Name Date . Period:

**Task:** Read and analyze the following primary source documents and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. **Otto von Bismarck: *Letter to Minister von Manteuffel, 1856***

Because of the policy of Vienna, Germany is clearly too small for us both [Austria and Prussia]; as long as an honorable arrangement concerning the influence of each in Germany cannot be concluded and carried out, we will both plough the same disputed acre, and Austria will remain the only state to whom we can permanently lose or from whom we can permanently gain… I wish only to express my conviction that, in the not too distant future, we shall have to fight for our existence against Austria and that it is not within our power to avoid that, since the course of events in Germany has no other solution.

**Why will Germany (Prussia) have to attack Austria?**

1. **Field Marshall Helmuth von Moltke: 1866**

The war of 1866 [between Austria and Prussia] was entered on not because the existence of Prussia was threatened, nor was it caused by public opinion and the voice of the people; it was a struggle, long foreseen and calmly prepared for, recognized as a necessity by the Cabinet, not for territorial aggrandizement (increasing in size), for an extension of our domain, or for material advantage, but for an ideal end- the establishment of power.

**For what reason must Germany (Prussia) attack Austria? Why is this necessary for the survival of the German Nation?**

1. **Otto von Bismarck: 1866**

We had to avoid wounding Austria too severely; we had to avoid leaving behind in her any unnecessary bitterness of feeling or desire for revenge; we ought rather to reserve the possibility of becoming friends again with our adversary of the moment, and in any case to regard the Austrian state as a piece on the European chessboard. If Austria were severely injured, she would become the ally of France and of every other opponent of ours; she would even sacrifice her anti-Russian interests for the sake of revenge on Prussia.

**Why doesn’t Bismarck want to damage Austria too severely during the war? Why must they maintain good diplomatic relations?**