“Without economic and military might, German unifications could never be achieved if it was simply based on the idea of nationalism and liberalism.” Discuss the validity of this statement.

To a larger extent the statement is valid. In this essay, I would like to discuss the action, the movement by the idea of nationalism and liberalism first. Secondly, I would talk about how the idea failed. And finally, I would discuss the economic and military might’s achievement of German Unification.

At 1820s, there were student associations for the desire of German Unification. As the students were attracted by nationalism and wanted to unite Germany by themselves, they held demonstrations and assassinated a conservative writer. All these were based on the idea of nationalism and liberalism. But it remained in failure when Austria stepped in, and she persuaded the German Confederation to declare a Carlsbad Decree. Thus all the idea of unification by nationalism and liberalism were failure, since all political meetings, student association were banned, and strict censorship checking of the press. It showed that the effectiveness of the only depend on the idea of nationalism and liberalism.

At 1830s, there was a Hambarch uprising. In 1830, the students, some intellectuals and middle class wanted to establish a Holy Empire. This involved 25000 people. However, the Austrian suppressed this national movement. As Austrian introduced the Six Articles. And the uprising was suppressed eventually. Some professors and intellectuals were exiled. And the idea of liberalism and nationalism again ended unsuccessfully. And this made the after two decades remained no movements for unification. And Austria dominated the Germans for the later twenty years.

After the two revolts, a revolution, which based mainly idea of nationalism and liberalism, emerged in 1848. This period is called pre-march. There were democratic movements throughout Europe. Saxony, Hessel-cassel ‘s rulers were all forced to adopt a more liberal democratic. And also in Prussia, the king, William IV was abdicated and the new king William IV seemed to be more liberal. The people demanded to have a Constituent Assembly in Frankfurt. The volparliament, which was formed by the representatives, that selected from the other states parliament. And they had liberal discussion there. They discussed about the two plans toward to the unification of Germany. It seemed to be a great success of the liberalism for its achievement. However, William IV suppressed the
Frankfurt Parliament eventually. In this case, we could see that the only depend on the idea of liberalism and nationalism had no force to defend their plans. They had no economic and military power to defend. Also the ‘liberal’ debate caused too much time for the ‘Human Rights’. All these were the factors that caused the failure of 1848 revolution, and also the fall of depending only on Nationalism and liberalism.

Germany unification charged after 1848 revolution. It was achieved remarkable results by force and economic might.

In 1850s, the capable leader Bismarck emerged. He introduced the adoption of ‘Blood and Iron’ policy to achieve unification. Also, the General Moltke and Von Roon introduced a lot of military reform for increasing the power of Prussian. Von Roon wanted to increase the military budget to equip the army, reduce the ineffective civil militarist and increase the discipline of the army. And all these achieved remarkable results.

In 1866, the Austrian declared war on Prussia. As there were lots of the big German states joined to Austria and against Prussia. General Von Roon and Moltke, the brain of the army defeated them marvelously. All the fighting almost was achieved by Prussian itself, rather than by Italy, the foreign powers. It could show that how useful and effective was the Prussian’s military might in helping Germany Unification. After the Austro-Prussian War, Prussia set up the North German Confederation.

In 1870-1871, France declared war on Prussia. Although the Southern states joined Prussia to against France, all the fighting was done by Prussia most. After the war Prussian unified all the states. And set up the German Empire in the Versailles.

Despite the military might, the economic supremacy of Prussia also helped the unification of Germany. As the Zollverein was set up in 1834 and it achieved remarkable result of cooperating throughout the German states., it led Prussia to have industrial superiority in the continent, excluded Britain. It made the German states look up Prussian as a leader. Also, this laid a good foundation for Prussia for the capital for the armament.

In conclusion, without economic and military might, German unification could never be achieved if it was simply based on the idea of nationalism and liberalism. As we could see before 1848, all the movement were remained in failure, and all these were depend only the idea of nationalism and liberalism.