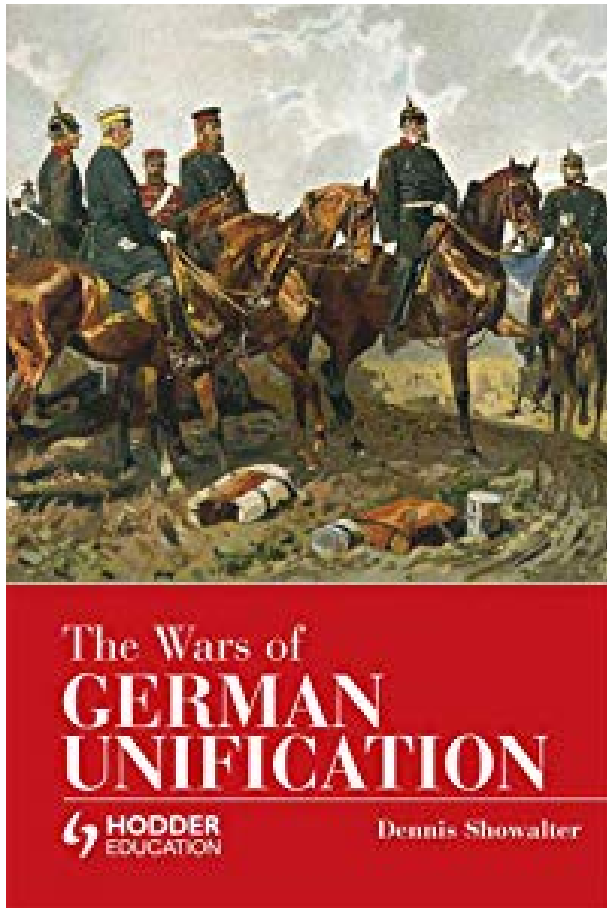


The Wars of German Unification



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Taken together, three wars served to unify Germany and fundamentally altered the balance of power in 19th-century Europe: the Schleswig-Holstein conflict of 1864; the "Six Weeks' War" of 1866; and the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. They marked the establishment of Prussian hegemony in central Europe, the creation of the Bismarckian Reich in 1871, and, as a by-product, the reduction of Habsburg influence and the collapse of Napoleon III's Second Empire. Showalter gives a full account of the international context as well as of the wars themselves and their consequences.