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# **Battle of Waterloo**

**18 June 1815**



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## **DUKE OF WELLINGTON**

**May 1769 – September 1852**

**METHODICAL, CALCULATING,  
THOROUGH, INSIGHTFUL, NEVER  
DEFEATED**

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## WELLINGTON

- **All the business in life, is to endeavour to find out what you don't know, by what you do know.**
- **Guessing what is on the other side of the hill.**



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# **NAPOLEON**

**August 1769 – May 1821**

**INSPIRED, MERCURIAL, AUDACIOUS,  
IMPETUOUS, INFALLIBLE**

**FOUGHT OVER 60 BATTLES, LOST 8 (OR  
NONE)**

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## **NAPOLEON**

- **I know no more now than when I started**

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## **NINE MONTHS BEFORE THE BATTLE**

- **In August 1814 as Wellington returned from Paris he inspected the Belgium frontier fortresses and surveyed “many advantageous positions of defence.”**
- **He spent time on the high road from Charleroi to Brussels and walked the open ground in front of the forest of Soignes.**

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## PREPARATION

- **Wellington had walked possible battle positions in 1814**  
**Including**
- **Ligny**
- **Hal**
- **Quatre Bra**
- **Mont St. Jean**
- **The Forest**

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## **24 HOURS BEFORE THE BATTLE**

- **Wellington's engineers surveyed the ground before Waterloo two weeks before the battle.**
- **Wellington examined the ground on 14 June 1815 and set out his dispositions for the Waterloo defence.**
- **He declined the suggestion by his engineers that they should set up defensive works as he did not wish to give away his intentions.**

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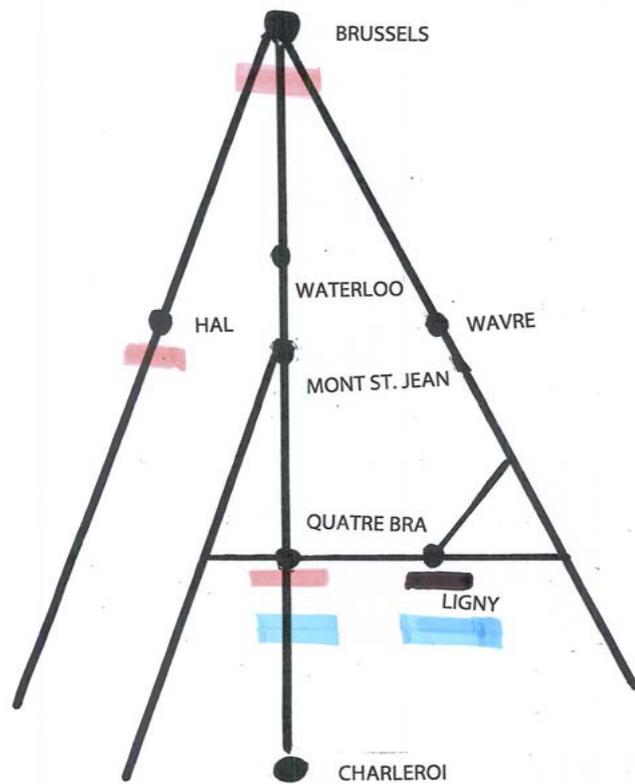
## PREPARATION

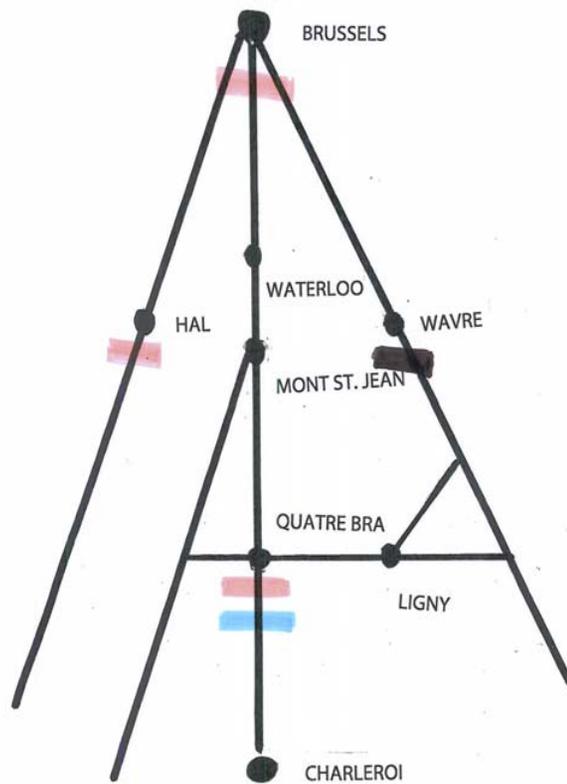
- **Wellington went to the ridge at Mont St. Jean two days before the battle of Waterloo to consider dispositions**

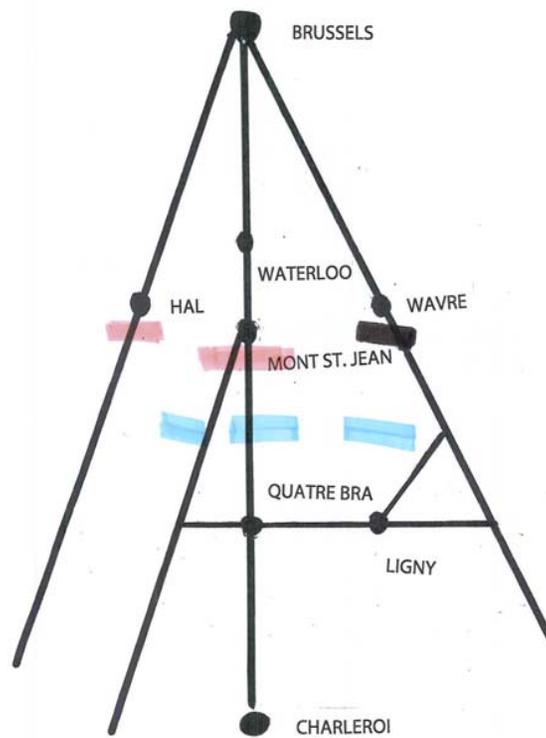
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## DUCHESS OF RICHMOND'S BALL

- **17 June 1815**
- **On hearing Napoleon had marched on Brussels, Wellington called for a map.**
- **“Napoleon has humbugged me, by God. He has gained 24 hours march on me.”**
- **He then said. “The army will concentrate at Quatre Bra, but we shall not stop him there, I must fight him here.”**
- **He then marked the position just south of Waterloo.**







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# **BATTLE OF WATERLOO**

**18 June 1815**

**“The last battle of 18<sup>th</sup> Century”**

**18<sup>th</sup> Century battles involved set piece, and  
some times static tactics**

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## **NAPOLEON'S TACTICS**

- **Army lines up opposite opponent**
- **Blasting with artillery at the opponent until it was demoralised**
- **Attacking with infantry in column**
- **And cavalry in mass**
- **Causing the opponent to break and then defeating them in detail**

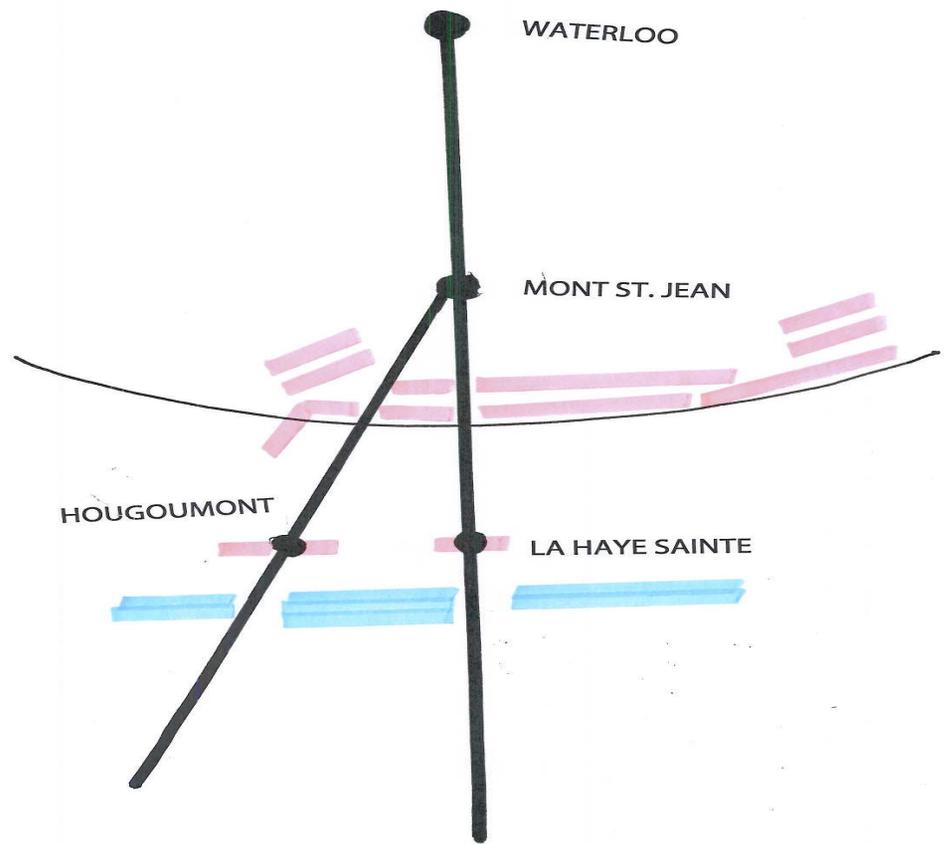


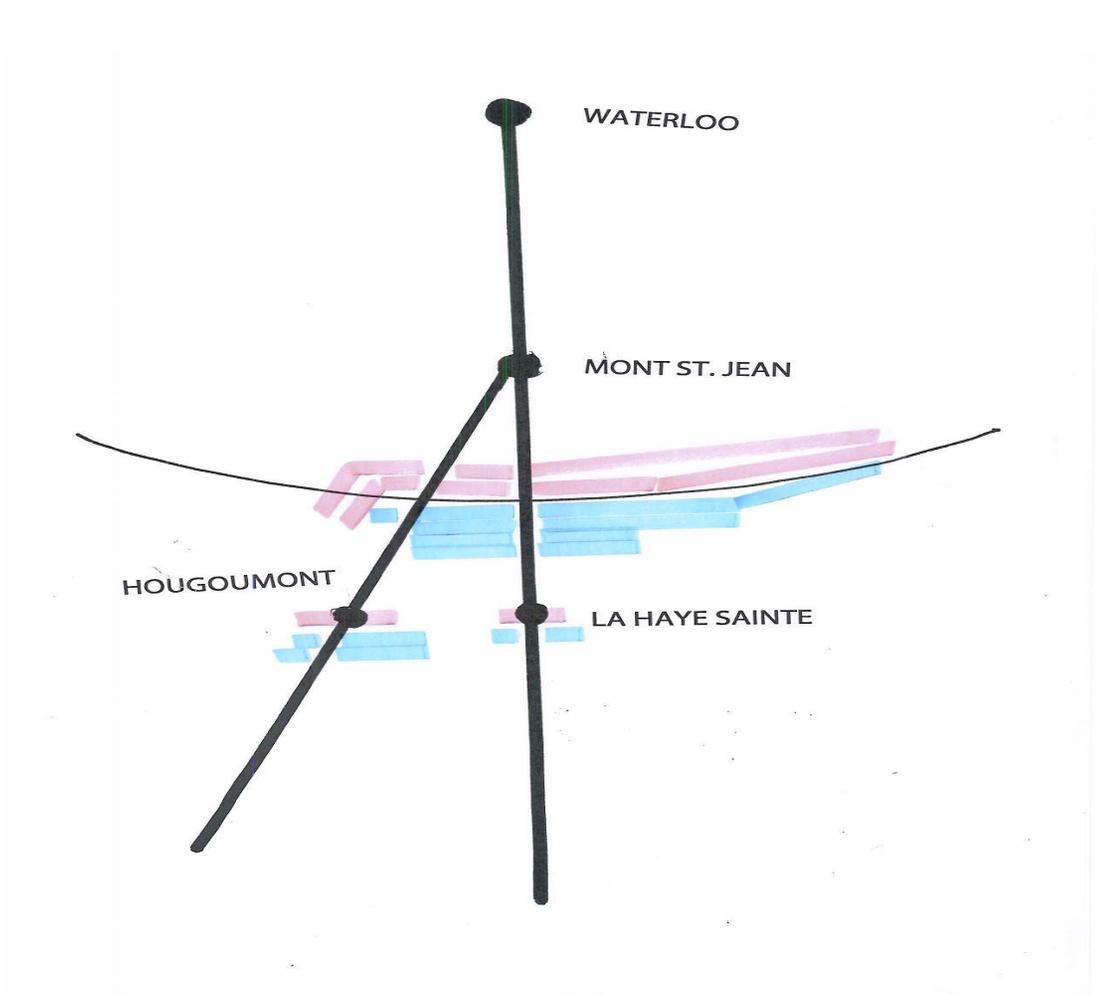
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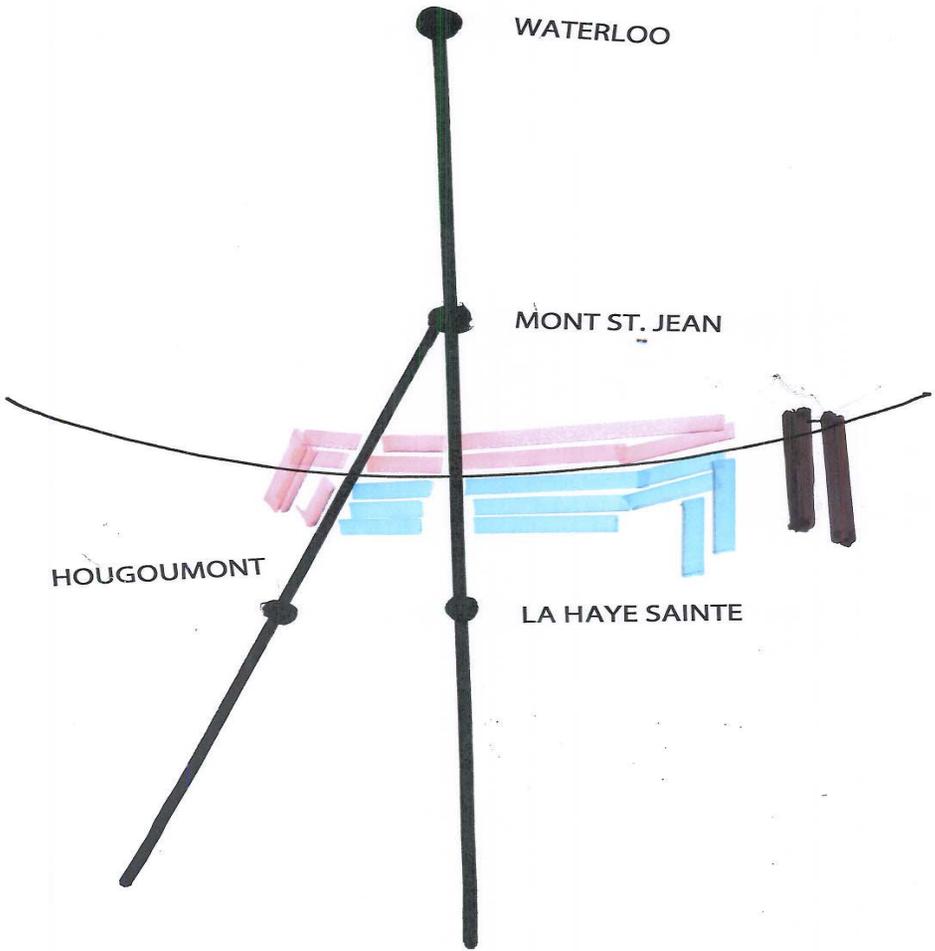
## WELLINGTON'S TACTICS

- **Defending in ranks**
- **Concealing as many soldiers as possible on the reverse slope**
- **Meeting the infantry attack in lines**
- **And cavalry attack in squares**









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## **In the Soldiers' knapsacks**

- **The British: A spare pair of boots and two pairs of soles**
- **The French: Their dress uniform for a parade in Brussels.**

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## **The Use of the Army**

- **Infantry - Artillery - Cavalry**
- **Scissors - Paper - Stone/Rock**
- **Insured/Insurers/Reinsurer**
- **Lawyers**
- **Experts**

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## THE LESSONS

- **Knowledge**
- **Anticipation**
- **Planning**
- **Research**
- **Preparation**
- **Strategy**
- **Tactics**
- **Action**
- **Planned reaction**
- **Personal commitment**
- **Persistent at learning**
- **Pushing forward developing**

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## THE LESSONS

- **Capacity and Experience are of no use without Judgement**

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## THE LESSONS

- **Selecting the Team**
- **Managing the Team**
- **Making things happen**
- **Stamina**

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## THE LESSONS

- **Wellington protected his assets**
- **Reverse slope positioning**
- **Hougoumont**
- **La Haye Sainte**

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## **THE LESSONS**

### **Wellingtons Insurance**

- **The ridge at Mont St. Jean**
- **The fallback into the forest**

### **Reinsurance**

- **Agreement of support by the Prussians**

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## **THE LESSONS NAPOLEON**

- **The most difficult thing is to detect the truth in all the reports one receives.**
- **The remainder requires only common sense**

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$$730 \div 14$$

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$$365 \div 7$$

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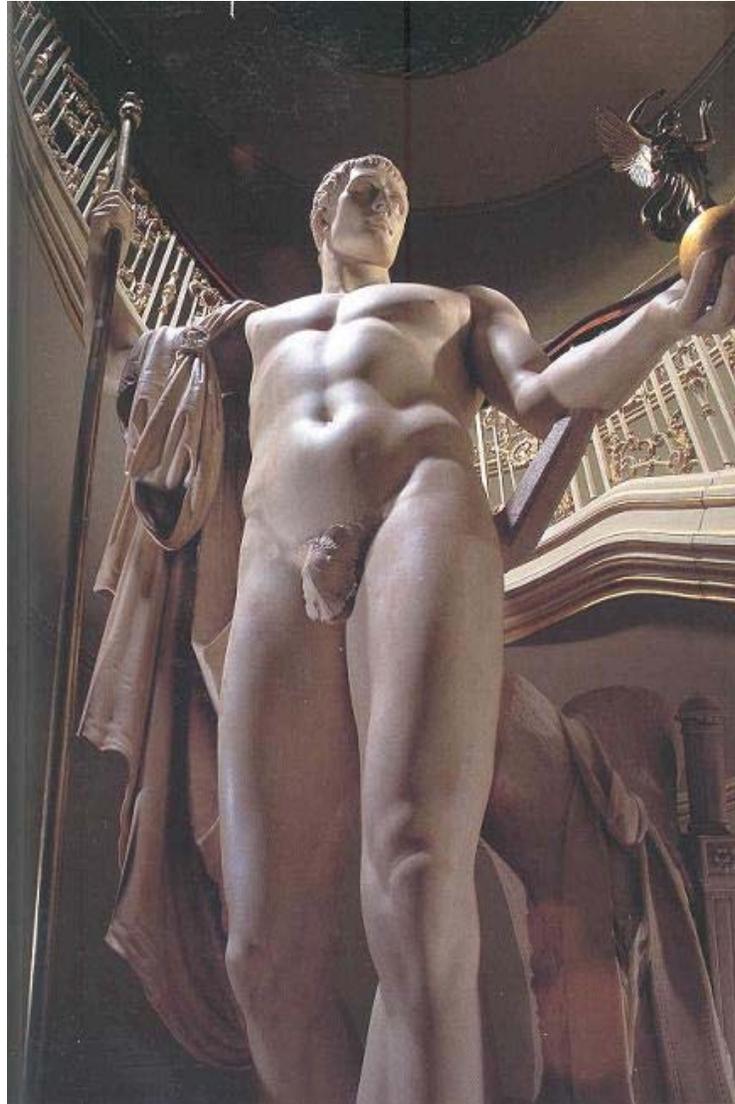
## **THE MISTRESSES**

- **Josephina Grassini**
- **Marguerite Josephine Weimer**

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## THE SPOILS

- **Silver plate**
- **Porcelain**
- **Furniture**
- **Paintings by Titian, Correggio, Watteau, Murillo, Velasquez, Caravaggio, Poussin, Raphael, Breughel, Rubens, Durer, Van Dyke and Leonardo (165 in all)**
- **Stratfield Saye**
- **11 foot high statue of the Empire Napoleon as the Roman god of war Mars by Antonio Canova**



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## WELLINGTON'S TITLES

- **The Duke of Wellington had at least 63 titles, not counting that of Prime Minister.**
- **He was Duke of Wellington; Prince of Waterloo in the Netherlands; a Field Marshal of Great Britain; and a Marshal of Russia, Austria, France, Prussia, Portugal and the Netherlands; a Knight of the Elephant of Denmark and Sir Alexander Nevsky of Russia; a Knight of the Lion of Bardon; Lord High Constable of England and Ranger of St James' Park**

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## THE PLAYING FIELDS OF ETON

- **“The Battle of Waterloo was won on the Playing Fields of Eton.”**
- **Wellington probably never said this, there is no record of it before 1855 and then it is attributed to the French writer Count De Montalembert following his visit to Eton School**
- **It is not quoted in an English book until Sir William Fraser included it in his own collection of 1889.**





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## CONSEQUENCES

### France

- **Unstable Government until Napoleon III**
- **Two Franco Prussians Wars**
- **Emergence of Bismark**
- **WW1 1914-1918**
- **(If Russian) 1914-1917;**
- **(If US) 1916-1918**
- **No further development of Empire in Europe, India or America**

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## CONSEQUENCES

### British

- **British expansion into India**
- **Necessity to block Russian expansion by expedition into Afghanistan 1839**
- **Crimean War 1854 – 1858**
- **Development of worldwide Empire**

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## CONSEQUENCES

### Russia

- **Russia first came West in 1814**
- **Expansion of Russian Empire**
- **Into India**
- **And in search of a warm water port in India and Southern Europe**

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## CONSEQUENCES

### Prussia

- **Unification of separate states**
- **Emergence of Bismark**
- **Expansion of Empire in Africa**
- **Expansion of territory in Europe WW1 and WW2**

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## CONSEQUENCES

- **The French Empire effectively came to an end**
- **Prussian/German expansion in Europe lead to WW1**
- **Which brought to an end the Austro Hungarian Empire; the Ottoman Empire; the Russian Empire and the German Empire**
  
- **It bankrupted the British Empire**
- **Leaving only the expanding US Empire, the ailing Chinese Empire and the Japanese Empire**