|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Explanation** |
| GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY FITS INTO TWO ‘BLOCKS’:   * UP TO 1890 UNDER BISMARCK – KNOWN AS REALPOLITIK * 1890 TO 1914 – UNDER WILHELM II ‘WELTPOLITIK’ | |
| 1873  The Dreikaiserbund | Formed in 1873 as an alliance between Germany, Austria and Russia  Help build friendly relations between them  The terms of the agreement are vague, only seeks to ensure Russia will not be on the side of France  One of the earliest examples of Bismarck's alliance-building |
| 1878  The Congress of Berlin | Russia seeks territorial expansion, and sees an opportunity within the Ottoman Empire  Disagreements on the division of the Balkans leads to the possibility of a conflict arising  The "honest broker" Bismarck proposes a congress hosted in Berlin  This strengthens Germany's position of importance  However, as Russia isn't satisfied with the agreements made in the Congress, Russo-German relations worsen |
| 1879  The Dual Alliance | As Russia drifts away from Germany, Bismarck needs to ensure that he has allies he can rely on  A defensive alliance between AH and Germany  Hopes that Russia might either see this as an opportunity or as a threat to safety, and will thus seek closer ties with Germany  This shapes the power dynamic in the region. It makes the relation between AH and Germany a definite, unchangeable factor. |
| 1881  The Renewal of the Dreikaiserbund | The Dual Alliance might have served to frighten Russia into closer diplomatic ties with Germany  The Three Emperor's League is renewed  Even though Russia's relations with AH aren't good due to conflicting interests, the Dreikeiserbund is still a positive alliance in their eyes |
| 1882  The Triple Alliance | Bismarck saw the potential in an alliance with Italy: it would deprive France of a possibly ally and strengthen the military power he would control  They agreed to lend assistance in the case of attacks by France, Russia, or both  This created a block of allies in central Europe, that would threaten stability (from the perspective of France or Russia) |
| 1884  The Berlin Conference | Bismarck had a widely-known stance on colonial expansion: he did not want it  Many groups within Germany, however, lobbied for African colonization, stirring up public opinion  Bismarck started siding with France when the French would disagree with the British on colonial matters, in hopes of forcing Britain to adopt a more pro-German policy  In order to further solidify Germany's position of importance, when France and Britain had tension surrounding expansion in Africa, Bismarck organized the Berlin conference  Fair distribution, everyone happy |
| 1887  Reinsurance Treaty | In hopes of improving relations with Russia, Bismarck offers them a peace treaty  However, this was only a temporary solution  When Bismarck decided to deny Russia access to German money markets, Russia could not take loans  This mean that Russia, in need of money, would turn to the next best thing- France  Severely damaged Russo-German relations, greatly improved French-Russian ones  Big change in the status quo  One of Bismarck's worst decisions |
| **Reflection: Bismarck**  Bismarck's aims, throughout most of his career, were to isolate France, prevent conflict, and ensure German security and growth  He achieved this through peaceful conferences, defensive alliances, and very extensive diplomacy  As Kaiser Willhelm II takes the throne, he dismisses Bismarck (due to conflicting view of the future)  Beginning of a significant switch in German foreign policy - ‘WELTPOLITIK’ | |
| 1898  Pursuit of naval expansion | Although Bismarck viewed Germany as a continental power, Wilhelm sought to strengthen the navy and make Germany a world power on par with Britain  Britain, of course, feels threatened, and will not let this pass  Willhelm believes that no colonial issue should be decided without Germany having a say in it  This would antagonize Britain, and make it far more likely to ally with another power  First of the many blunders that Wilhelm II had. |
| 1899  Anglo-German arms race | The threat of German naval expansion means that the British start building more ships  Wilhelm spends a lot of money improving his naval abilities in order to compete with the British. That, however, isn't possible  He thinks that Britain is unlikely to ally with France or Russia, due to the disputes about colonies (in Africa/Asia)  This severely deteriorates relations between Germany and Britain, in a time when Britain was becoming more likely to stop the 'splendid isolation'  Later leads to British alliance with Japan, entente with France |
| 1905  The First Moroccan crisis | Wilhelm visits the Sultan of Morocco, and expresses his support for an independent Moroccan nation  This, obviously, angers the French, who see Morocco as their own. To them, it seems like a provocation  Wilhelm hopes this would shake up French-British relations. On the contrary, the entente remains strong and Britain strongly supports France in that matter  At this point, Germany seems like a threat to stability and is fairly unpredictable  General international relations between Germany and other states are slowly deteriorating |
| 1908  The Daily Telegraph Interview | Britain is fighting in the Boer War, and public German opinion is against it  Kaiser Willy interviewed in a British newspaper  Kaiser Willy tells them: "You English are mad, mad as March hares".  Kaiser Willy also tells them that the Germans don't care at all for the British, that he himself has always been friendly to them, and that France and Russia only provoke Germany  Completely ruins relations with everyone  Public calls for Willy's abdication |
| 1911  The Second Moroccan Crisis | Kaiser Willy attempts to destroy relations between France and Britain, again  As the French want to establish a protectorate over Morocco, Germany wants to gain something in order to 'accept' that decision  Germany asks for the whole of French Congo  Britain thinks that's bullying, sides with the French again  Germany sends a warship close to Morocco  Britain points out its navy  Germany backs down |
| **Reflection: Wilhelm’s Aims and Methods**  Wilhelm is very aggressive. He aims to make Germany a respected world power, able to compete against Britain  Another aim is to split the British-French Entente Cordiale, because it could be a threat  His methods of achieving this, however, are very different to those of Bismarck  He threatens, uses aggression, pursues imperial interests, builds a large (and expensive) naval power. | |
| **Reflection: Continuity and Change?**  Continuity: Germany is in the centre of European diplomacy and politics both in the Bismarck era and in the Wilhelm era  Change: Satisfaction with Germany's role (Bismarck) vs dissatisfaction and desire for top position (Willy)  Friendly/peaceful approach to Russia (Bismarck) vs favouring a potential confrontation (Willy)  Peaceful negotiations and diplomacy (Bismarck) vs exercises of power and aggression (Willy)  Focus on economic growth within (Bismarck) vs desires for imperialism and expansion (Willy)  Mostly calculated, realistic decisions (Bismarck) vs impulsive and emotional outbursts (Willy) | |

**ANALYSIS FROM READING**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BISMARCK**  *(P.G. 3-6)* | **WILHELM II** *(P.G. 8-10)* |
| 1. Intro: What four things combined to undermine the balance of power?  2. What was the ‘German Question’?  3. What was the basis of the new German power?  4. What was Bismarck’s FP goal? (4)  5. How did Bismarck strengthen the German position through his diplomacy?  6. Any miscalculations?  7. What evidence is there that his foreign policy was ‘duplicitous’?  8. What appears to have genuinely been his overall goal?  9. What was the Bulgarian Crisis? Key points only  10. What role did Bismarck play? (5)  11. Why was there continuing problems in Bulgaria?  12. How did this lead to tension with Russia? (5-6)  13. What was the significance of the Bulgarian Crisis?  14. How successful was Bismarck’s policy? Short & long. | 1. What was Weltpolitik?  2. What is the timing of the policy usually out down to?  3. Why was the policy so confused?  4. Why did the success and failure of Weltpolitik become a central issue in German domestic politics? How did it change attitudes?  5. How did Hollweg judge Weltpolitik?  6. Give examples of how Weltpolitik caused anti-German sentiment:  7. What were the cost/benefits of the policy (10) |

BISMARCK’S POLICIES PARTIALLY CONCEALED THE THREAT OF GERMANY TO THE WORLD ORDER; WILHELM’ EXAGGERATED IT. THIS LED TO VAST TENSIONS BETWEEN THE POWERS AND MADE WAR LIKELY. THINK ABOUT TODAY.