an option
- Zollverein already in place
- New King Wilhelm I in 1861, Regent since 1858
- Liberal success in Landtag

Other reforms in Prussia

- Policies of Otto Theodor von Manteuffel
- Financial support for peasants
- Minimum wage in industry
- Regulation of working conditions
- BUT still believe in autocratic government
- Governed without Parliament 1850-58

