

#108 The French Connection – France ceded Alsace-Lorraine to Germany in 1871

Key Understanding: *Alsace-Lorraine*. Perhaps no region portrays the history of the Charlemagne Split's France vs. Germany wars like that of Alsace-Lorraine, which was situated on the border between the two countries.

Alsace-Lorraine. Alsace and Lorraine have long been a prize in wars between France and Germany. They became a part of Charlemagne's empire in the 700's, but fell to Germany when his grandsons divided his empire. Alsace-Lorraine (*pictured*) remained under German rule until the 1500's, when France gained control of the territory in slow stages. The people fought French rule at first, until the French Revolution of 1789. That brought a change of heart to the people, who became so French in spirit during the 1800's



that more than 50,000 moved to France when Germany got most of Alsace in the 1871 Treaty of Frankfurt after the Franco-Prussian War. Alsace-Lorraine was in German hands until World War I, when they again lost it back to France. Germany gained control again during the course of World War II. The Allies then drove the Germans out of Alsace-Lorraine in 1944-1945, and France once more took control of the entire region. France remains in control today.

The unifying of Germany. Here once again is the map showing the unifying of the German states by Prussia. Note the location of Alsace-Lorraine, and that it was again in German hands between the time of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871 and 1918.

Lorraine and Alsace



- Prussia in 1862
- United in 1866-1867, as the North German Confederation
- United in 1871
- Annexed in 1871, following the Franco-Prussian War

Point of Interest: Iron ore has been an important mineral product from Lorraine. That is interesting from the standpoint that Alsace and Lorraine were continually in the line of fire and were often the prizes in the Iron vs. Clay wars of Germany and France that were the result of the Charlemagne Split.

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