Aim: How did Otto von Bismarck create the German Empire?

I. Early Problems of Unification
1. 39 German states ruled by individual princes
2. Princes did not want to lose their power
3. Princes did not want a united Germany.
4. Religion: north were Protestants and south were Catholic

II. Otto von Bismarck
1. Prime minister of Prussia
2. Blood and iron, blood meant war and iron meant absolute monarchy
3. Stated: wars would unite the German people
4. Started 3 Wars

    A. Schleswig & Holstein
1. 1864 Prussia &Austria fought Denmark
2. Prussia & Austria won the war.
3. Denmark lost Schleswig & Holstein
4. Schleswig was controlled by Prussia
5. Holstein by Austria

    B. Austro-Prussian War
1. 1866 Prussian army entered Holstein
2. After seven weeks Austria was defeated
3. Two states belonged to Prussia.
4. Northern part of Germany was united
5. 1867 the North German Confederation was established.

    C. Franco-Prussian War
1. Two Reasons for Franco-Prussian War
   ▪ Napoleon III was afraid of how rapidly Prussian power was growing
   ▪ Fighting over the Spanish throne
2. Spanish throne had been vacant since 1868
3. Spain offered the throne to the German prince
4. Napoleon III convinced Wilhelm to reject the throne
5. The Ems Dispatch stated Wilhelm's rejection
6. Bismarck changed the document and published a fake letter
7. July 19, 1870 The Franco-Prussian war had begun.
8. Germany won in 1871
9. France gave Alsace and Lorraine to Germany
10. France was also forced to pay a lot of money to Germany
11. Germany was united

III. Maintaining and Empire
1. Bismarck was its first chancellor
2. 1872, he formed the Three Emperors' League, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia
3. King Wilhelm I of Prussia became the Kaiser, of emperor of all Germany
4. After Wilhelm I died, his son Frederick III took over
5. William II took over in 1888
6. Bismarck was dismissed in 1890