

CHAPTER

22

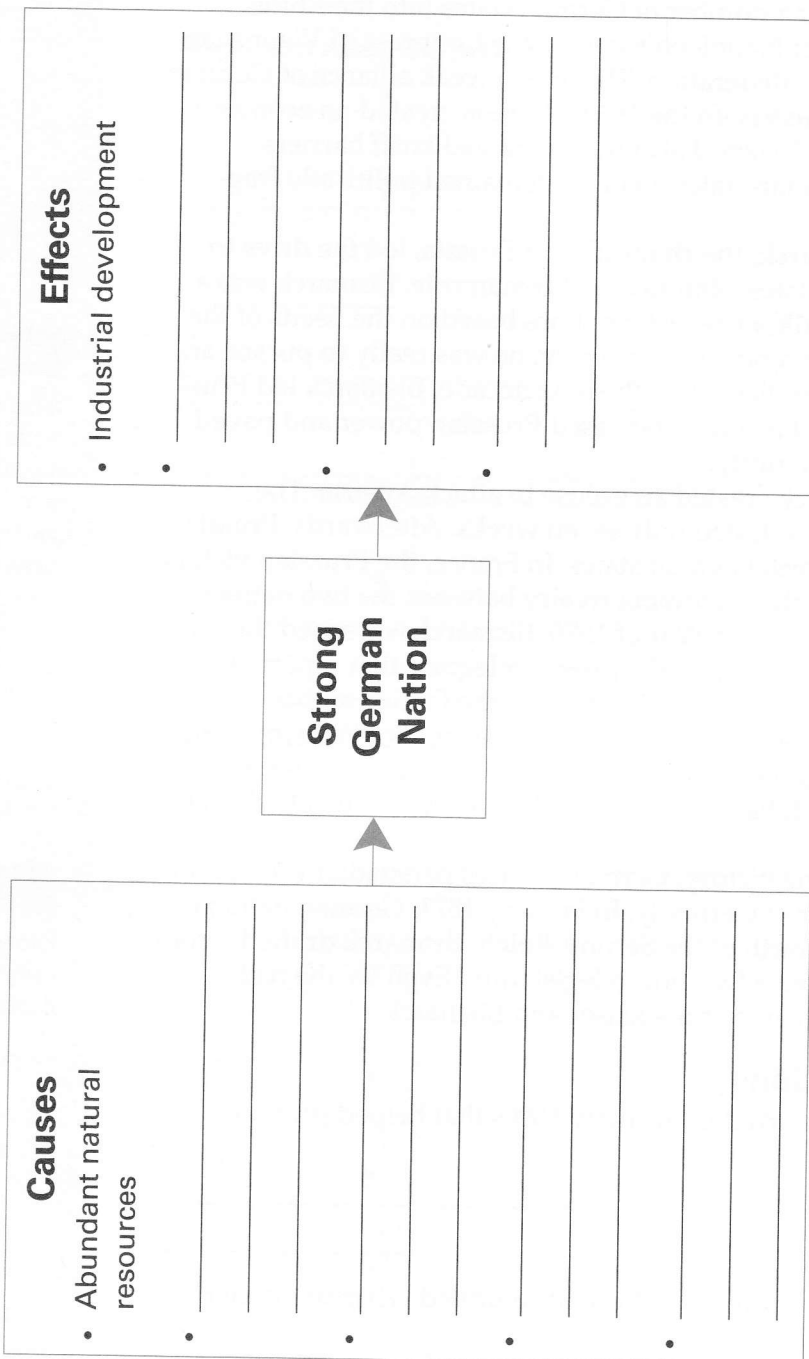
SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide

GERMANY STRENGTHENS

Focus Question: How did Germany increase its power after unifying in 1871?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart to record the causes and effects of a strong German nation.



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Section Summary

GERMANY STRENGTHENS

After unification in 1871, the new German empire emerged as an industrial giant. Several factors made industrialization in Germany possible, such as ample iron and coal resources. These are the basic ingredients for industrial development. A disciplined and educated workforce also helped the economy grow. The German middle class created a productive and efficient society that prided itself on its sense of responsibility. Additionally, a growing population provided a huge home market for goods and a large supply of industrial workers.

German industrialists recognized the value of applied science in developing new products, such as synthetic chemicals and dyes. Both industrialists and the government supported scientific research and development. The government also promoted economic development. It issued a single form of currency for Germany and reorganized the banking system. The leaders of the new empire were determined to maintain economic strength as well as military power.

Bismarck pursued several foreign-policy goals. He wanted to keep France weak and build strong links with Austria and Russia. On the domestic front, Bismarck, called "the Iron Chancellor," targeted the Catholic Church and the Socialists. He believed these groups posed a threat to the new German state. He thought Catholics would be more loyal to the Church than to Germany. He also worried that Socialists would undermine the loyalty of workers and turn them toward revolution. Bismarck tried to repress both groups, but his efforts failed. For example, the *Kulturkampf* was a set of laws intended to weaken the role of the Church. Instead, the faithful rallied to support the Church. When repressing the Socialists failed to work, Bismarck changed course and pioneered social reform.

In 1888, **William II** became the kaiser. He believed that his right to rule came from God, and he shocked Europe by asking Bismarck to resign. Not surprisingly, William II resisted efforts to introduce democratic reforms. However, his government provided many **social welfare** programs to help certain groups of people. The government also provided services such as cheap transportation and electricity.

Review Questions

1. What did the German government do to promote economic development?

2. Why did Bismarck believe Catholics posed a threat to the new German state?

READING CHECK

What two ingredients are basic for industrial development?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *synthetic* mean in the underlined sentence? Notice that these chemicals and dyes did not appear in nature, but were developed. Using this clue, write a definition for *synthetic*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Sequence Correctly number the following events:

- _____ William II becomes Kaiser.
- _____ Germany unifies in 1871.
- _____ Government reorganizes the banking system.
- _____ Bismarck is asked to resign.