In the Stream of Time: An Adlerian Lifestyle Perspective of Otto von Bismarck

A Literature Review

Presented to the Faculty of Adler Graduate School

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for

The Degree of Master of Arts in

Adlerian Counseling and Psychotherapy

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December 2014
Abstract

Adler’s Individual Psychology postulates that lifestyle is at the core of personality structure and provides psycho-clarity into human development. Lifestyle analysis is a useful therapeutic tool and mastery of this Adlerian approach sharpens a therapist’s skills. Adlerian theory is a unique psychological system that has analytic powers in viewing an individual’s lifestyle. Lifestyle as Alfred Adler envisioned is the utility of cognitive schemas or patterns that shape our functioning in the major tasks of life. Otto von Bismarck’s life appears to be pertinent for the application of Adlerian concepts as the Iron Chancellor displayed the will to power. The historical, cultural and political contexts of Bismarck are briefly discussed. A description of the life stages and personality development are followed by a lifestyle analysis with related Adlerian concepts that display the neurotic tendencies of Bismarck. Bismarck’s neuroses have origins in his early recollections and describe lifestyle movement; the etiology of his personality structure is examined in Adlerian terms. Bismarck’s lifestyle impacted the world and had positive and negative consequences for global movement in the stream time.
Preface

The reasons behind tackling a psychological lifestyle perspective of Otto von Bismarck, a world famous historical figure who helped unify Germany, is threefold. First, lifestyle is the centerpiece of Adlerian diagnostic technique, and mastering this psycho-analytic method is at the heart of being a competent Adlerian based mental health professional. Second, my father, Otto Pflanze, was a Bismarck historian and the luminous shadow of the almost greater than life character of the “Iron Chancellor” has loomed over my existence. In many ways Bismarck became the “family business” and this is an opportunity to get to know this historical figure that I never understood in depth. Third, I am a descendant of German immigrants from both sides of the family. My mother, Hertha Pflanze, is a German immigrant from Bavaria and I was born in Germany while my father was conducting his research on Bismarck. I was born in Northern Germany as was Bismarck. Understanding my birth country gives me a deeper connection to my heritage and a grasp of intergenerational family lifestyles. This project has the dual purpose of a professional pursuit and a personal exploration.
LIFESTYLE PERSPECTIVE OF OTTO VON BISMARCK

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Lifestyle analysis is an essential Adlerian assessment and healing tool that links the individual with their past, present, and future. Lifestyle analysis, as visualized by Alfred Adler, helps an individual assess and heal problems they are experiencing in the present, that may have links to their past, and therefore may impact the direction of their future (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956). Lifestyle is the holistic view of the individual by understanding the context of the physical and social environment. The belief systems of an individual provide the creative power for movement and direction toward a life goal. Understanding life-style is a psycho-clarity process (Powers & Griffith, 1987) that can enlighten and more deeply explore a person’s life movement, as in the case of this study, an examination of the lifestyle of Otto von Bismarck.

“The stream of time flows inexorably long. By plunging my hand into it, I am merely doing my duty. I do not expect thereby to change its course” (Pflanze, 1990, p. 3). Otto von Bismarck, a world historical figure comparative in stature to Abraham Lincoln, made this remark at the beginning of his Prussian political career in eighteen fifty one. In eighteen seventy one, Bismarck helped forge a powerful and expandable central European empire nation, Germany. A united Germany was pivotal in the creation of two world wars in the twentieth century significantly impacting the world and directly or indirectly touching all of us.

Bismarck’s comment on the stream of time reflects a twofold belief system at the beginning of his career. By engaging in his life work task and “plunging my hand into it” Bismarck acknowledges his role in the stream of time, and at the same time does not expect “to change its course”. The dichotomy of Bismarck’s view reveals the complexity of his personality and lifestyle within the challenging historical and cultural context of his time.
Prologue

**Adler and Bismarck.** Adler and Bismarck, both from the German speaking nations of Austria and Prussia, are products of nineteenth century Europe. The pioneering psychologist and the pioneering statesman were of different generations. Bismarck lived from eighteen fifteen to eighteen ninety eight and Adler lived from eighteen seventy to nineteen thirty seven. They never met. The striking similarity of their lives, however, is revealed in their striving for superiority in the work task and achieving tremendous success. The founder of Germany and the founder of Individual Psychology had similar beginnings for both came from relatively comfortable family environments. Bismarck was from the Prussian Junker class that carried aristocratic social status, somewhat similar to the upper middle class in American society. Adler was from an upper middle class background, his father was a grain merchant. Both strove to surpass their siblings in the work task. Both had assertive personalities, were outgoing, and had popularity. Both married, had children, and served in their countries’ military. Both lived in monarchies that became allies prior to World War One after a substantial period of a friend-foe relationship. Both personalities influenced the world in the stream of time.

There are also tremendous differences. Bismarck’s work in states craft often involved conflict with other nations that included war with Austria a few years before Adler was born. Adler emphasized social collaboration and the healing of others as a physician and a psychologist. Adler was a practicing Vienna physician and served during World War One treating wounded Austrian soldiers; the war significantly affected Adler’s developing ideas of Individual Psychology, in particular, the primary concept of social feeling, *Gemeinschaftsgefühl*
Bismarck helped shape historical forces that impacted Adler’s Austria and lifestyle, and in turn, Adler developed ideas that helped spark the modern psychological movement and shed light on Bismarck’s style of life.

**Historical context.** When Bismarck was born, Prussia was a proud monarchy that had previously suffered humiliating military defeats at the hands of Napoleon, earning subsequent victories as the French Empire crumbled. The repercussions of these defeats had a tremendous impact on the psyche of the German speaking peoples living in central Europe creating a national “post-traumatic stress disorder”. Prior to unification Germany was a collection of city states, kingdoms, and princedoms that were remnants from the middle ages and the Holy Roman Empire (Clark, 2008). The need for an alliance that might prevent another Napoleonic disaster led to the formation of the German Confederation in eighteen fifteen, the year Bismarck was born. Prussia, the leading nation, was the dominant military power in the region united with the Kingdoms of Hanover, Hesse, Bavaria, and others by language and commonality of culture. Germany has had three Reichs or Empires, the first under Frederick the Great of Prussia, the second under Bismarck, and the third under Hitler. Prussia was at the core of German expansion and has the dubious distinction of being the only state in the world to be abolished by international decree, finally in nineteen forty seven (Steinberg, 2013). Historians often refer to the “Bismarck problem”, or question, did Bismarck sow the seeds that led to two world wars? Generations of German historians have attempted to answer this question (Pflanze, 1990).

**Geographical, cultural, and political context.** Prussia is situated in north central Europe, between Poland in the east and the Netherlands in the west. The area is mostly flat and wooded with a mixture of barely tillable soil and areas of fertile ground. There are no geographical defenses such as mountain ranges and large bodies of water, except for the Baltic
Sea on the north. Brandenburg-Berlin, the original forty thousand acres that over several hundred years evolved and expanded into Prussia, became the dominate monarchy among the North German states. The Teutonic Order settled Brandenburg becoming part of the Holy Roman Empire as German populace moved eastward during the middle ages (Koch, 1987).

The reputation of strict discipline in the well-organized Prussian army was born out of necessity for the lack of natural land defenses and the pressures of invasion, occupation, and annexation by other powers, such as the French, Swedes, Poles, Austrians, and Russians during different time periods—hence the term, “Iron Kingdom” (Clark, 2008). Prussia could be virtually considered an army with a state versus a state with an army. Respect for authority, honor, and purpose were social values embedded in the survival mentality of Prussian culture and the Hohenzollern monarchy. Bismarck was significantly influenced by these societal values.

Bismarck was born a citizen of Brandenburg at the core of Prussian power. The social structure consisted of royalty, nobility (land owners), peasants, laborers, merchants, and the bourgeoisie (intellectual elite). Prussian kings were absolute rulers that evolved with a bureaucracy of ministers and administrators to carry out state policy. The European revolution of eighteen forty eight threatened to end royal power including the feudalistic land owner system. Bismarck protecting his own interests as a landowner fiercely resisted this change his entire life (Pflanze, 1990).

As Germany was formed in eighteen seventy one under Bismarck’s leadership, the Reichstag was established, a modern parliament whose three hundred and ninety seven members enjoyed legal immunity elected by secret ballot from men over the age of twenty five. Bismarck endured these reforms as Germany became a powerful military industrial complex ruled by an Imperial Council and Emperor, an absolute monarchy with modern modifications in government.
The German transformation from monarchy, dictatorship, and to the present day democracy, represents the torturous education of a nation. The mind of Germany (Kohn, 1960) has been a cultural evolution. “The ideal of the culture-state demands that national culture pervade the entire state” (1970, p. 25) observes historian Holborn. Cultural and political forces were at play beyond Bismarck’s influence and control including the personalities of the monarchs.

**Lifestyle Theory**

The phrases “inferiority complex”, “superiority complex”, “common sense”, and “lifestyle” are frequently used in literature and conversation. Alfred Adler developed these jargons that have become associated with his Individual Psychology. Most people use these expressions not knowing they are using Adlerian terms. Today’s meaning of lifestyle as commonly used refers primarily to physical health and financial status, not as originally intended by Adler. Freudian terms are more familiar as Adler’s influence in North America declined after his death in Aberdeen Scotland in nineteen thirty seven. Adler is considered to be one of the early pioneers of modern psychology. Adler was a professional colleague and friend of Sigmund Freud until their parting in nineteen eleven. Freud said the primary human drive was biological and Adler said it was social. Freud believed we are instinctual in our behavior and Adler believed that we behave according to the need to belong; these differing viewpoints led to the end of their association. Adler was a “soft determinist” and believed in free will. Individual Psychology is credited as the forerunner of modern cognitive theories and a major contributor to the entire field of modern psychology (Watts, 1997).

Adler reflected, “Do not forget the most important fact that not heredity and not environment are determining factors. Both are giving only the frame and the influences which are answered by the individual in regard to his styled creative power.” (Ansbacher & Ansbacher,
Adler believed that how we respond to our genetics and environment is critical in the development of our style of life that is formed by the age of four (Kopp, 2003). The psychological response in the different yet interconnected spheres of the life tasks of the social, love, and communal tasks styles creative striving for a balanced life (Dreikurs & Mosak, 1966).

Lifestyle signifies how you live, how you deal with difficulties, and function in relationships. Beliefs formed at an early age guide lifestyle toward a determined goal that is pursued until death. Adler acknowledged that change is a constant and that movement is integrated into lifestyle (Stoltz, 2007). “At the heart of Individual Psychology is Adler's belief that everything can be different: We all can change” (p. 4, 2008), writes Adlerian psychologist, Henry Stein. Lifestyle analysis has credibility with modern research (Watkins, 1992), can be a predictor of a person’s occupation, and useful in determining differing factors influencing people’s lives (Watkins, 1984).

Adler’s emphasis on striving for superiority, power, and significance accurately describes the lifestyle of the “Iron Chancellor”. Understanding Bismarck’s lifestyle sheds light on Adler’s emphasis on the law of movement and how the past, present, and future are linked for all of us in the stream of time. Bismarck cultivated Prussian nationalism and militarism that unified Germany giving the nation a dominate position in Europe creating unintended consequences.

**Life Stages**

**Personality Development**

“We cannot judge a personality…unless we understand it as a totality” (Adler, 1989, p. 517). Adler believed that the individual is embedded in the family constellation, the core of human social structure. Parental atmosphere and birth order influence personality but what really shapes a person psychologically are the conscious and unconscious decisions manifested
in behaviors associated with social interest (Ansbacher, 1982). Adler was a holistic thinker on treating the individual and believed that the primary tasks of life, community, work, and love are interrelated (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956). Adler identified four personality types with different lifestyle patterns: the ruler, the leaner, the avoider, and the socially useful (Kopp, 1986). Adler was careful not to put specific labels on people and identified lifestyle patterns that can provide psychological insight as to the purpose of behavior.

The ruler is typified by a trend to be aggressive and authoritative over others; their energy is manifested in striving after personal power driving over anyone in their way. Leaners are delicate individuals who safeguard with dependence on others, and can develop neurotic symptoms such as phobias, obsessions, compulsions, anxiety, hysteria, amnesia, and other neuroses contingent upon the particulars of their lifestyle. Avoiders have the lowest levels of energy and evade other people—when hard pressed they can become psychotic and withdrawn.

The identified lifestyle personality themes of the exploiter, controller, conformer, and displaying inadequacy have been measured by Adlerian based researchers correlating validity with Adler’s observed traits (Kutchins et al., 1997; Wheeler et al., 1986).

Bismarck’s personality appears to be predominately the ruler type with some of the characteristics of the other three, creating a complex lifestyle. Bismarck strove for lifestyle balance with useful and useless outcomes. The following description of personal lifestyle development covers the three life stages of childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

**Childhood.** Otto Eduard Leopold Bismarck, known as Otto von Bismarck, was born on April first, eighteen hundred and fifteen in eastern Prussia on the family estate of Schönhausen located east of Berlin in the province of Saxony. Bismarck’s father, Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand, was a country squire, or Junker, and a former Prussian army officer. Ferdinand married
commoner Wilhelmine Luise Mencken, the well-educated daughter of a senior government official in Berlin. Kniekopf, one of three Pomeranian estates inherited by his father, became Bismarck’s boyhood home. Bismarck lived on the estate until age six. As was traditional for a Junker family, young Otto was in the care of a personal maid when at home.

Bismarck recalls his parents as being remote, especially his mother, as he was usually only in her care on family trips. Gravitating more to his father, Bismarck remembers Ferdinand as speaking to him in third person singular. The mother was viewed more as an object of admiration rather than as a parental caretaker and Bismarck professes to have had ambiguous feelings for Wilhelmine because of her coldness. Bismarck’s early life formed a dual lifestyle experiencing the contrast between the simplicity of the country and the elegance of the city (Gall, 1990). The family lived in Berlin during the winters and resided at the estate during the summer. Bismarck received tutoring at home that was common for Prussian aristocrats before boarding school enrollment at age six. Bismarck was enrolled at Berlin’s Plamman Institute.

Bismarck later reflected, “My childhood was ruined for me at the Plamman Institute, which seemed to me like a prison” (Gall, 1990, p.5). Bismarck’s enrollment at a young age was somewhat unusual as upper class children were educated by tutors entering school at age twelve. Life at the Plamman Institute was demanding and the education he received was regimented. The Institute had a good reputation and treated the resident pupils as family. The discipline of the school, however, was often severe with students being physically struck. Bismarck never again would “submit to any kind of discipline submitted from without” (Sempell, 1974, p. 114). Younger brother, Franz, died in eighteen twenty two at age three when Bismarck was in his first year at Plamman. Franz died from an obstruction in the throat at the family country estate
In eighteen twenty seven, Bismarck’s sister and youngest sibling, Malwine, was born during his last year at the Plamman Institute.

**Adolescence.** Bismarck attended Gymnasium in Berlin for five years after Plamman living with his parents and brother. When Bernhard left for university, Otto boarded with a teacher and had a relatively focused lifestyle staying at home in the evenings. Bismarck received fair marks but was not considered an exceptional student. The signs of talent and the behaviors of a quick study, however, could be seen. Moritz von Blankenburg, an early childhood friend from Plamman, recalls a “puzzling person. I never saw him work. He went for long walks but still knew everything and always had the homework ready” (Steinberg, 2013, p. 54).

Bismarck had his first horse riding accident that began a pattern of physical recklessness. Bismarck graduated early from Gymnasium at age seventeen. Attaining fluency in French and English Bismarck had an anti-French sentiment and a fondness for English culture, not unusual for the time for Great Britain had been a significant ally of Prussia. Neither the studies of literature, philosophy, mathematics, and science significantly influenced his mind. Bismarck had the tendency to pick what was useful to him and use it to his advantage, an early indication of a brilliant diplomatic mind. Literature was for quotations for political speeches and music was only for background. Bismarck’s love of nature was born out of his passion for his childhood country estate and not a deep interest in science. Bismarck found objectivity in science useful influencing his politics. Politics was an art for Bismarck and not a science (Pflanze, 1990).

**Young adulthood.** Bismarck made a transition from adolescence to the freedom of young adulthood marked by rebellion toward the tight structure and demands of his childhood. The tiger was let out of his cage. After Gymnasium, Bismarck followed the career path plotted by his mother and entered the University of Göttingen, a leading institution in central Europe.
Bismarck studied mathematics, philosophy, history, economics, and foreign relations in addition to law to prepare for civil service. Bismarck recalls “What I thought about foreign policy…was in terms of the Wars of Liberation seen from the standpoint of a Prussian Officer” (Gall, 1986, p. 9). The roots of the ardent nationalist were in Bismarck’s blood.

Bismarck channeled his competitive energy and found a diversion to his studies by joining a student dueling corps and quickly learned to out duel all of the others in twenty five matches, losing only one (Pflanze, 1990). During the student days Bismarck had a reputation for out drinking his peers. After three semesters Bismarck transferred from the University of Göttingen to the University of Berlin to prepare for law examinations. At first the transfer was blocked until Bismarck paid a penalty for an infraction of discipline incurred at Göttingen and caused him some trepidation. For a brief time Bismarck was unsure whether he would be able to resume his studies and despaired that he would instead become a country squire, a premonition that turned out to be true a few years later. Attending lectures that only interested him and avoiding contact with most university faculty, Bismarck passed his examinations with ease (Pflanze, 1990). Bismarck was not an intellectual although influenced by nationalistic ideology.

Bismarck developed a few lifelong friendships during his youth, among them notably, American writer John Motley. Motley was to later describe Bismarck as a fictional character called Rabenmark observing, “…a leather girdle in which were thrust two horse pistols and a long dueling… sword, and on his feet a pair of Turkish slippers. His neck was open and his legs bare from the ankles to the knees. In one hand he brandished an oaken cudgel, and in the other hand he held a memorandum book” (Sempell, 1972, p. 19). Motley’s character takes off the costume to reveal his rational self. The diplomatic trait of hiding true intentions was present in Bismarck’s early life. After passing exams, Bismarck applied for training in the diplomatic
service and was discouraged by the Prussian foreign minister who believed that the sons of Junkers had no diplomatic skills. The Bismarck family connections did not reverse the decision.

After consulting with family and friends Bismarck left Berlin for Aachen, having been accepted into the Zollverein, a lower level Prussian diplomatic corps serving German states that managed tariffs and economic policies. Aachen was an international gathering place frequented by the English and a two week summer leave turned into a two month absence as Bismarck became infatuated with an English woman with plans to marry her the next year. The English family that Bismarck was traveling with saw him as the young “Baron” and assumed that he was wealthy, although he was not. Bismarck’s first engagement soon ended (Semple, 1972).

The careless side of Bismarck became clear as he accumulated significant gambling debts at Aachen in the attempt to finance his leisure activities and was forced to borrow from friends. Bismarck rejoined training in the Zollverein at Potsdam after reaching an agreement with the Prussian government. Just before the second round of law examinations Bismarck suddenly quit. Bismarck’s stated rationale for leaving civil service was that he was more willing to give orders than receive them. Bismarck’s true motive was that he felt threatened by scandal and damage to his reputation and hid his gambling debts from his parents. Bismarck delayed his military service contrary to his father’s wishes eventually serving one year as a reserve officer in the Prussian army; this period has been identified as Bismarck’s reckless youth (Sempell, 1972).

In eighteen thirty nine Bismarck’s mother died of cancer deeply disappointed in her sons who had chosen to be country squires instead of career civil servants even though their presence was needed to keep the estates functioning. Bismarck’s finances were to plague him for at least a decade and for two thrifty years he increased the estate farm production enabling him to pay off the most pressing debts.
The seeds of Bismarck’s political life and success were sown during this period by joining the local Pomeranian Diet replacing Bernhard when needed who had previously been elected the county councilor. As could be predicted, Bismarck became easily bored as a country squire and without funds for drinking, went out for wild horse rides and had frequent accidents. Known by neighbors as the “wild Bismarck” he often played practical jokes. Bismarck lived with his sister Malwine with whom he became considerably closer to before her marriage in eighteen forty four. Bismarck’s restlessness continued as he recovered from a second broken engagement and traveled in order to soothe his wounded pride (Sempell, 1972).

A few years later, Otto’s father died toward the end of the six year period as a squire. Another failed attempt at the civil service left Bismarck feeling alone and isolated. Bismarck while grieving for his father developed a close and personal relationship with a neighbor and old school friend, Moritz von Blankenberg. Moritz had a new bride, Marie von Thadden. Marie’s father was a local religious leader, considered a radical Pietist. Lutheran pietism stresses the emotional and personal aspects of devotion (Sempell, 1974). Bismarck was introduced to Marie’s cousin, his future wife Johanna von Puttkamer (Appendix D).

**Mature adulthood.** Bismarck found the perfect match in Johanna, a devout Christian of noble rank, allowing both to attend court unlike Ferdinand, who was unable to accompany Wilhelmine at court because she was not of noble ancestry. The marriage enabled Bismarck to settle down and focus on a political career. Marie, a close friend and cousin of Johanna’s, died before their marriage and was instrumental in Bismarck’s religious conversion. Neither of Bismarck’s parents was particularly religious that may have created an emotional vacuum in Bismarck’s life. Bismarck’s conversion to pietism and marriage to the love of his life helped him through a grieving period for his father and close friend, Marie.
During the revolution of eighteen forty eight Bismarck supported the monarchy, a fervent landowner protecting his rights of nobility organizing armed Schönhausen villagers against local liberals, even threatening to shoot a nearby liberal landowner if he were to interfere. A new Prussian government was proposing to not only tax landowners but also to remove the “von” titles of nobility which angered and then spurred Bismarck’s early radical activism. Bismarck argued that the protection of the nobility was the protection of the state because aristocratic privileges benefitted the general welfare of the republic (Pflanze, 1990).

Bismarck’s first child, Marie, was born highlighting the summer of eighteen forty eight, along with his first audience with the Prussian King, Frederick Wilhelm IV in Potsdam. Late the following year, son Herbert was born in Berlin. Bismarck quickly became a favorite of the king in part due to his fierce rhetoric and loyalty and was selected as a domestic diplomat representing Prussia in the North German Confederation; this experience was pivotal in his work task.

In eighteen fifty one Bismarck was nominated as ambassador to the Federal Diet in Frankfurt maintaining this position for eight years. Bismarck displayed his competitive spirit by his tirades against Austria revealing frustration and anger at being in the number two spot at his diplomatic post. Bismarck promoted many of his own views in his diplomatic work at Frankfurt instead of official government policies; this was tolerated by the king. The skills and energetic drive exhibited by Bismarck was highlighted by his ability to play the devil’s advocate, a legendary trait. In eighteen fifty two Johanna gave birth to their last child, son Wilhelm.

King Frederick Wilhelm transferred Bismarck to St. Petersburg, Russia as Prussian Ambassador. The transfer was a technical promotion even though the Bismarck’s felt they were put “on ice”. Far from wife and family, Bismarck became very ill in St. Petersburg early on and nearly lost a leg due to complications from treatment of rheumatism by a Russian doctor.
Johanna supervised his recovery in Wiesbaden under the care of German physicians. Bismarck formed a distrust of physicians in general after narrowly avoiding death (Steinberg, 2013).

Upon his return to St. Petersburg, Bismarck formed a social relationship with the Russian ambassador and his wife, Catharine Orloff. “Cathy”, as Bismarck called her, had ability at the piano that was a comfortable reminder of when Johanna played music back home. The following year in eighteen sixty two, after Bismarck was transferred to Paris, the new Prussian King Wilhelm I, nominated Bismarck to the posts that he had long desired: minister president and foreign minister. Bismarck now had the political power he desired for his only real boss was the king.

War was always a risk and Bismarck did not employ force unless he felt it was tactically necessary, he “remained first and foremost a diplomat for whom war was the last resort” (Sempell, p.83, 1972). In eighteen sixty six, Bismarck, present at the crucial defeat of the Austrians at the Battle of Königgrätz witnessed his first campaign, a war that he had his hand in making. The war put Prussia and the North German Confederation in a dominate position in Europe poised for German unification.

Herbert and Wilhelm fought in the Franco-Prussian War of eighteen seventy one with Herbert wounded in a cavalry charge. In the years following the defeat of France and the consolidation of the German Empire under Bismarck’s leadership, he did not find contentment in his demanding job and only found peace in his beloved forests (Sempell, 1972). Germany endured economic depression during this period and Bismarck suffered “illness” taking an extended leave in eighteen seventy seven that most likely prolonged his career.

During the eighteen eighties Bismarck engaged in complex international maneuvering and experienced much success in diplomacy. The secret Reinsurance Treaty between Germany
and Russia in eighteen eighty seven hallmarked the constant struggle for European balance of power under Bismarck’s leadership. Trouble at home occurred because of Bismarck’s favored tariff and tax policies inducing controversy and political resistance. Bismarck hung on to his chancellorship until he was dismissed from his post via a forced resignation in eighteen ninety at age seventy five over a disagreement with the new Emperor, Wilhelm II, about the direction of the German Empire. Bismarck wanted stabilization not threatening domination. Johanna died in eighteen ninety four and Bismarck died in eighteen ninety eight at age eighty three with a funeral of much pomp and circumstance. Bismarck was considered a national hero as he served his unified nation guided by his own convictions, diplomatic brilliance, and devotion to duty.

**Environmental and Biological Factors**

**Family Constellation**

The family constellation according to Adler contributes to the formation of the individual lifestyle (Bitter, 1988). It is in how the family member’s presence or non-presence, interactional reactions among members, and the resulting behaviors that create the familial atmosphere. Everyone wishes to belong and how this desire is expressed produces styled relationships.

Within the identified family system are sub-systems, each subsystem or sub constellation can be identified. Shulman and Mosak (1995) classify five elements of the primary family constellation: sibling constellation, family values, family atmosphere, parental behavior, and the family roles among the children. The parents and the children can also be considered as separate sets that operate within the context of these five elements. Bismarck was the living middle child. The middle child is the most sociable and also has the greatest feeling of not belonging. As Bismarck matured, he assumed the psychological birth order position of the first born characterized by being the highest achieving, earning the highest academic success, having the
highest motivation, and attaining the highest achievement (Eckstein & Kaufmann, 2012); traits that set the foundation for a narcissistic personality.

**Birth order.** The sibling constellation is composed of a physical and psychological hierarchy that is birth order. Psychological movement such as competition, attachment, and dethronement occurs within the actual order or ordinal position of the siblings (Jordan, 1982). Bismarck was the fourth son of Ferdinand and Wilhelmine, with Bernhard being the first born. There is a five year span between the two. The second and third born Bismarck boys died very young and it is the assumption of this author that they were still born. The literature reviewed does not contain the dates and the specific manner of their deaths. Franz, the fifth son, died at age three. Otto’s baby sister, Malwine, was born twelve years after Otto in eighteen twenty seven. Bismarck is the middle child for biological birth order (Appendix A).

The middle child “has a standard barrier in front and a pursuer in the rear. Surrounded by competitors, the middle child may feel squeezed into a small area in search for significance” (Shulman & Mosak, 1995, p. 31). There could hardly be a better description of Bismarck’s psychological life movement. The middle position was an unconscious influence for Bismarck as seen in his adult behavior fighting off internal and external enemies. Malwine was born when Otto was twelve meaning he was the second born for a significant period. Bernhard was Otto’s temporary standard bearer and may have influenced a catch up mentality, perhaps at least one element of the etiology of Bismarck’s competitive drive and spirit. Otto never really dethroned Bernhard given the impact of losing the second and third brothers during childhood.

Psychological birth order is never fixed and can fluctuate over time with unexpected deaths and new births as one child assumes another’s ordinal and psychological position. For the Bismarck siblings birth order change was a significant movement within the constellation.
Franz was born when Otto was four years old and Bernhard was away at boarding school. There is some indication that the birth of a rival may have affected Bismarck during Franz’s first year. After this first year, the mother reported that Otto was no longer afraid of the cold frequently playing outdoors wearing Bernhard’s grey coat, busy climbing trees with the cowherd’s grandson, exerting himself on the parallel bars, and tending to his older brother’s garden in the spring (Sempell, 1974). Historian Sempell psycho-analyzes the observed change in Bismarck’s behavior, “Thus he had successfully mastered the birth of a rival by adopting the role of big brother, molding himself on the real but absent and thus not threatening big brother” (1974, p. 113). This was Bismarck’s first experience in the leadership role, and for a short period before boarding school, assumed the ordinal position of the first born.

During the nineteenth century infantile and early childhood deaths were not uncommon especially during war. A graph on infant mortality rates for the period of eighteen twenty five to eighteen thirty five shows the beginning of a gradual increase for Prussia and the beginning of a significant spike for Germany as a whole (Gehrmann, 2011). Absence in the family constellation can influence birth order dynamics and create a social context for the living and form an underlying constellational theme. For the Bismarck siblings the theme may be survival.

In terms of attachment, it may be that Malwine’s birth created a role demand for the two living brother’s, they must survive in order to compensate for the loss of the third brother, Franz. Malwine, may have been seen as a welcome replacement that compensated for the idealized position of Franz, a male competitor who would never dethrone anyone.

Bismarck loved his dear brother and dear sister throughout his life. Given the social status he attained and the German titles of royalty he received for his siblings, himself, and his spouse through superiority in the work task, Otto assumed the psychological role of the first born
in adulthood. The Bismarck siblings as a constellation group championed and overcompensated for their striving for survival by attaining social superiority via the monarchial creation of the House of Bismarck (Appendix B).

**Parental atmosphere.** Adler describes external influences as environmental possibilities Parental atmosphere and the subsequent family values produce reactions in children creating the environmental possibilities of choices. Parental movement has substantial power that influences each child who may accept, reject, avoid or be indifferent toward parental values; each child forms their own styled response. Powers and Griffith observe:

> By family atmosphere we mean the quality of emotional and affectional exchanges between family members, and the resulting quality of the social field in which the child develops a style of personal interaction. By family values we mean matters of importance both to mother and to father…with reference to which child develops a personal code of value (1987, p. 145).

Parental atmospheric styles can range between the calm and collected to the wild and chaotic. Atmospheric themes can vary among humor, drama, self-absorption, or common regard. Emotional tone among the parents can influence the mood patterns of the children. The child absorbs and rejects the different qualities of each parent (Powers & Griffith, 1987).

Physical discipline was used to reinforce moral teaching and respect for authority especially in Prussian society. Bismarck was not subjected to beatings at home, only at the Plamman Institute. This added fuel to the fire for Bismarck’s ambivalence toward his mother, since Bismarck’s “banishment” to boarding school was at his mother’s behest and at an unusually early age. Otto felt rejected by his mother. Wilhelmine’s intention was for her sons to
prepare for careers as civil servants to continue her family heritage of civil service, her father, Anastasius Mencken, a minister at the court of Frederick the Great died early in his career.

For Bismarck’s childhood, there were significant lifestyle contrasts between the father and mother. The parental atmosphere of the Bismarck home is a juxtaposition between the easy going country style of the father, who was friendly with a crude sense of humor, and the hard wired city based mother who was often more critical than the father, taking on a more serious tone. Historian Semple describes in her article on Bismarck’s childhood, “Ferdinand was more easily satisfied and boasted among friends when their report cards were good. The mother seldom praised, she saw it as her duty to point out every fault” (1974, p.114). Wilhelmine wrote to Bernhard about his choice to be a country squire, “…this aspiration remains an ordinary one, and it would degrade you in the eyes of the world, if you would not live up to it in your position and after the upbringing you received” (Semple, 1974, p. 114). The pressures on both sons were enormous and both appeared to reject their mother’s values in vocational choices, and chose the path of their father at the time of her death. Wilhelmine died deeply disappointed having suffered anxiety over her sons’ apparent acceptance of her husband’s aspirations and values and a rejection of hers. The tremendous anxiety over her sons may have contributed to her relatively early death (Pflanze, 1972).

Ferdinand and Wilhelmine were ill matched. To begin with, Ferdinand was twice Wilhelmine’s age at the time of marriage, not unusual for the time. Ferdinand’s contentment on the family estates and Wilhelmine’s taste for the urban intellectual life created conflict and contrast within Bismarck’s character and formed the foundation of his complexity. The convolution of the social status of both parents no doubt played a significant role in Otto’s developing lifestyle. Ferdinand was from a long line of land owning petty nobility going back to...
the early Middle Ages. Before social reforms, Ferdinand ruled his estates as a micro-kingdom without interference from the state and local governments often holding court as judge and ruler over serfs and tenants. Nobility provided legal privileges that gave the Bismarck family access to the Hohenzollern royal family. Wilhelmine, of the intellectual elite, did not have nobility in her blood but was raised in the shadow of the court; she played with the monarch’s children as a little girl. The irony was that Wilhelmine was unable to accompany her husband to court because her bourgeois birth prevented direct royal contact (Sempell, 1974).

There appears to be a remarkability and peculiarity about the parents and their marriage. Wilhelmine believed she was clairvoyant influenced by some of the “fringe thinkers” of her day such as Swedenborg, a radical spiritual leader claiming supernatural powers, and Mesmer, the father of modern hypnotism. The easy going Ferdinand joked to a friend, “With all her clairvoyance, she was not shrewd enough to foresee that toward the close of the market the price of wool would be lower than it had been at the beginning” (Ludwig, 1927, p. 11). Wilhelmine tried to control the estate farm production always insisting upon using modern equipment and making mistakes in finances. Ferdinand had an unusual stance as a husband and father. Bismarck had fond feelings toward his father, although he rejected Ferdinand’s submissiveness toward Wilhelmine, who had a superior stance by correcting her husband’s grammar, an unusual marriage for the time period. Bismarck observed his mother’s superiority toward his father.

Bismarck had ambivalent feelings toward both parents in differing degrees. Ferdinand did not fulfill the socially accepted standard of a husband’s role of authority for Bismarck, Wilhelmine was the dominate spouse. Bismarck had anger toward his father for not assuming the traditional role of the male in the household. These feelings were tempered by the boyhood feelings of freedom and friendliness associated with the country estates. Feelings of restriction
and punishment were associated with the boyhood city experiences, his mother’s milieu being perceived as a hostile environment. The maternal hostility was tempered by his admiration for his mother’s authority and elegance (Pflanze, 1972).

**Conscious/unconscious.** Consciousness and unconsciousness are a continuum of cognizance providing constancy for personality structure. Adler considered consciousness and the unconscious as part of “complementary and cooperating parts of one and the same reality” (Ansbacher, 1982, p. 40). There are differing degrees of what we are aware of and not aware of, Adler defined awareness as a spectrum rejecting Freud’s claim that there are hidden recesses of the mind (Beames, 1984)

Bismarck was able to eventually solve the psychological and generational dilemma: he fulfilled his mother’s wishes by becoming a government minister by utilizing his father’s inherited advantages. Bismarck capitalized on the best qualities of both parents by selectively using what he accepted and even what he rejected in his striving for significance. The etiology of Bismarck’s psychological inner conflict can be traced to feeling caught between two parental worlds plaguing his lifestyle consciously and unconsciously.

**Dreams.** Adler believed that we act out and strive to resolve our problems in our dreams; we are pulled by our hidden goals (Slavik, 1994). In describing his legendary insomnia, Bismarck complained of dreams that would wake him up. The most vivid ones recorded were the childhood memories of deprivation and abuse at the strict Plamman Institute where the students were punished with rapiers. Bismarck recalled reliving the traumatic events, “I get downright hot about it and dream in my half sleep how to defend myself” (Pflanze, 1972, p. 434). Inner conflict was clearly seen in Bismarck acting out his anxiety in his dreams. Bismarck was always trying to resolve inner and outer conflict unconsciously and consciously.
The insomnia appears to be rooted in anxiety that has childhood etiology.

**Biology**

Adlerian theory has roots in biology. Adler developed the theory of organ inferiority from being a physician and observed the biological compensation process, where one organ takes over the function of another, such as a kidney, a broken leg, or even a missing limb. Adler observed that not all organs in the body are of equal strength and the individual either uses other organs and strengthens them or strengthens the weak organ. Individual Psychology emphasizes the methods on using what a person does with what they have, not on what they actually have (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956). We inherit our biology and we make decisions about what to do with it (Coleman & Croake, 1987).

Bismarck’s physical illnesses had psychological etiology which will be addressed later. The physical injuries he suffered from horse accidents were not uncommon for his day since the horse was a primary means of transport. Bismarck took pleasure in riding from the time he was a boy and had many reckless rides as a youth and a young adult. Considered to be “always an indifferent horseman—observers noted that he did not conform to the movement of the horse…” (Pflanze, 1972, p. 432). Some of these riding injuries beleaguered him, as the incident in St. Petersburg, where he nearly lost his leg and then nearly his life from complications. Bismarck dealt with organ inferiority, and as a rather large and strong man at six foot four inches tall had organ superiority (Pflanze, 1990). Bismarck had mistrust of physicians most likely due to his quest for control and superiority. If he did not trust a horse then why would he trust a doctor?

As seen within the context of nineteenth century medicine, the ability to treat illness was often limited as there were no modern day medicines and treatment often relied upon the body’s natural defenses. Bed rest was often prescribed. Bismarck’s frequent bouts of illness often
drove him to tears. The recorded ailments for Bismarck which were numerous after the age of forty included: neuralgia, rheumatism, gout, migraines, ulcers, stomach aches, jaundice, shingles, insomnia, and other gastric types of disturbances. A bullet fired in a second assassination attempt in eighteen seventy four weakened his right hand.

Bismarck compensated for his organ inferiority by asking for sympathy and to be treated lovingly, and always looked to be distracted by humor and friendly conversation when experiencing his many symptoms. He had himself regularly weighed and measured and often was in the company of a house doctor. For insomnia Bismarck was prescribed opium and paraldehyde. Mineral baths and walks in the woods with his dogs had therapeutic effects. Physicians found Bismarck to be a poor patient for “he demanded that they restore his health without changing his lifestyle” (Pflanze, 1972, p. 435). At age thirty two, he weighed two hundred pounds, and by age sixty four he weighed two hundred and seventy two pounds. Bismarck overcompensated by eating large amounts of food regularly.

**Heredity.** The genogram (Appendix A) illustrates Bismarck’s ancestors longevity, especially for the time period; his father and grandfather died at age seventy and seventy four respectively. Bismarck, not to be outdone, lived to eighty three. There appears to be a strong genetic element in Bismarck’s lifestyle.

Adler discusses genetic possibility, the meaning in which humans experience “the validity of his bodily organs”. People interpret their own particular genetics and physical inheritance creating genetic possibilities. Using what you have are selective choices made by the individual. Adler had interest in the psychical compensations that people use to adjust to organ inferiority, Powers and Griffith describe:

The implications he saw in general efforts to resist limits and overcome shortcomings
led him at last to locate the only true compensation for personal weakness and
insignificance in a fully developed sense of our participation with others in shaping
the common life (1987, p.170).

Bismarck had a keen sense of what affected his body but did not always alter his methods
and change his habits, when he did they were only temporary changes. Bismarck had self-
awareness and acknowledged his own weaknesses with which he used social interest to
compensate, he never completely isolated himself and sought the comfort of family and friends.

Bismarck’s social heredity gave him an advantage at birth, as did Johanna’s. Bismarck
chose a life mate who would ensure that his lineage of knighthood would continue and a female
of his social class who was allowed to accompany him at court. Bismarck used his strengths to
combat his weaknesses and had the good fortune of possessing organ superiority.

Sex. Adler believed that sexual development was an important element in shaping an
individual’s lifestyle and developed the concept of masculine protest. Feelings of dissatisfaction
can embody the meaning an individual assigns to gender or sexuality. Inferiorities develop over
social sexual roles and if the individual does not feel that they live up to their ideal of what they
believe a man or woman should be, maladjustment can occur (Nelson, 1991). A man may feel
inferior in his male role and a woman may feel disadvantaged because of gender (Ansbacher &
Ansbacher, 1956). Inferiority and superiority become infused with gender and social class.

Bismarck resented his father not filling the role as head of household and as a result had
contempt for men who were dominated by their wives. Bismarck was dominant in his household
and feared that other men, like his father, were not dominant in theirs. Many of his writings
demonstrate apprehension about feminine plots directed at himself and his policies by the “wives
of other statesman, diplomats, minsters, and monarchs” (Pflanze, 1972, p. 441).
The incident with Bismarck’s son, Herbert, shows the tragic consequences of masculine protest. Herbert wished to marry Princess Carolath, the sister-in-law of one of his father’s enemies. Bismarck in tears threatened Herbert with disinherition and suicide. Herbert caved in to the will of his father and abandoned the princess whom he had encouraged to get divorced. Bismarck felt that he had preserved family integrity but did it at the cost of his son’s happiness. Herbert became sardonic and an alcoholic. Herbert was talented and had served under his father as foreign secretary and had a promising career in civil service until Bismarck’s falling out with Wilhelm II in eighteen ninety that forced both of their resignations. Herbert, forever the dutiful son, sacrificed his career by resigning with his father (Pflanze, 1972).

As a young man during the reckless years between the ages of twenty three and thirty two, Bismarck had two broken engagements to Laura and Isabella, both English women. At that time period, premarital sex was considered a social taboo, and Bismarck never slept with either of them, as they were usually chaperoned. Bismarck appears to have behaved with honor in these relationships. Within the social mores of his time, and as a male, it would not have been unusual for a young man to visit brothels or to have a mistress. There is no hard evidence that he did but there is a clue as to Bismarck’s strong sexual drive. He wrote to a friend after weeks of separation from Johana because of his diplomatic post in eighteen fifty one, “The chief weapon, with which evil assaults me, is not desire for external glory, but a brutal sensuality that leads me so close to the greatest sins…” (Pflanze, 1990, p. 51). Bismarck found in Johanna a maternal figure that was not his mother. By all accounts, Johanna was warm, loving, and receptive to his physical needs and fulfilled the gender role of Bismarck’s traditional values common for the nineteenth century. The male was typically the dominant gender.
Genogram

The genogram or family tree (Appendix A) is useful in identifying the Bismarck family’s inter-generational patterns. Bismarck’s paternal side of the family represents a long line of landowners and military officers going back to the Middle Ages and his maternal side has ancestry of the intellectual elite. The competitive instincts of the middle child being split between two different parental generational styles, signifies Bismarck’s need for conflict and to reach resolution by striving for superiority and domination.

**Intergenerational patterns.** The paternal side has the long line of nobility that was essential in Bismarck having access to the monarch, and the maternal side had the generational experience of being in government, two essential dynamics that influenced Bismarck’s rise to success. Bismarck’s children all were given royal titles under the House of Bismarck (Appendix B) that have been passed down to his ancestors today via the continuation of the “von” title of nobility, despite the end of the monarchy and the abolition of Prussia as a state.

**Personality Structure**

**Early Recollections**

Early recollections contain the prototype for lifestyle development and personality structure. “Memory is thus an adaptive function of the mind”, as Adlerian psychologists Shulman and Mosak remark in observing a primary principle of Individual Psychology (1995, p. 61). Early recollections are memories that provide significant insight and contribute pictures of the personality structure and shed light on personality development. It is not the accuracy of the recollection that is important for memories are usually inaccurate accounts; they are a significant subjective interpretation of an incident that has a here and now quality. The self-interpreted meaning of the event or events provides the cognitive mode of operation that drives a person’s
private logic and is revealed in present and future choices of behavior. Early recollections contain content that are the origins of lifestyle movement and reveal goal directedness in its simplest form (Shulman & Mosak, 1995; Maniaci et al., 1988).

Shulman and Mosak have identified five key categories of interpretation for early recollections: context, content, gender, movement and evaluation. The context is the family, social, and environmental influences of the individual. The content is the legitimate interpretation of the event by the client. Gender preference or non-preference may influence the description of characters for the individual may have a tendency to make all persons in the memory either all male or all female. The following early recollection of Bismarck reveals lifestyle:

Until my sixth year I was at Kniekopf nearly always outside in the fresh air or in the stables. The old cowherd once warned me not to be so trusting with the cows. The cowherd, he said, can hit you in the eye with her hoof. The cow doesn’t notice anything and continues to feed but your eye is then phuit. (Sempell, 1974, p. 112)

The context is fond memories of the time spent at the country estate and the kindness of the cowherd. The content reveals awareness of physical danger for things are not always as they appear to be. The cow appears to be trustworthy but may not be. The lesson learned in this early memory has instructions for diplomacy-be on your guard for deception is a weapon. The next early memory is a description of Wilhelmine and how she dressed for a ball.

She wore long gloves, until here-pointing to his upper arms-a dress with a short waist, Loose curls at both sides (of her face) and on her head an ostrich. (Sempell, 1974, p. 112)

The context is the presence of his mother and the possibility that Otto attended socials as a child or was requested to be shown. The content is admiration for his mother’s elegance, a love
for the beautiful that may be out of reach. The two early recollections represent the constant theme of contrast which dominated Bismarck’s early life, the ease of the country and the social life of the city. In the last early recollection presented, Bismarck is at a gala dinner at his mother’s Berlin apartment having been retrieved from boarding school.

When I was sent from table as having had enough, my mother’s personal maid received me in order to stuff me with caviar and baisers she had put aside until I was sick. What did not these domestics steal. My mother was a beautiful woman who loved external elegance, had a bright and lively intellect but little of what Berliners call Gemueth. She wanted that I should learn much and amount to much, and appeared often cold and hard toward me…later I deceived her successfully with falsehood (Sempell, 1974, p. 119).

The context reveals who is not mentioned, neither father nor brother, who were certainly there. Only Otto, his mother, and the strangers from the fashionable world are there. The content reveals separation from his mother and putting the blame on the maid as a poor mother surrogate. The descriptions of his mother have contradictory meanings, “elegant”, “beautiful”, and virtually in the same breath, “cold and hard”. Bismarck ends with hating her for being rejected indicating powerless indignation, and then safeguards his self-worth by saying that he attained a triumph by deceiving her (Sempell, 1974).

Bismarck’s personality can be traced to his early recollections: the lover, the hater, the countryside squire, and the city based diplomat, peacemaker and war maker—all conflicting roles that reflected his relationship with his parents. The love Bismarck felt for his father was less ambiguous than the complexity of love and hate he felt for his mother. These feelings from his early years set the pattern of tone for internal conflict as an adult, an etiology of his private logic.
Apperceptive schemas. Apperception is the process of conscious perception. Schemas are our response to our genetics and environment, the recognition and differentiation of self. Schemas are the early belief systems embodying interests and values that become cognitively embedded and determine the individual’s view of self, others, and the world. Individual perception develops biased convictions that are often revealed in a person’s early recollections. Adler reflects, “The first four to five years are enough for the child to complete his specific and arbitrary training in the face of impressions from his body and the environment. From then on the creative activity of the style of life begins its work” (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956, p. 181).

Self-concept. The degree of self-worth and the clarity of self-image determine the formation of self-concept. As an active and developing process, self-concept “betokens active awareness as well as control over the individual’s approach to the life tasks” (Beames, 1984). We can see at the age of four and five, Bismarck’s natural assumption of the leadership role of the first born for a quickly accepted rival, his younger brother Franz, while older Bernhard was away at boarding school. Bismarck had no fear of being a leader, a psychological component of the establishment of the ruler personality, which is in harmony with his creation of his self-ideal.

There is evidence from the literature that Bismarck was pampered to some degree by his parents for he was well liked, even though Ferdinand and Wilhelmine maintained some distance, perhaps not uncommon for Prussian nobility. Parental love boosted Bismarck’s self-esteem by getting approval and attention from admired authority figures.

Self-ideal. Who one would like to be and the incorporation of a symbolic element of one’s life goal comprises the self-ideal. Societal values of respect for authority influenced by his parents sowed the seed of Bismarck’s self-ideal to be an authority figure. Bismarck’s view of being a traditional father affected his rejection of his father’s subordinate position to his
mother’s, and was resolute to never be put in a position of inferiority especially as a male. Bismarck overcompensated by creating an overinflated self-ideal, that superiority be attained at all costs, for inferiority was to be avoided at all costs-origins of his narcissism.

**World image.** How one believes the world works forms the impressions of the external environment. The lesson from the cowherd that the world is not always a safe place in Bismarck’s early recollection created the view that the environment was not always trust worthy, but people such as the cowherd were. This view was violated at Plamman, as punishment was always a possibility, people could not always be trusted. The drive to be in control and not to be subjected or put in an inferior position was a blueprint for Bismarck’s apperceptive schemas. The survival mentality of the first and second born may have influenced Bismarck’s drive for supremacy, an overcompensation to sustain survival.

**Ethical convictions.** Moral behavior is the foundation of early ethical convictions. Bismarck’s spiritual conversion as an adult may also have had narcissistic overtones as he enhanced his sense of entitlement with the private logic of divine power on his side. Bismarck’s pietism also may be seen as a rejection of his mother’s liberal bourgeois intellectualism. Bismarck never brought Johanna any philosophy books as he did for Marie von Thadden.

**Private logic.** Private “sense” or logic refers to the individual’s internal cognitive guiding system and is a navigational tool that moves environmental and social perception (Manaster, 2009). Each one perceives the world in a different way through “colored lenses”. Adler did not mean by private logic that an objective world does not exist; he believed that behavior is driven by our self-perception. Errors in private logic can lead to thought distortions that drive behavior and often are rooted in interpreted experiences that can be found in early recollections (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956).
Bismarck’s respect for authority can be seen in the admiration of his mother’s elegance in the early recollection of the dinner party, and at the same time, we see the yearning for love and the hurt in the rejection of being separated from her that created inferior feelings. Bismarck’s mistakes in private logic are the previous mentions of masculine protest, believing in the feminine conspiracies against him, which may have influenced his significant efforts to have Herbert abandon the love of his life by imposing his resolve to prevent a scandal. A scandal in the House of Bismarck would have put him in an inferior political position. Bismarck’s feeling of rejection from his mother may have created inferior feelings that influenced his private logic to compensate by dominating others and imposing his will.

Bismarck’s trends in private logic can be seen in his hatred of intellectuals, disdain for female dominant marriages, and distaste for bureaucratic government, and his penchant for forests (Pflanze, 1972). All of these views can be associated with his feelings toward his mother. Bismarck’s mother was intellectual bourgeois, an assertive wife, the daughter of a bureaucrat, and had an ancient estate forest chopped down at the estate when Bismarck was young. Adler believed that associations of significant meaning are developed early in life that shapes our private belief systems. Bismarck’s early recollections show the etiology of his private logic.

**Common sense.** Adler defines common sense, “...as the content of all behavior which we find beneficial to the community” (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956, p.149). Common sense is gauged by the degree our thoughts, feelings, and emotions are in harmony with others. The greater the deviation from the collective sense the more likely neurotic symptoms will develop.

Bismarck’s character stood out from nineteenth century standards to some degree. Given the norm of his culture and his time, Bismarck had an internal passion that received notice, the origins of which can be traced to the early recollections of parental drives and interests. The
energy that he exhibited in the physical and emotional recklessness of his youth transitioned to creativity in the work task in adulthood that is remarkable for any era. Anxiety and narcissistic tendencies caused problems in life tasks and occasionally teetered on breaking social standards. Bismarck utilized his creative self to operate within social and self-imposed limits. Bismarck’s private logic pushed the parameters of the common sense of his day that may have etiology in the unusual characteristics and creativity of his parental atmosphere and can be traced to the interpretations in his early recollections.

**Superiority/inferiority complex.** Adler was known as the father of the inferiority complex, although the original term may not have been coined by him (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956). Adler theorized that people often strive for superiority to compensate for their inner feelings of inferiority that can result in neurotic behavior (Stone, 2014). Adler saw that inferiority is the natural state of the human being; we are susceptible to disease, mistakes, environmental disasters, and other such pitfalls of existence. Adler identified inferiority as a condition of existence, an impetus for nourishing normal striving and progress.

When feelings of inadequacy overwhelm a person, significant problems develop. Striving for superiority in life’s task is the goal; striving for superiority over others at their expense is a neurotic disposition. Inferior feelings can drive private logic and create our views as we see in Bismarck’s early recollections.

Bismarck may have felt inferior to his mother and strove for superiority in his life movement to compensate. Bismarck’s private logic when leaving the regimented Plamman Institute was a decisive resolution to never to submit to any discipline from without. Bismarck only submitted to his own self-discipline. Bismarck’s feelings of inferiority may have stemmed from the perceived rejection by his mother for having put him in such a punishing place. At the
estate, Bismarck had assumed the leadership of the first born, and back in Berlin, he had to readjust to being the second born until Malwine arrived. Bismarck’s perception of his father was that he was in an inferior position to his domineering mother, against the common sense of the time, and vowed that he would never repeat the same parental dynamic.

Bismarck’s behavior during his adulthood reflects constant striving for the number one position, when posted at Frankfurt for eight years he complained of having to be number two in the Prussian domestic diplomatic corps. Bismarck later earned the title, “The Iron Chancellor”, reflective of striving for superiority and will to power that has origins in his inferiority complex.

**Law of Movement**

The law of movement aids a person in creating their style of life and is at the core of personality structure. Movement can be seen in all things, even in the sub-atomic world. Psychological movement can be observed from the early opinions formed by an individual. Adler stated, “The apperception connected with the law of movement is the way in which man looks at himself and the external world” (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956, p. 182). The cognitive direction of a person is movement that clearly reveals style of life particularly when the individual is faced with challenging circumstances (Wingett & Milleren, 2004). Movement signifies the striving of a person weaving their way through the chaotic maze of life and is at the core of personality structure. Life style reflects movement and movement reveals lifestyle.

The way in which Bismarck moved determined the outcome of his life. Changing career directions during his youth denotes Bismarck’s fluctuating movement between the two differing lifestyles of his parents. At first Otto pursues the civil service, Wilhelmine’s desire for her son, then he changes course and eventually chooses the inheritance and life of Ferdinand, the country
squire. For Bismarck there was always another fight or conflict that he thrived upon and kept him moving, using the inherited energetic drive of his mother and the easy going manner of his father to counter balance. Bismarck reacted to his parents’ values, social, and genetic heredity, as circumstances played a role in determining his lifestyle outcome.

Movement, as does the stream of time, ebbs and flows inexorably toward a destination which is determined by the pure creativity of the individual. The reactive and creative movement of Bismarck had him vacillating back and forth between the dual parental values of material and intellectual inheritance during his young adulthood. Bismarck as a person determined his ultimate destination by incorporating both parental values in daily lifestyle as Prussian minister president, typically playing the country squire during the first half of the day and playing the intellectual diplomat the second half of the day. Property inheritance and intellectual inheritance were dual value forces that Bismarck absorbed, creating conflictual and yet at the same time, useful elements in forming movement for his life tasks.

**Goal trajectory.** Goal trajectory is simply the psychological line of movement guided by our private logic (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956). Bismarck’s line of movement toward a position of superiority was consistent with his private logic formed during childhood—he was never going to be put in a position of inferiority. Even his years as a country squire reflect a desire to be in charge. As chancellor, imposing his will upon the king and his political opponents is indicative of the middle child scrambling to be in the number one position; he thrived on the competition by maximizing his life movement toward achieving and maintaining a superior position.

Bismarck sustained the goal trajectory of striving for superiority all through his life. An example of how he hid true intentions to maintain his position as chancellor was the tactic of
threatening resignation. Historian Pflanze takes note, “Bismarck often asserted that the frictions of political life were no longer endurable and that he, if opposed, would be compelled to resign…and leave the country to its fate. So great was his ascendancy in German government and political life after eighteen seventy that this tactic often worked” (Pflanze, 1972, p. 442).

Bismarck attained superiority over his opponents by using any psychological tactic necessary. The skill he had in sword dueling was out maneuvering his opponent sometimes with sheer strength and sometimes with sheer skill—the same dynamic he used in diplomacy. Bismarck’s psychical strength of will and physical size put him on a trajectory toward the goal of superiority. Personality structure and biology defined Bismarck’s goal trajectory.

Striving. Adler firmly believed in the individual’s striving toward a goal and viewed the evolution of humanity as constantly striving for perfection (Ackernecht, 1988). Perfection represents the life styled wholeness of the individual striving to overcome the challenges of living, “Bodily and psychologically, the urge to life is tied unalterably to this striving”, notes Adler (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956, p. 106).

A well-known example of Bismarck’s striving is his famous blood and iron speech of eighteen sixty two, a few days after being appointed minister-president of Prussia. “The great questions of the day will not be decided through speeches and majority decisions - that was the great mistake of 1848 and 1849 - but by iron and blood” (Steinberg, 2013, p. 465). Liberals in the Prussian Landtag were blocking additional appropriations for the Prussian military. Bismarck defended King Wilhelm’s position for military preparedness, a move that set the stage for German unification. Bismarck’s striving to make Prussia and the numerous German states whole through power earned him the title “Iron Chancellor”. Bismarck’s equal capacity to be angelic
and demonic (Steinberg, 2013) represents his striving to be a perfect whole, embodied in his desire to make Germany a whole nation.

**Fiction.** Fictions are the created conscious and unconscious thought processes that dominate our existence and move us toward our goal. Adler is considered to be the forerunner of cognitive behavioral therapy, the idea that our thought processes influence our behavior (Watts, 1997). Adler observed that a change in thought process can affect behavior. The beliefs we form from our schemas early in life shape a line of psychological movement that manifests in a style of life (Ackernecht, 1988).

Bismarck’s aloofness toward his wife and family were fictions learned and adopted from his parental conflicting lifestyles. Ferdinand and Wilhelmine kept an affectionate distance from their children that were within the parameters of the common sense of their day. Bismarck also modeled aloofness as a parent and husband, rarely expressing deep interest in his family’s lives.

Historian Pflanze (1972), using a Freudian psychoanalytic model, speculates that Bismarck’s pursuit of a political career may have fulfilled an unconscious wish to achieve the desire of his mother, that her sons continue her family’s legacy of government service, as her father’s promising career under Frederick the Great was cut short by an early death. Bismarck’s fiction of being the leader and not taking orders, a schema attributed to Wilhelmine’s need for control, created the outlet for fulfilling her wish that was only available for the male gender.

Another adopted unconscious fiction was the psychosomatic condition of Bismarck’s mother, which may have contributed to her early death. Bismarck, after the age of forty, experienced psychosomatic systems often necessitating his absence from the political power center of Berlin, affecting the governments’ mode of operation (Pflanze, 1990). As the demands of the work task increased, so did the physical manifestations of Bismarck’s anxiety. Within the
common sense structure of their day, Bismarck and his mother did not have the availability of mental health treatment that is familiar today. Bismarck unconsciously modeled his mother’s physically destructive method of dealing with anxiety; fear that the fictionate and final goal would never be reached and sustained creating unconscious feelings of inferiority.

As if. Lifestyle is a myth making function of self-created fictions, our subjective understanding of interpreted experiences of the world (Shulman & Mosak, 1995). We act as if certain things are true “based upon the pull of a future goal” (Carich & Dinkmeyer, 1989, p. 539) consciously and unconsciously. The example of “all men are created equal” is an aspirational fiction more than an actual reality in terms of the way people are really treated.

The infamous “Ems dispatch”, Bismarck’s altered version of King Wilhelm’s appeasing response to French demands, is a classic instance of Bismarck’s conscious manipulation of events and one that led to war with France in eighteen seventy. Bismarck’s altered published telegram acted as if Wilhelm I had insulted the French ambassador, Benedetti, angering the French population and mobilizing the French government to declare war on Prussia. Prior to the slight variation of just a few words, Bismarck’s friend and associate, General Helmuth von Moltke, assured Bismarck of Prussia’s military readiness (Pflanze, 1990). As shall be seen, Bismarck’s neurotic behaviors were unconscious as if fictitious creations that had useless manifestations generating turmoil in his lifestyle, creating dysfunctional adaptations.

Final goal. Adler observed, "Every psychological activity shows that its direction is governed by a predetermined goal. However, soon after a child's psychological development starts, all these tentative, individually recognizable goals, come under the dominance of the fictitious goal, a finale that is regarded as firmly established” (Adler, 2003, p. 28). As we grow
and develop, Adler theorized that we formulate a single goal that complements our life movement (Ackerknecht, 1988). The fictionate goal is a life trajectory pursued until death.

Bismarck’s fictionate goal was formed at an early age. The separation from his mother created a desire to never relinquish control. The stories of French occupation that he heard from his parents, the cowherd, and at the several schools he attended were experiences of Prussian inferiority directing his life movement toward personal power with the German state. Bismarck’s paternal great grandfather had lost his knighthood that may have contributed to his overcoming a sense of inferiority establishing the goal of superiority and power. More than a century previously, the von Bismarck’s had the dual reputation of being the “most distinguished and the worst”, a conclusion drawn by the Hohenzollern royal family (Ludwig, 1927, p. 5).

Bismarck’s paternal line of petty nobility had limited ambition—to be landowners. Bismarck’s maternal line’s quest for intellectual significance and political power was cut short by his grandfather’s early death. There may have been an unconscious drive to overcompensate for perceived family inferiority that launched a goal trajectory. Bismarck’s final goal of attaining power peaked in the Hohenzollern anointment of the royal House of Bismarck; this was overcompensation beyond his parent’s dreams. Bismarck’s goal of superiority became reality.

**Teleology.** At the heart of movement is the future oriented and goal determined activity of the individual and the holistic social cooperation of humanity, Adler’s view of perfection (Rychlak, 1970). The integrating factor of the whole individual’s search for meaning in behavior is teleological movement (Beames, 1984).

Bismarck’s dual teleological search for meaning embodied the inherited social superiority of the land owner’s class that he consciously accepted along with the bourgeois intellectualism that he consciously rejected and unconsciously absorbed that manifested in his diplomatic talent.
The drive for power that his father did not have was replaced by the drive for significance that his mother did have. Bismarck’s teleological movement can be seen in his personal religious convictions reinforcing a strong personality driven by spiritual power and the envy of the respected power of the king. Bismarck’s keenness for lying represents overcompensation for a felt inferiority, a movement for vertical striving. The infallibility of his character was marked by his denunciation of seeking social cooperation. Bismarck remarked, “One doesn’t shoot the enemy with public opinion but with powder and lead” (Sempell, 1972, p. 89). Historian Steinberg concludes, “Bismarck, the living human being, Bismarck, the genius-statesman, Bismarck the Iron Chancellor as icon, make up a complex legacy” (2013, p. 478).

**Creative self.** There is a creative force in every person that enables them to make independent decisions and forms opinions that people construct on what happens to them. Individuals are the art and the artist in creating their lifestyle (Master, 1991). Adler believed that the individual has autonomy and use of free will and those feelings, thoughts and actions are guided by the fictionate goal. Adler discerned, “Thus each individual arrives at a concrete goal of overcoming through his creative power, which is identical with the self” (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956, p. 180).

Bismarck’s inferiority perception moved his creative self to respond by assuming the will to power. For example, when Bismarck wrote the constitution essentially by himself for the North German Confederation in eighteen sixty six, the precursor to the German Empire, he put his personal stamp on the document by: excluding powers for parliament, no bill of rights for citizens, ensured the protection of nobility land rights, and the establishment of the Hohenzollern royal family’s privileges to maintain monarchial military and political power (Steinberg, 2013).
Bismarck’s creative self was preservation of his family’s social class, the purpose of his behavior and in line of his goal trajectory to sustain superiority at all costs.

**Social interest.** Adler identified social interest as a primary goal for humanity after witnessing the horrors of World War One. Social interest or *Gemeinschaftsgefühl* is the degree of social feeling generated by the individual’s attitude toward others. Adler wrote, “All…tasks are inseparably tied up with the logic of man’s communal life” (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956, p. 128). Social interest is at the core of individual lifestyle and how one interprets the social environment determines lifestyle movement. When a person feels they belong, the goal of social interest is increased and when the goal is reduced, so is social interest (Ferguson, 2010).

The complexity of Bismarck’s social interest was apparent. Even though Bismarck’s degree of social interest may have been marginalized by narcissism, he did not isolate himself and was always close to Johanna. Bismarck achieved social superiority by attaining royal titles for all immediate members realizing the Mencken family’s dream; his mother had played with the royal family’s children as a child. Johanna became a Countess. Bismarck’s reputation was one of social interest as a witness describes the Bismarck holiday social scene in Berlin:

After dinner the Minister-President stays for a short time in his wife's salon, where he drinks a cup of coffee and smokes, during which time he runs through the Kreuzzeitung and the Norddeutsche Allgemeine. He then retires to his study, and receives the Ambassadors, or a Council of Ministers is held, and after that he works by himself. About midnight he returns into the salon to his wife, and is pleased if he finds any company there. This rarely fails… (Hesekiel, 1869, appendix 452)

Berlin was often a source of Bismarck’s anxiety, and the above description provides a feel for Bismarck’s striving to achieve lifestyle balance in the love, community, and social tasks.
The duality of Bismarck’s social interest, expressing with equal force love and hate, had good and bad results. Bismarck’s hate for his enemies was as strong as his love for family and friends.

Despite the weight of the office, Bismarck always remained “the family man, who craved the soothing quiet of his own home, the loving brother who addressed his letter to his kid sister, ‘my beloved heart’, and in the same moment he could behave as the tenacious devious, and utterly ruthless schemer, determined to get power no matter how” (Steinberg, 2013, p.166).

**Useful/useless.** Adlerian theory is a psychology of utility defining socially useful and socially useless movements. Adler noted the individual “…cannot feel superior in regard to the solution of his present problem in a useful way and therefore his superiority is proved in the line of useless” (Adler, 1969, p. 12). Achieving superiority over a problem and the method chosen consciously or unconsciously can be either useful or useless.

Bismarck’s eightieth birthday was marked by a national celebration (Steinberg, 2013). Bismarck’s private logic had utility in unifying North German speaking peoples creating a national identity and a more powerful economy forming useful movement. German unification came at the price of war, however, a socially useless activity resulting in death and destruction. The six month war with France precipitated national unification in eighteen seventy one, the creation of the German Empire. Given the Adlerian premise of socially useful movement, Bismarck’s mistaken belief was that war was sometimes necessary.

It is difficult to discuss the personality of Otto von Bismarck without mentioning his effective utilization of *Realpolitik*. The concept of political realism that power is a political tool, *Realpolitik*, was coined by the German liberal politician, Rochau. German liberals used the concept of *Realpolitik* as a practical tool to undermine the perception of might equals right in the spirit of the Enlightenment, only to have the idea backfire on them in the hands of Bismarck.
Bismarck, a conservative realist, found Realpolitik useful in containing liberalism and gaining more territory from Austria, a move that led to German unification (Pflanze, 1958). Hitler uselessly exploited Realpolitik claiming territory from Czechoslovakia, the predominant German populated Sudetenland, eventually leading to the destruction of World War Two.

**Will to power.** The will to power is a mistaken goal and an abuse of social interest. Adler wrote, “...the disastrous exploitation of social interest comes about by the striving for power...social interest is transformed from an end into a means and is pressed into the service of nationalism and imperialism...all great reformers of mankind have always intuitively placed mutual aid above the struggle for power” (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956, p. 456).

“Personal power and the power of the state tended to become identical for Bismarck”, discerns historian Sempell (1972, p. 55). Bismarck’s will to power, unlike Chancellor Adolf Hitler’s psychopathology (Coolidge et al., 2007), was limited by respect for the monarchy and restrained by religious conviction. Despite Bismarck’s self-interest in the defeat of liberalism and sustaining the monarchy, there was useful movement: the creation of a welfare state, the recognition of basic rights for workers, a powerful economy, and the stabilization of Europe.

Bismarck’s will to power accelerated through utilization of Kulturkampf, a German term meaning “cultural struggle”. Bismarck among other opponents had to deal with the vestiges of the Holy Roman Empire-the power of the Pope. Catholicism, a powerful cultural dynamism particularly in Bavaria, and Judaism, had to be assimilated into the predominant Lutheran theology (Farmer, 1992). Bismarck as a pietistic Lutheran waged war against Papal infallibility ordering Prussian authorities in arresting and imprisoning priests, bishops, and lay people who resisted the Kulturkampf in the late eighteen sixties. The ruthless campaign against Catholicism eventually backfired as the Catholics united forming the Centre Party in the eighteen seventies.
forcing Bismarck to make concessions (Pflanze, 1990). Catholicism exists in Germany to this day as a significant cultural force as a result of the *Kulturkampf* power battle.

Bismarck’s anti-Semitism and anti-Catholicism were socially useless movements since neither were a threat to Lutheranism and German power (Steinberg, 2013). Bismarck’s will to power had unintended results turning the uselessness of the quest for power into policies with the useful movement of social interest. Political compromise implemented social interest.

**Lifestyle**

**Life Tasks.**

Adler was a holistic thinker and noted the interdependent mechanisms of lifestyle (Strauch, 2003). Lifestyle is the creative construction of our conscious thoughts and unconscious beliefs that are expressed in the life tasks of work, love, and community activity—these three endeavors form the basic triad trajectory of individual styles. Driekurs and Mosak identified two additional tasks, the self and spirituality. All five tasks will be discussed for they have specific relevance for Bismarck’s life. The challenge is to effectively and usefully balance the demands of the life tasks. When tasks become out of balance and one task is sacrificed at the expense of the other and the other needs are not met psychological problems can develop. Bismarck’s personality constructs have etiological movement in all life tasks.

**Work task.** Adlerian psychologists Carlson, Watts, and Manaicci (2006) describe the work task as being more than just paid work that can involve school, household, and volunteer work. No one is entirely self-sufficient as the social individual has economic interdependence, the need for emotional support, and the need to belong and discover their place in society (Watkins, 1984). The work task is an expression of lifestyle as a child’s main interests are revealed in the individual’s eventual occupation (Stoltz, 2011). Bismarck’s gift for diplomacy
is apparent in his attachment to nationalistic ideals and disdain for deeper intellectual principles during his educational development. Bismarck developed pragmatism of power, *Realpolitik*.

Bismarck achieved superiority in his work task. The work task often dominates the other life tasks for reasons of economic necessity, for Bismarck the motive was his sense of duty. Upon Bismarck’s attainment of the position of minister-president of Prussia, life completely changed for Johanna and the three children. Bismarck completely immersed himself in his work and had a routine that left little time for family, not unusual for national political leaders.

Bismarck’s work task meant that power was a means of self-expression and self-fulfillment, sustaining the security of his social class in a time of vibrant transformation, and as a mechanism for enhancing national interest (Pflanze, 1990). Bismarck’s quest for power was not only driven by personal ambition but out of a sense of social obligation. Bismarck’s ascendancy to a position of superiority in the work task was not an accident; his talent was recognized in Germany and throughout Europe and a new nation was formed under his leadership. Bismarck had multitudes of political enemies and often created policy to appease and bring in opponents.

An example is seen in eighteen seventy eight when Bismarck, the conservative and fervent supporter of the monarchy, was locked in a power battle with the German parliament. Bismarck sought to curtail the powers of the Reichstag by tabling a bill on the military budget that circumvented the need for parliament to approve the imperial army’s budget at regular intervals. A compromise was reached that allowed the national parliament to only have full budgetary powers every alternate electoral term, thus limiting the Reichstag’s power. Within the backdrop of this change in power balance, the social democrats were vying for power creating in Bismarck a fear of a social revolution, a possible repeat of eighteen forty eight (Steinberg, 2013).
Bismarck introduced the first social security system to conciliate and win over the workers to the authoritarian rule of the monarchy; it was not a program of social reform to protect worker’s rights. Bismarck recognized the importance of modern Germany’s rising economic power as industrialization was changing the world and welfare policies were intended to secure national production. The new welfare laws also helped curb German immigration as workers were less inclined to leave.

Bismarck helped create the world’s first welfare state. Bismarck’s system of social security has been adopted as a model by many nations and many millions have benefited, Germany’s welfare system is among the best in the world and can be attributed solely to Bismarck. Historian Steinberg puts the achievement into perspective, “Bismarck as a non-liberal could do what the liberal democracies found and still find hard; to see the state as the guarantor of justice for the poor” (2013, p. 417). Social security fits with Adler’s social interest and it is through the creative self that Bismarck made one of his greatest contributions to the world.

**Courage.** A key concept of Individual Psychology is courage to meet the tasks of life despite the unpredictability of outcomes. Bismarck demonstrated courage in his life tasks sometimes recklessly and other times with considerable forethought. The courage to confront the power of the king, the courage to fight enemies in parliament and on the battlefield, the courage to protect his family, the courage to forge a new nation obscuring Prussian nationality, the courage to form political compromise at a personal cost, and the courage to achieve superiority in his work task were useful movements in accomplishing Bismarck’s goal trajectory.

**Love task.** According to Adlerian theory the ability to reproduce requires two sexes, a primary component of social cooperation. Attachment, whether reproducing or not, requires making connections through the use of compassion and empathy. Fulfilling the love task can be
the most challenging to fulfill because closeness is demanded that the work and social tasks do not require (Carlson, Watts, & Maniaci, 2006).

By all accounts, Johanna was completely devoted to her husband and family playing the role of the traditional wife, common for the nineteenth century. Bismarck’s values became her values, there was little differentiation. Johanna endured Bismarck’s anxieties, fixations and prolonged absences during their lengthy marriage. Despite his love for his family, Bismarck did not fully return the same attentiveness, as was observed by an intimate friend, “…a peculiar aloofness amid wife and family” (Pflanze, 1972, p. 441). Bismarck displayed detachment especially when it came to personal interest in his family’s lives. There is no doubt that Bismarck truly loved Johanna as there are published love letters for the length of the marriage between eighteen forty seven and eighteen eighty nine, some of the best written by a statesman.

As mentioned in the section on sex, Bismarck confessed as to having a strong libido and that his marriage did not entirely alleviate his sex drive. Historian Steinberg conjectures, “Whatever Bismarck did in secret we simply do not know…” (2013, p. 115). There was a scandal that involved a picture of Bismarck with Pauline Lucca, a famous royal opera singer and actress, which was made public (Appendix E). Bismarck met Lucca out walking at Bad Gastein in the Austrian Alps in eighteen sixty five; he was there to sign a treaty with Austria. Bismarck had the negative destroyed and attempted to buy all of the photos (The Library of Nineteenth-Century Photography). Bismarck denied any impropriety writing in a letter, “As to the Lucca photograph, you would probably be less severe in your censure, if you knew to what accident it owes its existence…” (Hesekiel, 1969, appendix 358). Lucca was a married woman.

Bismarck had three strong emotional relationships, one with Marie von Thadden, (Johanna’s cousin), Catherine Orloff, and Hildegard Spitzemburg. Hildegard and her husband
were frequent guests of the Bismarck’s and she often sat next to him at the dinner table upon his invitation. All three women were what Johanna was not, intellectual, beautiful, and socially graceful for they reminded Bismarck of his mother. These relationships were purely platonic.

At the beginning of their marriage, Bismarck made it evident to Johanna in a letter that his love for her was true, “I did not marry you in order to have a society wife for others, but in order to love you in God and according to the requirements of my own heart…” (Pflanze, 1972, p. 440).

**Cooperation.** Adler contended that the ability to complete the love task relies solely upon cooperation in the temperament of social interest as couples and families work toward improving situations (Slavik, 1999). Bismarck pursued beauty in youth. In adulthood he chose a path closer to traditional Prussian society that avoided his parent’s value conflicts. Marrying and falling in love with Johanna was not coincidence. Johanna and Otto successfully completed the love task having three children and a cooperative marriage that lasted forty seven years. The House of Bismarck provided the foundation for a long lineage that continues to this day.

**Social task.** Adlerian theory dictates that social cooperation is a fundamental contract that facilitates social interdependence (Carlson, Watts, & Maniaci, 2006). Mutual collaboration is essential for communities to function. The social task is fulfilling the need to belong and to work usefully in groups-fundamental for human survival as a species. Social bonding has biological roots. Positive health outcomes are empirically linked to “belongingness, community participation, equality, cooperation, social cohesion, and optimism” (Nikelly, 2005, p.329).

Bismarck did not retain many friends from boyhood but the friendships that he did make were kept for life. Among Bismarck's friends of the Gymnasium period besides Moritz von Blanckenburg, were Oscar von Arnim, William von Schenk, and Hans von Dewitz . At the university he cultivated the friendship of Count Kayserlingk, John Motley, and Oldekop
of Hanover who became Councillor of War, and Lauenstein, later pastor of Altenwerder on the Elbe. Bismarck’s lifelong relationships with Albrecht von Roon and Helmuth von Moltke, both Field Marshalls and Counts, were also formed in his youth and strengthened his affiliation with the Prussian military, associations that were critical in his work task as German Chancellor.

Bismarck’s social task was complicated as he often made more enemies than friends. Bismarck complained, “It is in the nature of my profession that one makes many enemies, but no new friends” (Pflanze, 1972, p. 439). Bismarck’s break with old friends and fellow Junkers in the eighteen seventies was politically related and cost him emotionally. In his close circle, Bismarck was “surrounded by adoring people and constantly accompanied by a faithful and protective dog, his need for love and acceptance remained unsatiated” (Pflanze, 1972, p. 442).

Bismarck’s striving for superiority created difficulties in his social task. Bismarck’s need to be loved and accepted may be sourced from the distance he felt from his parents, especially his mother. The dichotomy of these two dynamics of need for superiority and need for acceptance were two conflicting internal forces that made Bismarck’s social task of cooperation so difficult and at least one of the etiologies of his anxiety.

**Conscience.** Conscience is the developed sense of socially useful behavior that creates individual movement for consequential value judgments. Private logic, however, can override our common sense and can hide our true aims and intentions from ourselves whenever they hinder our conscience evolving into uselessness (Beames, 1984). Conscience has a double edged sword that involves socially useful and socially useless components especially for the social task.

In eighteen sixty six, present at the defeat of the Austrians at the Battle of Königgrätz, Bismarck witnessed his first battle, a war that he had essentially created. Bismarck was riding his horse through the battlefield aftermath seeing the wounded, dead, and dying, and thought of his
eldest son, Herbert, who could be one of them in a future war. Both sons would eventually fight as European nobility and royalty had the medieval tradition, and still does, of entering military service and combat. Bismarck’s social conscience was aware of personal sacrifice for national causes. In the to be discussed examples of Realpolitik and Kulturkampf, Bismarck’s overriding conscience has etiology in his narcissistic personality that is evident in his aggression and ruthlessness, psychological dynamics driven by his formed private logic creating lifestyle movement.

**Self-task.** “To get along with oneself is thus the fourth life task” (Dreikurs & Mosak, 1967, p. 51). The manner in which people handle themselves and are at inner peace determines the outcome of the self-task. Self-acceptance means how successful we are in dealing with feelings of inferiority and inadequacy. Failure to meet the tasks of life is more than just individual maladjustment; it is finding one’s place by realizing that you do have a place. How inner conflict is resolved has implications for the other tasks. Internal unhappiness can cause conflict in our social, love, community, and spiritual spheres (Dreikurs & Mosak, 1967).

One of the ways in which Bismarck compensated for internal conflict was escaping to his own country environment evading the stresses of the city. On the country estates, Bismarck found a refuge from the stresses of Berlin as he did in his youth, and would often spend months there to avoid the work routine and drudgery of high government office during the slower years of his career. During the initial and relative slower years of the Prussian minister-presidency, before the German chancellorship, Bismarck’s typical day would be playing the role of the country squire, riding, hunting, and overseeing his foresters in the morning and early afternoon. The late afternoon through the evening was spent pouring over dispatches and papers giving foreign affairs priority over domestic matters (Sempell, 1972). Bismarck strove for inner
harmony by practicing the two value systems of his parents: the country squire and the statesman.

Bismarck was often driven and torn by his own emotions that often had physical manifestations. We see the conflicted sexual energy. We see the conflicted emotions in his thought distortions in masculine protest. We see the conflicted values in his drive as a young man to find vocation that vacillated between conflicting parental values. We see the conflict in the spiritual task that led to religious conversion. We see the intense political conflicts that often created psychosomatic symptoms. The drive to be superior was accomplished at an emotional cost as Bismarck lived with internal anxiety that has etiology in the parental atmosphere.

**Hesitating attitude.** In resolving feelings of inferiority, the hesitating attitude is fear of what is being demanded, the bigger the demand, “yes”, the bigger the excuse “but”. Hesitating in the face of a challenge or demand is a way of escaping the problem (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956). Bismarck’s inner conflict with self was expressed in organ jargon or psychosomatic symptoms. Illness was used as a means of sustaining superiority; he could escape into real or feigned sickness and maintain his will to power by maintaining a hesitating attitude.

**Spiritual task.** Mosak and Dreikurs (2000) define the spiritual task as mankind’s search for existential meaning. Belief, conviction, and behavior are identified as fundamental spiritual movements. Adler did not specifically define a spiritual task but dropped hints about people seeking their place in the cosmos and addressed the role of religion in his writings. Social traditions embedded in spiritual belief systems are at the core of daily life in many countries and cultures and can be regarded as expressions of social interest (Leak, 2006).

Mosak and Dreikurs (2000) observe that the social and spiritual tasks can overlap. Atheism, for example, is a belief system around which behavior is organized. The attitude that
an atheist might have toward those who believe in divinity might vacillate between tolerance and intolerance, contemptuous and acceptance, converting others or going along with believers. The emotional stance that a person has toward other belief systems can impact the social task. Views and beliefs are forms of private logic that guide a person’s line of movement toward a goal.

Bismarck’s line of movement in the spiritual task is significant. Bismarck’s parents did not pay much attention to religion and he formed atheist views as a young adult. Religious belief in adulthood was compensation for emotional starvation in his youth. “Religion gave him a sense of security, a feeling of belonging to a coherent, meaningful and controlled world-the kind of environment that his parents did not provide” observes historian Pflanze (1990, p. 53).

Bismarck’s social relationships guided his spiritual movement as Marie and Johanna introduced him to Lutheran pietism, described in the United States as “born again” Christianity. Bismarck felt safe in expressing his existential views with his wife to be and her cousin; it was in these discussions that led to his religious convictions. Bismarck’s conversion also gave solace in grieving for his father. Spirituality did not solve Bismarck’s inner psychical conflicts but gave him courage to keep moving. The spiritual task gave Bismarck tools to deal with the other tasks.

Bismarck’s narcissistic tendencies and strong will contributed to his belief in a divine power, giving Bismarck only two constraints, god and king. God was not an instigator but a judge. As a monarchist, Bismarck believed that the king ruled by divine right. Spirituality gave Bismarck an added moral dimension, having god’s protection against enemies from within and without enhanced his sense of personal power and fueled his private logic. Bismarck remarked, “I am God’s soldier and I must go where he sends me…” (Pflanze, 1990, p. 52). At the critical juncture of Bismarck’s life in the late eighteen forties, the overlap of the social, love, spiritual, and self-tasks took place. The lifestyle merger gave Bismarck movement in the work task.
Neurosis

Cluster of Symptoms.

Neurotic symptoms serve various purposes in the individual’s lifestyle choices that can result in avoidance of life tasks according to Adlerian theory. Neurosis is linked to mistakes in choices made, the greater the mistake the greater the neurosis, and the smaller the mistake the nearer to “normal” behavior becomes. The goal is to minimize mistakes reducing or eliminating the neurotic symptoms. Neurotic symptoms can be clustered and often are experienced in groups. Adlerian psychologist Dreikurs detects the essence of neuroticism, “…disturbed emotions are not the causes of the symptoms, but symptoms themselves” (1997, p. 135).

Bismarck had neurotic tendencies subsequently suffering from various physical symptoms.

Organ jargon. Adler developed the term organ jargon to describe psychosomatic symptoms, physical illness with psychological etiology, an expression of organ inferiority (Sperry, et al., 2011). The organs are “talking” by giving physical manifestation to the neurosis (Griffith, 1984). Bismarck is a classic example of organ jargon as dramatic increases in physical symptoms occurred at times of crisis.

Bismarck often used his organ jargon as a tactic in dealing with his enemies and trying to sustain superiority, using his health as an excuse to gain an upper hand. Threatened resignation for health reasons was useful in getting concessions, an acknowledgement of his indispensability. The long absence in eighteen seventy seven, amid the turmoil of internal German politics, is an example of Bismarck’s many withdrawals from the work task. Berlin was frequently avoided and complaints were made of his absence at the Reichstag (Pflanze, 1972). The bouts of illness suffered from preventing Wilhelm I from invading Austria and occupying Vienna after the Battle of Königgrätz was another example of imposing his will in a neurotic fashion. The near suicide
in contemplating jumping out a four story window, numerous confrontations with the king, and the threats of suicide to his son Herbert, are examples of Bismarck’s neurotic constitution.

**Anxiety.** Adler describes anxiety as accelerating avoidance in life tasks by promoting fear of not attaining one’s desires, “Fear can extend itself to all relationships of human life. One can be afraid of the outer world or of one’s own inner world, and hence, one may either avoid society because one fears it, or one may be afraid of being alone” (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956, p. 277). The purpose of anxiety is often a seemingly useful solution to a problem that is born out of either internal psychological origins or external social struggles. Neurotic anxiety can occur at any time and is a state of tension in response to perceived potential threats rather than actual dangers (Rasmussen & Dover, 2006). Anxiety is often a natural self-defense response to an environmental threat and becomes neurotic via psychical perception.

Bismarck appears to be caught between the inner and outer worlds of perceived threats creating an almost constant level of anxiety that limited his ability to function in his work and social tasks. “Bad nerves”, the nineteenth century term for anxiety, was Bismarck’s biggest health issue. In eighteen seventy two Bismarck suffered from a near breakdown, he complained, “I am not able to hold on to my thoughts continuously” (Pflanze, 1972, p. 433). Struck, his personal physician, observed Bismarck’s organ jargon during the near collapse, “disturbances in almost all bodily functions”. Adler saw that situational anxiety occurred as long as it is needed against managing a discernable and real life task in the here and now. Bismarck’s anxiety would often abate when the crisis did. Bismarck’s organ jargon was seen in two additional behaviors related to his anxiety that increased organ inferiority: insomnia and irritability.

**Insomnia.** Adler observed that insomnia was a symptom found in all neurotic conditions contending that every symptom serves a purpose. Adler theorized that insomnia was sometimes
an instrument of the ambitious personality, “A person who cannot sleep feels that he must be shown special consideration, for everyone can see that he could accomplish more if he could sleep” (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956, p. 312).

Bismarck’s insomnia was well documented. Often awake until nearly breakfast, Bismarck was forced to sleep until the early afternoon. During the night Bismarck would be up pacing, verbalizing arguments with political enemies (Pflanze, 1972), an indication of fear of losing superiority, and an unconscious attempt at avoiding the work and social tasks.

There was only one physician whom Bismarck fully submitted to, Ernst Schweninger, who gained Bismarck’s trust in eighteen eighty three by wrapping him in a moist body roll, giving him drops of Valerian telling him that they were a sleeping potion, and taking his hand at his bedside telling him that he would sleep. Bismarck slept through the night after this initial experience as he had been on the edge of a physical collapse. Schweninger became a surrogate parent, perhaps a psychological transference, and monitored the degree to what Bismarck ate and drank, smoked, exercised, and rested (Pflanze, 1972). Bismarck complained of the regimen but experienced the benefits of improved health that extended his life. Schweninger gave Bismarck the special attention that the ambition driven personality demanded; the clever young Bavarian doctor understood his patient’s psychological needs and gained his trust, acting as if Bismarck had the capacity to sleep fitfully. Ernst was the closest to psychotherapy Bismarck ever got.

Irritability. Adler thought irritability as a characteristic of oversensitivity, a common trait of the neurotic condition, “The feeling of his weakness so dominates the neurotic, that without his knowing it, he harnesses all his strength to build a protective superstructure. It is in doing so that his sensitivity becomes sharpened” (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956, p. 291).
Bismarck’s frequent irritability created problems in the work and social tasks, so much that colleagues, subordinates, and parliamentary officials were often subjugated to his stinging criticism and acrimonious tendency (Steinberg, 2013). No doubt closely related to anxiety and insomnia, Bismarck created a defensive mechanism that created distance in those who opposed him and those who supported him. Bismarck sought out conflict as a solution to maintaining superiority, irritability created a useful shield. The stress of the work task appears to have often overwhelmed Bismarck. Oversensitivity toward those who opposed him caused feelings of inferiority expressed in irritability. The experienced rejection and conflict with fellow Junkers added to his irritability and oversensitivity producing problems in the social task.

**Law of compensation.** In accordance with holism, Adler applied the law of compensation not just to biology but also as the means of resolving psychological disturbances (Beames, 1984). Individuals assume a goal trajectory that assists them in striving from a perceived minus to a felt plus, compensatory movement for feelings of inferiority. Overcompensation occurs for perceived shortcomings. Preferences can be crafted about how to connect on the grounds of a mistaken feeling of inferiority. Children can think that they fit in only when they are the center of attention. Adults can behave as if they believe that they belong only when they dominate others, or take retribution on others, or retract from others; these false beliefs may mature in early childhood. Bismarck’s cluster of symptoms can be seen as overcompensation for perceived inferiorities that have their origins in his youth. The symptoms functioned as a reaction to perceived threats to Bismarck’s superiority in his social environment as an adult.

**Addiction.** Adler noticed the over compensatory effects of addiction, “In all cases of addiction, we are dealing with people who are seeking alleviation in a certain situation”
(Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956, p. 423). Addiction interferes with social interest and empathic responses (Shifron, 2010; Mozdzier et al., 2007). Bismarck consumed copious amounts of food, alcohol, and tobacco as a means of combating stress and anxiety. Bismarck was always a healthy eater, perhaps modeled after his mother, and during times of significant stress his appetite accentuated. The paternal side of Bismarck’s ancestry indicates a long line of heavy drinkers including his grandfather (Ludwig, 1927). Bismarck demonstrated organ superiority by consuming large quantities without getting drunk and usually had beer and wine with his meals, a clear biological metabolism that could quickly process alcohol. In his university days, Bismarck boasted of an incident in which he drank six bottles of wine without getting drunk or sick, and another in which he drank a whole bottle in one swig in front of a group of military officers (Pflanze, 1972).

Addiction to food was apparent as it was observed by guests the huge amounts served at every meal, it was not uncommon for Bismarck to eat several courses in one sitting, and often had a midnight meal. Large amounts of food were only available to those who could afford it in the nineteenth century. Bismarck was given opiates for his insomnia and there were rumors that he was addicted, the drug regimen was terminated after a period of time.

Bismarck believed that he “inherited” his appetite from his mother and it is clear he felt that he suffered deprivation associated with the absence of maternal presence at the childhood boarding school (Pflanze, 1972). The Plamman Institute was legendary for its sparse menu and Bismarck complained of this as an adult. Food may have represented overcompensation for being deprived of maternal love at an early age. Bismarck overcompensated for these feelings of perceived emotional and nutritional deprivation when experiencing high levels of stress in his
work task, especially in the eighteen seventies. Johanna noted the young Bavarian house doctor changed the diet of the whole family and the Bismarck’s retained their health (Steinberg, 2013).

**Workaholism.** Workaholism can be considered an addiction (Shiffron & Reyeson, 2011) and as an over compensatory method that is useful in avoiding the other life tasks. As German Chancellor, Bismarck’s responsibilities increased. Long hours were spent at the work task often sacrificing the love and social tasks. Bismarck strove to balance his lifestyle even though it was unbalanced. Meals were family and social gatherings as was customary for the nineteenth century. Visits at the Bismarck Berlin home from members of parliament and other government officials were often incorporated into the evening routine (Pflanze, 1972).

**Safeguarding.** Adler observed safeguarding expressed in neurotic symptoms as protection of self-esteem induced by the concealed goal of superiority (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956). Safeguarding is an unconscious self-protection dynamic allowing us to continue the same behaviors even though they may be working against us often resulting in aggression and withdrawal, a self-created alibi. Freud described the inner self protection dynamic as the self defense mechanism. Adler reframed the dynamic to better describe the interactive thought processes of inferiority and superiority (Clark, 2000). Inferior feelings that are harmful for self-esteem are overcompensated in striving for superiority revealed in social movement, creating an internal and external two dimensional psychical-socio dynamic (Clark, 1990). The social expression of Bismarck’s safeguarding can be seen in aggressive and narcissistic behavior.

Bismarck often safeguarded his anger and rage expressed in internal anxiety that may have origins in the conflicted feelings toward his parents. Anger at his early separation from his mother and the submission of his father’s traditional male role may have been safeguarded in anxiety maintaining the veiled goal of superiority. Safe guarding can also be seen in frequent
withdrawals from Berlin to the protective environment of the country often sacrificing the expediency of executing domestic and foreign policy (Pflanze, 1990).

**Aggression.** Adler viewed the aggression drive (Severson, 1990) as a form of safeguarding, a psychological symptom that has a purpose and a usefulness. There are socially useful forms for normal aggression and there are different purposes for aggressive neurotic activity. Bismarck had a combination of both. Bismarck’s aggression had limits shown in the limited wars that he induced with France and Austria to secure German power and used restraint with diplomacy instead of pushing the monarchy to lengthen conflicts and expand territory.

Bismarck had aggressive tendencies with few limits. Often armed with a pocket pistol at parliament after assassination attempts that occurred outside of parliament, Bismarck assaulted political opponents with words. Rage and anger were often expressed, a dynamic of his competitiveness in the work task. The term, Iron Chancellor, was definitely earned. The sword dueling corps in his university days, pistol duels, numerous horseback riding accidents, constant hunting, plotting several wars, and ruthless diplomacy may be seen as pushing the limits of socially acceptable aggression for a man of supreme authority even within the common sense of Bismarck’s day. The incident of smashing a porcelain bowl after the first time Bismarck imposed his will upon the king (Steinberg, 2013) was behavior certainly atypical for his time.

Bismarck’s disguised aggression can be seen in an incident in the eighteen thirties on a family country estate. Two unexpected guests arrived and Bismarck treated them as a generous host with food and wine. The two guests were going in the same direction as Bismarck and plans were made for the three to travel together early the next day. One guest decided to sleep in after having consumed too much wine and barricaded the guest bedroom door with a piece of furniture despite being warned by his companion. The guests were awakened at six thirty in the
morning by two pistol shots fired through the window by Bismarck from the courtyard. Bismarck cheerfully greeted them and they soon went on their journey (Steinberg, 2013).

**Narcissism.** The early need for affection has social etiology in the development of a narcissistic personality. Adler posited that social relationships are orientated in the need for love; we depend upon others for affection. The child is initially dependent upon the mother for nutrition and affection and when satisfaction is denied the child turns to self-love, a form of safeguarding. The creative movement of the child depends on whether the perceived superior position of sustaining an inflated self-ideal is carried into adulthood. A self-ideal that becomes self-obsession is a narcissistic dimension (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956). The person who needs to be superior creates a superiority complex that safeguards inferiority (Maniacci, 2007).

Bismarck’s recklessness in young adulthood was an expression of his narcissism: frequent riding accidents and incidents with neighbors, gambling debts, extravagant conversations, unconventional views, constant restlessness, pursuit of love interests, and assuming the role of social authority as a squire over his inherited estates. Bismarck’s memoirs and recollections are notoriously filled with exaggerations and scorn even for colleagues (Steinberg, 2013) that can be interpreted as a means of safeguarding superiority.

Even though a government minister, Bismarck frequently dressed as a general (Appendix C), a narcissistic expression of authority and power that has roots in social heredity, as the von Bismarck’s have a long line of Prussian military heritage (Hesekiel, 1869). Bismarck’s only experience as a military officer was as a reserve for one year. Dressing as a general could also be seen as safeguarding against and compensating for political criticism. Ferdinand did not fully participate in the fight against Napoleon as a Prussian officer; this was used as political ammunition against his son that may have created feelings of inferiority. As a Prince it was not
uncommon for European royalty to dress in a military style uniform, and even with this in mind, it is notable that Bismarck imitated a general-yet not completely unexpected.

The primary narcissistic characteristic was Bismarck’s nationalism by fiercely safeguarding Junker nobility against the threats of socialism and communism. In furthering the cause of the Junker Parliament during the chaos of eighteen forty eight, Bismarck writes:

It is a criterion of nobility that it serves the country for nothing…it must have its own wealth, from which it can live; otherwise the thing will not work…we have to be as materialistic as necessary to defend our material rights. (Steinberg, 2013, p. 95)

Narcissism is visible in Bismarck’s lifestyle and personifies all of his life tasks: a strong libido in his love task, limited number of friends in the social task, protection of self interest in the work task, self-obsession in the self-task, and the utilization of pietism in the spiritual task. Bismarck’s self-ideal became self-obsession. The chancellor fell in love with the “general”

Narcissism was the predominant feature of Bismarck’s lifestyle and personality structure. The famous twentieth century writer, W.H. Auden, remarked, “Narcissus does not fall in love with his reflection because it is beautiful, but because it is his. If it were his beauty that enthralled him, he would be set free in a few years by its fading” (1962). Bismarck was never set free.

Conclusion

In the Stream of Time

Adler’s lifestyle analysis has unique healing powers (Adler, 1969). Adlerian theory provides the optimistic view that striving for social feeling is not a fictionate goal; the successful completion of life’s tasks builds strong individuals and communities. The completeness of the individual, functions within the holism of society. Adler believed that humans have the equal capacity for good and bad. Bismarck’s legacy is the protection of personal interests while some
of his results were in the spirit of *Gemeinschaftsgefühl*. Dual outcomes occurred as in the examples of usefulness for *Realpolitik* and the will to power in *Kulturkampf*. The undercurrent theme of dualism and irony in Bismarck and Germany was apparent and gargantuan: a national leader with social and intellectual heredity, and the first welfare state in the world that was also the first nation (Prussia) to be abolished by international mandate multiple times.

Germany’s economic power contributes to global trade providing benefits for many. Bismarck fostered the growth of a modern industrial economy. Bismarck created the welfare state introducing social security, a national healthcare system, and worker’s accident insurance to the world. By struggling with and accomplishing his life tasks, Bismarck’s lifestyle impacted the globe. Bismarck’s psychological movement utilized his social position of birth in striving for his goal trajectory of attaining superiority over others, by overcompensating for feelings of inferiority, derived from psychical inner conflict. Bismarck was the middle child as was Prussia in the middle of Europe: surrounded by rivals. Bismarck’s narcissistic personality of power influenced historical events and yet there were cultural and political forces beyond his control.

A famous picture taken of the Iron Chancellor one year into his retirement shows him sitting outdoors with a top hat, cane, and his two Great Danes at his side with the tall dense pines of the Pomeranian forest in the background (Steinberg, 2013). The image is nearly majestic. Bismarck considered himself a servant of the German monarchy which is ironic, given the dominance of his character and the stabilization of power in Europe under his steady guidance (Semple, 1972). The peace and equilibrium of Europe influenced by the movement of Bismarck’s creative self was not to last as his successors to the German chancellery did not have his private logic to guide them, only his spirit—for the world would suffer the consequences as the past, present, and future are connected for all of us in the stream of time.
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Created with GenoPro based upon information from the Bismarck Family Tree located at
http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/344888/family?efpid=19104240716&selnode=1
Appendix B

House of Bismarck Coat of Arms


Appendix C

Otto von Bismarck in General’s Uniform

Appendix D

Johanna von Puttkamer

Public domain: wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a4/Johanna_von_Puttkamer.jpg

Appendix E

Photo that Caused a Scandal: Pauline Lucca & Otto von Bismarck

Public domain: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/84/Pauline_Lucca_%2B_Otto_von_Bismarck.jpg