

Maps, Diplomacy and War: The Development of a German National Identity in the Era of Unification

Abstract: This paper constructs and identifies the main causes of the creation of a cohesive German national identity in the Era of Unification (1815-1871). Although German Unification is perhaps best known for redrawing the map of nineteenth century Europe, the significance of the development of a German national identity cannot be understated. The development of the German national identity would have implications for decades after the actual political unification of Germany in 1871. This paper uses several cartographic and secondary materials to construct the evolution of the German national identity over fifty six years. Ultimately, the construction of the German national identity was a combination of the dichotomy between particularism and unifying forces, and a combination of more traditional “top-down” and “bottom-up” scholarly approaches to Unification.