

NATIONALISM IN EUROPE

French Revolution and the idea of Nation:

- The ideas of '*la patrie*' (Fatherland) and '*le citoyen*' (Citizen) highlighted the importance of united community enjoying equal rights.
- A new Tri color French flag replaced the Royal Standard flag.
- The Estate General was renamed as National Assembly.
- New hymns were composed and martyrs were commemorated.
- A centralized administration system was introduced and uniform laws were brought for all the citizens of France.
- Internal customs and duties were abolished and uniform system of weights and measurements were adopted.
- French became the common language.

The spread of nationalism across Europe:

- The revolutionaries wanted to spread the revolution across Europe.
- The students from different cities of Europe started setting up the Jacobin Clubs.
- It helped the French armies to move into Holland, Belgium, Switzerland etc.
- The French armies began to carry the idea of nationalism abroad.

Napoleonic code / Civil Code of 1804:

➤ **Social reforms:**

- Napoleonic reforms abolished the privileges based on birth.
- It established equality before law and;
- Secure the right to property.

➤ **Administrative reforms:**

- In Dutch, Switzerland, Italy and Germany, Napoleon simplified the administrative setup.
- He abolished the feudal system and freed peasants from manorial dues and serfdom.

➤ **Economic reforms:**

- Guild restrictions were removed in the towns.
- Transport and Communication systems were improvised
- Standardized weights and measurements were introduced.
- A common national currency was brought into act.

Reaction of the local population:

- The local population in the conquered regions had mixed feeling.
- The administrative reforms of Napoleon restricted the political freedom of the people.
- Taxes were increased, censorship was brought into force and forced recruitment into the French army outweighed the advantages of the administrative reforms.

Patchwork of Habsburg Empire:

- The Habsburg Empire that ruled over Austria- Hungary was an example of patchwork of many different regions and people.
- Often, the people who lived here spoke different languages and belonged to a different ethnic group.
- The Habsburg Empire had German Speaking aristocrats who lived in Tyrol, Sudetenland, Bohemia, Lombardy and Venetia.
- In Hungary which was also a part of Habsburg Empire, half the population spoke Magyar and the other half spoke different dialects.
- In Galicia, the aristocracy spoke polish.
- These differences did not promote the political unity. The only thing which united this diverse group was the emperor who was common.

The Society of Europe (19th Century):**➤ Aristocracy:**

- They were the dominant class in Europe.
- They spoke French for the purposes of diplomacy and their families were often connected by ties of marriage.
- However, this group was small in number.

➤ Peasants:

- The peasants were the majority of the European population.
- In the West of Europe majority of the lands were farmed by tenants and small owners and;
- In the East and Center of Europe the lands were farmed by serfs (agricultural labors)

➤ Educated Middle Class:

- The industrialization which began in England in the second half of the eighteenth century gave birth to a new social group.
- They were the educated middle-class people who were made up of industrialists, businessman etc.,
- It was the educated, liberal middle-class people who initiated the idea of Nationalism in Europe.

Liberal Nationalism:

- Nationalism in Europe was driven through several factors. One such factor is 'liberty'
- The term liberalism is derived from a latin word 'liber' meaning free.
- **Liberal Nationalism in Political Sphere:**
- Politically liberal nationalism speaks about the consent by government.
- Since French Revolution, liberalism stood for the end of autocracy.
- Yet, equality before law did not ensure universal suffrage.
- **Liberal Nationalism in Economic Sphere:**
- In Economic sphere liberal nationalism stood for freedom of markets.
- The difference in weights and measurements inside Europe was seen as an economic obstacle.
- In 1834, a customs union called Zollverein was formed by Prussia. It abolished the tariff barriers and reduced the number of currencies from thirty to two.
- The introduction of railways further strengthened the economy in Europe.

A New Conservatism after 1815:

- Napoleon was defeated in the battle of Waterloo in the year 1815, which gave rise to the new conservatism.
- Though few conservatives believed that Europe should return to the pre-revolutionary days, most conservatives were against it.
- They thought that the modernization of Napoleon could strengthen the administration and army.

Congress of Vienna:

- In 1815, the representatives of Britain, Russia, Austria and Prussia who collectively defeated Napoleon met at Vienna. This was known as the Congress of Vienna.
- It was hosted by the Austrian Chancellor Duke Metternich.
- The objective of the Congress was to undo the changes made by Napoleon.
- A treaty was signed to attain the objective and it was known as Treaty of Vienna.

Treaty of Vienna:

- According to the Treaty of Vienna, Bourbon dynasty was restored to power in France with Louis XVIII as its King.

- To prevent the future expansion of France, a series of states were setup in its boundaries.
- The territories gained by France under Napoleon were also taken away.

The Revolutionaries:

- Due to the suppression of the conservatives, the revolutionaries started to work as secret societies.
- An important revolutionary in Europe was Giuseppe Mazzini who was born in Genoa (Italy) in 1807.
- He became the member of a secret society called Carbonari.
- He was sent into exile for attempting a revolution in Liguria.
- He started two more underground societies known as Young Europe (in Berne) and Young Italy (in Marseilles)
- Matternich described Mazzini as, the 'most dangerous enemy of our social order'

The Age of Revolutions: 1830- 1848

- The first set of revolt took place in France in July 1830.
- Louis XVIII was overthrown and Louis Philippe was made the King of France with Constitutional Monarchy.
- Matternich remarked that, 'If France sneezes, the rest of the Europe catches cold'.
- The July revolution in France impacted in the United Kingdom of Netherlands.
- A revolt which took place in Brussels (Capital of Belgium) led to the breaking of Belgium from the United Kingdom of Netherlands.

Greek war of independence:

- Greece has been a part of Ottoman Empire since 15th Century.
- The nationalistic feeling started in Greece from 1821.
- The Greek war of independence was supported by the Greeks who were in exile.
- Other European countries had sympathy for the Greek's ancient and rich culture.
- The poets and artists in Europe lauded Greece as the cradle of European civilization.
- An English poet Lord Byron, funded for the war. But unfortunately, he died in the year 1824 due to fever.
- Finally, in the year 1832 Greece was recognized as an independent nation according to the Treaty of Constantinople.

The romantic imagination and National feeling:

- Nationalism in Europe was spread through culture and language as well.
- **Nationalism through culture:**
 - Romanticism means cultural nationalism. The artist who spoke about the importance of culture were known as romantic artist.
 - The romantic artists generally criticized the glorification of science and asked people to focus on intuition and mystical feelings.
 - They thought it would help to create a sense of collective identity.
 - German Philosopher Johann Gottfried claimed that, the true German culture was to be found among the Common people.
 - He also mentioned that the true spirit of nation can be popularized through folk songs and folk poetry so they should be collected and recorded.
- **Nationalism through language:**
 - Language played an important role in spreading the nationalism to the illiterate people.
 - Especially in the case of Poland which was occupied by Russia, Prussia and Austria by the end of 18th century, language played a major role in the spread of Polish nationalism.
 - Karol Kurpinski turned the Polish folk dances such as Polonaise and Mazurka into nationalist symbol for resistance.
 - Russians enforced their language as the medium of instruction at the schools in Poland.
 - In Church the prayers were asked to be conducted in Russian language.
 - Several priests were arrested for resisting and for conducting the prayers in Polish language.

Hunger, Hardship and Popular revolt:

- The 1830's were the years of great economic hardship in Europe.
- Population from rural areas migrated to urban towns resulting in unemployment and formation of slums.
- In 1848, food shortage and unemployment started a revolt in France.
- This forced Louis Philippe to flee the country. National assembly proclaimed power and declared France a republic.

The Revolution of the Liberals 1848:

- In the year 1848, a revolution of the educated middle classes was underway. They demanded constitutionalism with national unification.

- On 18th May, 1831, 831 representatives in Germany marched towards the city of Frankfurt to propose the unification of Germany.
- The Parliament session was convened at the St. Paul's Church where the German Constitution was drafted.
- The representatives offered the crown to the Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm IV to be the King of unified Germany under constitutional monarchy.
- He refused the proposal and called in the army to disband the assembly.

Status of Women:

- The political rights of women were a controversial one even within the liberal movements.
- Women had their political organizations and started their own newspapers. But they were denied voting rights.
- Even in the German parliament which was convened in St. Paul's Church women were allowed only as mere audience.

Nationalism in Europe after 1848:

- Though the conservatives were able to suppress the liberal movements in 1848, they were not able to restore the old order.
- The monarchs started to realize that the revolutions could be avoided only if concessions were granted to the liberals.
- Hence, after 1848 the conservatives themselves started to carry the concept of nationalism and nation state in Europe.
- As an effect, Habsburg rulers granted more autonomy to the Hungarians in 1867.

Making of Germany:

- Otto Van Bismarck, the Chief Minister of Prussia carried out the unification process of Germany.
- He fought and won three wars over seven years against Austria, Denmark and France and completed the process of unification.
- He is known as the architect of Germany.
- In 1871, Kaiser William I, the Prussian King became the emperor of unified Germany at a ceremony held at Versailles.
- The Banking system, Judicial system, currency and administration were modernized in Prussia.

Unification of Italy:

- During the middle of the 19th Century, Italy was divided into seven states.
- Sardinia- Piedmont was ruled by the Italian Prince Victor Emmanuel II. North was ruled by the Austrian Habsburg Empire, South was ruled by the Spanish Bourbon family and the Center was ruled by the Pope.
- Mazzini's efforts to unite Italy through revolution failed in 1930's. So, the unification process was to be done by Victor Emmanuel II.
- Italian Chief Minister Cavour got the help from the French army to defeat the Austrian Habsburg empire in 1859.
- In 1860, Garibaldi gathered the local people and marched towards the South and started an armed rebellion and successfully drove the Spanish Bourbon family.
- In 1861, Victor Emmanuel II proclaimed as the King of unified Italy.
- The people who supported Garibaldi in the South believed that Italia (Italy) as 'La Talia', the wife of Victor Emmanuel II.

The strange case of Britain:

- There was no British nation prior to 18th Century.
- England was powerful both politically and economically when compared to their neighboring countries.
- So, they annexed Scotland along with England according to the 'Act of Union 1707' and gave birth to a new British nation.
- The British parliament was dominated by the English representatives.
- The Catholics in Scotland were suppressed and the Gaelic language was forbidden in Scotland.
- Ireland suffered a similar fate. The Minority protestants in Ireland were supported by the English to dominate the majority Catholics in Ireland.
- A revolt broke out in 1791 in Ireland led by Wolfe Tone and his Irishmen. But it was suppressed by the English.
- And Ireland was annexed with British in the year 1801.

Visualizing the Nation:

- In 19th century, as a part of Nationalism in Europe, the nations were portrayed as female figures. They were known as allegory.
- In France the allegory was known as Marianne whose characteristics were drawn from Liberty, Justice and Republic.
- The allegory was displayed in public places and printed on stamps and coins.
- Similarly, in Germany the allegory was known as Germania.

- She wears a crown of Oak leaves where the German Oak stands for heroism.

Tensions in Balkans:

- In the last quarter of 19th century, the ideas of Nationalism turned into imperialism.
- The Balkan region consisted of modern-day Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece etc.,
- A large part of Balkans was under the control of Ottoman Empire.
- The territories within Balkans started claiming their independence sourcing their history.
- Meanwhile, powers like Russia, England, Germany, Austria-Hungary were ready to hold powers over the Balkans.
- This led to a series of wars which finally led to the First World War.

TERMS:

Absolutist: Literally, a government or system of rule that has no restraint on the power exercised. In History, the term refers to a form of monarchical government that was centralized, militarized and repressive.

Utopian: A vision of a society that is so ideal that it is unlikely to actually exist.

Plebiscite: A direct vote by which all the people of a region are asked to accept or reject a proposal.

Nation State: During the 19th century in Europe, Nationalism emerged as a force which brought about sweeping changes in the political and mental world of Europe. The end result of these changes was the emergence of Nation State.

Modern State: A centralized power exercise sovereign control over a clearly defined territory, had been developing over a long period of time in Europe.

Mazzini believed that God had intended nations to be a natural unit of mankind.

Das volk- Common People

Volksgeist- True spirit of the Nation.

Junkers- Large land owners in Prussia.