Bismarck’s Blood & Iron Speech Excerpt Assignment

Instructions:

1. Print this excerpt and APPARTS questions.
2. Read the speech OUT LOUD (seriously).
3. Annotate the speech as you read it
4. Using complete sentences and phrasing your answer so that the reader knows what the question is, answer each of the APPARTS questions in typed paper (style formatting must be consistent with the YLHS research style guide).
5. Turn in your printed paper with the annotated speech stapled underneath it.

Otto Von Bismarck

"Not by speeches and decisions of the majorities will the greatest problems of the time be decided."

The Conflict is viewed too tragically, and presented too tragically in the press; the regime does not seek war. If the crisis can be ended with honor, the regime will gladly do so. The great independence of the individual makes it difficult in Prussia to rule under the Constitution. In France it is otherwise; there, individual independence is lacking. The constitutional crisis, however, is no shame, but rather an honor. We are perhaps too educated to put up with a constitution - we are too critical. Public opinion wavers; the press is not public opinion; we know how that arises. There are too many Catilines, who have revolution at heart.

The members [of the House], however, have the task of standing over public sentiment, and of guiding it. Our blood is too hot, we prefer armor too great for our small body to carry, but we should put it to service. Germany does not look to Prussia's liberalism, but to its power. Bavaria, Wurttemberg, and Baden would like to turn to liberalism, but they shall not assume Prussia's role. Prussia must collect its forces for the favorable occasion, which has several times been neglected; Prussia's borders are not favorable to a healthy national life. Not by speeches and decisions of majorities will the greatest problems of the time be decided - that was the mistake of 1848-49 - but by iron and blood. This olive branch (he drew it from his memorandum book) I picked up in Avignon, to offer, as a symbol of peace, to the popular party: I see, however, that it is still not the time for it.
APPARTS Questions

**AUTHOR**
Who created the source? What do you know about the author? What is the author's point of view?

**PLACE AND TIME**
Where and when was the source produced? You will need to do research but you need to cite your source. How might this affect the meaning of the source?

Citing a Web source's bibliographic information:
Author(s). Name of Page. Date of Posting/Revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site. Date of Access <electronic address>.
You must include a download date since information on websites may change at any time.

Sample:
University of Texas System. 2 May 2001
<http://www.utsystem.edu/OGC/IntellectualProperty/faculty.html>

**PRIOR KNOWLEDGE**
Beyond information about the author and the context of its creation, what do you know that would help you further understand the primary source? Some examples of prior knowledge that you need to address are “the mistake of 1848-49”, “constitution” and “liberalism”

**AUDIENCE**
For whom was the source created and how might this affect the reliability of the source?

**REASON**
Why was this source produced at the time it was produced?

**THE MAIN IDEA**
What main point is the source trying to convey? What is the central message of the document? What can this speech tell us about Bismarck’s views on government and his ambitions?

**SIGNIFICANCE**
Why is this source important? What inferences can you draw from this document? Ask yourself, "So what?" What should a student of history or politics take away from the analysis of this document? From this speech, what do you think will happen next?