

#### HAMBURG'S LOSS OF INDEPENDENCE

One reason for the growth of emigration in the 1860s was the absence of peace in much of Central Europe. The three wars fought between 1864 and 1870, which would later (and rather misleadingly) become known as the Wars of German Unification, did not leave Hamburg untouched. The victory of Prussia and Austria against Denmark in 1864 meant that Holstein returned to "German" hands. The two leading German states initially agreed to administer the territory jointly, but in 1866 war broke out between them. Hamburg was left in a precarious position. Its first instinct, in line with Hanseatic tradition, was to remain neutral, but when it became clear that this would almost certainly mean Prussian occupation and maybe a loss of free-city status too, Hamburg joined Lubeck and Bremen on Prussia's side. [...] Now surrounded by Prussian territories, Hamburg had little option but to join Bismarck's North German Confederation in 1867. Pg 16.

*A Brief History of Hamburg.* Matthew Jefferies. 2011.

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