

Negotiations between Prussia and the southern states had been proceeding during the war, so that at its close the German Empire was already established. The new provinces were annexed not to Prussia but to the Empire, and being acquired by conquest they were placed on a different footing from the other members of the confederation, having no self-government and no representation in the *Bundesrath*, or federal council. Bismarck's purpose was thus at length consummated, and Prussia's rule over a united Germany was an accomplished fact.