

Question 1a: What according to **SOURCE 2** changed the European balance of power in the 1850-60's?

SOURCE 2: Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unification_of_Germany

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Helmuth von Moltke had become chief of the Prussian General Staff in 1857, and Albrecht von Roon would become Prussian Minister of War in 1859.⁶⁵ This shuffling of authority within the Prussian military establishment would have important consequences. **Von Roon and William (who took an active interest in military structures) began reorganizing the Prussian army, while Moltke redesigned the strategic defense of Prussia by streamlining operational command.** Prussian army reforms (especially how to pay for them) caused a constitutional crisis beginning in 1860 because both parliament and William—via his minister of war—wanted control over the military budget. William, crowned King Wilhelm I in 1861, appointed Otto von Bismarck to the position of Minister-President of Prussia in 1862. Bismarck resolved the crisis in favor of the war minister.⁶⁶

The Crimean War of 1854–55 and the Italian War of 1859 disrupted relations among Great Britain, France, Austria, and Russia. In the aftermath of this disarray, the convergence of von Moltke's operational redesign, von Roon and Wilhelm's army restructure, and Bismarck's diplomacy influenced the realignment of the European balance of power. Their combined agendas established Prussia as the leading German power through **a combination of foreign diplomatic triumphs—backed up by the possible use of Prussian military might—**and an internal conservatism tempered by pragmatism, which came to be known as Realpolitik.⁶⁷

65. Holt, p. 27

66. Ibid, pp. 13–14

67. Blackbourn, pp. 175–179

Bibliography

Blackbourn, David. *The long nineteenth century: a history of Germany, 1780–1918*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998. ISBN 0-19-507672-9

Holt, Alexander W. *The History of Europe from 1862–1914: From the Accession of Bismarck to the Outbreak of the Great War*. New York: MacMillan, 1917. OCLC 300969997

What do you need to do?

You need to show that you understood the question! This is done with a statement followed by a quote from the text. The statement should clearly be an answer to the question. Each statement also has to add something to the answer – not just repeat the same answer. Even if something specific is mentioned several times in the text, it can only be used once in the answer.

Example answer:

Two wars, the Crimean War of 1854-56 and the Italian War of 1859 caused tension between the big powers of Europe and therefore disturbed the “balance of power”. Quote from the text: *“The Crimean War of 1854–55 and the Italian War of 1859 disrupted relations among Great Britain, France, Austria, and Russia”*.

The two wars led Prussia to reconstruct the Prussian army and redesign the strategic defense by streamlining the operational command which affected the balance of Europe. Quotes from the text: *“Von Roon and William (who took an active interest in military structures) began reorganizing the Prussian army, while Moltke redesigned the strategic defense of Prussia by streamlining operational command”*. / *“In the aftermath of this disarray, the convergence of von Moltke's operational redesign, von Roon and Wilhelm's army restructure”*.

Bismarck's diplomacy which included several foreign diplomatic triumphs backed up by the military strength of Prussia influenced the changes of the European balance of power. Quotes from the text *“Bismarck's diplomacy influenced the realignment of the European balance of power”* / *“a combination of foreign diplomatic triumphs—backed up by the possible use of Prussian military might”*