

Strategic Challenge

Setting

You are a nobleman living in the mid-19th century. You have been appointed to the post of Prime Minister by the king of the kingdom you live in. Now you have the chance to truly write history by uniting your country with neighbouring countries, kingdoms and regions and build one of the greatest nations of its time. How should you go about this?

Assignment

Develop a **strategic plan** (**what** to do and **how** to do it, in which **sequence**) describing the steps you have to take in order to achieve your goal of national unification (building a nation state):

1. Understand the situation you have to deal with by looking at the list of conditions (see below).
2. In order to be truly successful you have to achieve economic, political and cultural unification (national unity).
3. The new nation has to have a constitution, a capital and an emperor.

Conditions

- 41 million people (population)
- several languages and ethnic minorities
- states loosely bound together by a confederation
- 2 leading states: large and influential, conservative and absolutistic. One with a rapidly developing economy.
- each state with own economy, government and army
- strong conservative ruling class (mostly nobility and gentry) and strong military in almost all states
- 2 major religions
- nationalist and liberal political movements
- most education systems under the Catholic Church's sphere of influence
- 39 customs lines (Zolllinien) and customs barriers. Customs are under the sovereign rights of the kings and princes
- to the west: powerful hostile nation-state
- to the north: disputed land areas