

7.3 National Unification and Diplomatic Tensions

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS unification 统一 • crimean war 克里米亚战争 • breakdown of the concert of europe 欧洲协调的瓦解
• nationalist tensions in the balkans 巴尔干 • complex system of alliances 联盟体系

Objective

Build the skills to explain **unification** 统一 and the alliance system.

You must be able to:

- explain what the Crimean War made possible
- name the methods behind Italian and German unification
- describe the alliance system before and after 1890
- explain how Balkan tensions drew in the powers

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The opening

The Crimean War demonstrated Ottoman weakness and contributed to the breakdown of the Concert of Europe, **thereby creating the conditions** in which Italy and Germany could be unified after centuries of fragmentation.

■ Italy and Germany

Cavour's diplomatic strategies combined with Garibaldi's popular military campaigns unified Italy. Bismarck used Realpolitik — diplomacy, industrialised warfare, weaponry and the manipulation of democratic mechanisms — to unify Germany.

■ The alliances

After 1871 Bismarck attempted to maintain the balance through a complex system of alliances directed at isolating France; his dismissal in 1890 eventually led to a system of **mutually antagonistic** alliances and heightened tensions.

■ The Balkans

Nationalist tensions in the Balkans **drew** the Great Powers into a series of crises leading up to the First World War — the powers are described as pulled by a local situation.

2 Practice

2.1 State what the Crimean War made possible and how. [2]

2.2 Name the four instruments of Bismarck's Realpolitik. [2]

2.3 The alliance system changes after 1890.

(a) State what it was before. [1]

(b) State what it became. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Cavour's contribution to Italian unification was [1]

- A military campaigns
- B diplomatic strategy
- C industrial production
- D naval blockade

3.2 The CED's verb for how Balkan tensions involved the Great Powers is [1]

- A invited
- B drew
- C repelled
- D ignored

3.3 A system of alliances aimed at one rival becomes a system of mutually antagonistic ones.

(a) State what changed. [1]

(b) Explain the consequence. [2]

Solutions

2.1 it created the conditions for Italian and German unification by exposing Ottoman weakness and contributing to the Concert's breakdown.

2.2 diplomacy; industrialised warfare; weaponry; the manipulation of democratic mechanisms.

2.3 (a) a complex system directed at isolating France. (b) mutually antagonistic alliances with heightened international tensions.

3.1 B. Cavour supplied the diplomacy, Garibaldi the campaigns.

3.2 B. the powers were pulled in.

3.3 (a) the alliances no longer had a single architect or a single target. (b) any dispute could activate the whole web, so a local crisis could pull every power into a general war.