The rise of Nationalism in Europe - Introduction

In 1848, Frederic Sorrieu, a French artist, prepared a series of four prints, visualizing his dream of a world made up of 'democratic and social republics', as he called them.

1. The first print shows the people of Europe and America marching in a long train, and offering homage to the Statue of Liberty as they pass by it. A female figure carries a torch of enlightenment in one hand and the Charter of the Rights of Man, in the other hand.

2. On the earth lies the shattered remains of the symbols of absolutist institutions.

3. In Sorrieu’s Utopian vision, the people of the world are grouped as distinct nations, identified through their flags and national costumes.

4. Leading the procession are USA and Switzerland, followed by France and Germany. Following Germany are Austria, Kingdom of the two Sicilies, Lombardy, Poland, England, Ireland, Hungary and Russia.

5. From the heavens above, Christ, saints and angels gaze at the scene. The artist symbolizes fraternity among the nations of the world.

The French revolution and the idea if the nation

- French revolution started in 1789 which was the 1st expression of nationalism in Europe.
- French people demanded abolishment of monarchy and establishment of democracy.

Major changes during French revolution:
‘la patrie’ and ‘le citoyen’ emphasized – united community and equal rights.
- Power transferred from monarch to common people.
- Introduced new flag.
- French became the national language.
- New national anthem composed and oath taken.
- Estate general elected by common people and renamed national assembly.
- Internal custom duties were abolished.
- Nationalism idea taken abroad by French army.
- 1799 --- Napoleon seized political power

**Civil code of 1804 (Napoleonic code):**
- Established equality before law
- Right to property.
- Feudal system was abolished.
- Freed peasants from serfdom.
- Guild restriction were removed.
- Transport and communication system were improved.
- Increased tax.
- Censorship were imposed.
- Forced to join French army.

**1815 --- Battle of Waterloo between Napoleon and PRAB (Prusia, Russia, Austria and Britain)—Treaty of Vienna (Bourbon dynasty restored)**
- The revolutionaries further declared that it was the mission and the destiny of the French nation to liberate the peoples of Europe from despotism, in other words to help other peoples of Europe to become nations.
- When the news of the events in France reached the different cities of Europe, students and other members of educated middle classes began setting up Jacobin clubs. Their activities and campaigns prepared the way for the French armies which moved into Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and much of Italy in the 1790s. With the outbreak of the revolutionary wars, the French armies began to carry the idea of nationalism abroad.
- Within the wide swathe of territory that came under his control, Napoleon set about introducing many of the reforms that he had already introduced in France. Through a return to monarchy Napoleon had, no doubt, destroyed democracy in France, but in the administrative field he had incorporated revolutionary principles in order to make the whole system more rational and efficient.
- The Civil Code of 1804 – usually known as the Napoleonic Code – did away with all privileges based on birth, established equality before the law and secured the right to property. This Code was exported to the regions under French control. In the Dutch Republic, in Switzerland, in Italy and Germany, Napoleon simplified administrative divisions, abolished the feudal system and freed peasants from serfdom and manorial dues. In the towns too, guild restrictions were removed. Transport and communication systems were improved. Peasants, artisans, workers and new businessmen enjoyed a new-found freedom.
- Businessmen and small-scale producers of goods, in particular, began to realise that uniform laws, standardised weights and measures, and a common national currency would facilitate the movement and exchange of goods and capital from one region to another.
However, in the areas conquered, the reactions of the local populations to French rule were mixed. Initially, in many places such as Holland and Switzerland, as well as in certain cities like Brussels, Mainz, Milan and Warsaw, the French armies were welcomed as harbingers of liberty. But the initial enthusiasm soon turned to hostility, as it became clear that the new administrative arrangements did not go hand in hand with political freedom. Increased taxation, censorship, forced conscription into the French armies required to conquer the rest of Europe, all seemed to outweigh the advantages of the administrative changes.

**The making of nationalism in Europe**

Till the mid-18th century there were no nations...

- Zollverein: Custom union - 1834
- Abolished tariff barriers
- Abolished 28 of 30 currencies
For middle class:-
(a) Latin word- Liber (free)
(b) Freedom for individuals
(c) Equality before law

Conservatism:- A political philosophy that stressed the importance of tradition, established institutions and customs, and preferred gradual development to quick change.

A new conservative after 1815:- In 1815, representatives of European powers – Britain, Russia, Prussia and Austria who had collectively defeated Napoleon, met at draw up a settlement for Europe.

- Following the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, European government were driven by a spirit of conservatism. Most conservatves, however, did not propose a return to the society of pre-revolutionary days. Rather, they realized, from the changes initiated by Napoleon, that modernization could in fact strengthen traditional institutions like the monarchy. It could make state power more effective and strong. A modern army, an efficient bureaucracy, a dynamic economy, the abolition of feudalism and serfdom could strengthen the autocratic monarchies of Europe.

- The Congress was hosted by the Austrian Chancellor Duke Metternich. The delegates drew up the Treaty of Vienna of 1815 with the object of undoing most of the changes that had come about in Europe during the Napoleonic wars. The Bourbon dynasty, which had been deposed during the French Revolution, was restored to power, and France lost the territories it had annexed under Napoleon. A series of states were set up on the boundaries of France to prevent French expansion in future. Thus the kingdom of the Netherlands, which included Belgium, was set up in the north and Genoa was added to Piedmont in the south. Prussia was given important new territories on its western frontiers, while Austria was given control of northern Italy. But the German confederation of 39 states that had been set up by Napoleon was left untouched. In the east, Russia was given part of Poland while Prussia was given a portion of Saxony. The main intention was to restore the monarchies that had been overthrown by Napoleon, and create a new conservative order in Europe.

Liberals:-
(a) Fight against the conservatives who did not want any change and believed in traditional thinking and family values.
(b) The revolutionaries --- Liberals began to operate underground ---- Giuseppe Mazzini

Objectives of liberals:-
(a) To oppose the autocratic regime
(b) Fight for liberty and freedom
(c) To oppose monarchical system.

The age of revolution: 1830-1848:-

- As conservative regimes tried to consolidate their power, liberalism and nationalism came to be increasingly associated with revolution in many regions of Europe such as the Italian and German states, the provinces of the Ottoman Empire, Ireland and Poland. These revolutions were led by the liberal-nationalists belonging to the educated middle-class elite, among whom were professors, school- teachers, clerks and members of the commercial middle classes.
The first upheaval took place in France in July 1830. The Bourbon kings who had been restored to power during the conservative reaction after 1815, were now overthrown by liberal revolutionaries who installed a constitutional monarchy with Louis Philippe at its head. ‘When France sneezes,’ Metternich once remarked, ‘the rest of Europe catches cold.’ The July Revolution sparked an uprising in Brussels which led to Belgium breaking away from the United Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Greek war of independence: An event that mobilised nationalist feelings among the educated elite across Europe was the Greek war of independence. Greece had been part of the Ottoman Empire since the fifteenth century. The growth of revolutionary nationalism in Europe sparked off a struggle for independence amongst the Greeks which began in 1821.

Nationalists in Greece got support from other Greeks living in exile and also from many West Europeans who had sympathies for ancient Greek culture. Poets and artists lauded Greece as the cradle of European civilisation and mobilised public opinion to support its struggle against a Muslim empire. The English poet Lord Byron organised funds and later went to fight in the war, where he died of fever in 1824.

Finally, the Treaty of Constantinople of 1832 recognised Greece as an independent nation.

Romanticism: A cultural movement which sought to develop a particular form of nationalist sentiment.

The development of nationalism did not come about only through wars and territorial expansion. Culture played an important role in creating the idea of the nation: art and poetry, stories and music helped express and shape nationalist feelings.

Romantic artists and poets generally criticised the glorification of reason and science and focused instead on emotions, intuition and mystical feelings. Their effort was to create a sense of a shared collective heritage, a common cultural past, as the basis of a nation.

The emphasis on vernacular language and the collection of local folklore was not just to recover an ancient national spirit, but also to carry the modern nationalist message to large audiences who were mostly illiterate.

This was especially so in the case of Poland, which had been partitioned at the end of the eighteenth century by the Great Powers – Russia, Prussia and Austria. Even though Poland no longer existed as an independent territory, national feelings were kept alive through music and language. Karol Kurpinski, for example, celebrated the national struggle through his operas and music, turning folk dances like the polonaise and mazurka into nationalist symbols.

Language too played an important role in developing nationalist sentiments. After Russian occupation, the Polish language was forced out of schools and the Russian language was imposed everywhere. In 1831, an armed rebellion against Russian rule took place which was ultimately crushed. Following this, many members of the clergy in Poland began to use language as a weapon of national resistance. Polish was used for Church gatherings and all religious instruction. As a result, a large number of priests and bishops were put in jail or sent to Siberia by the Russian authorities as punishment for their refusal to preach in Russian. The use of Polish came to be seen as a symbol of the struggle against Russian dominance.

Hunger, hardship and popular revolt:
The 1830s were years of great economic hardship in Europe. The first half of the nineteenth century saw an enormous increase in population all over Europe. In most countries there were more seekers of jobs than employment. Population from rural areas migrated to the cities to live in overcrowded slums. Small producers in towns were often faced with stiff competition from imports of cheap machine-made goods from England, where industrialization was more advanced than on the continent. This was especially so in textile production, which was carried out mainly in homes or small workshops and was only partly mechanised. In those regions of Europe where the aristocracy still enjoyed power, peasants struggled under the burden of feudal dues and obligations.

The rise of food prices or a year of bad harvest led to widespread pauperism in town and country. The year 1848 was one such year. Food shortages and widespread unemployment brought the population of Paris out on the roads.

2 Ideas: Liberalism and Nationalism became very popular in Europe (Specially by educated middle)

(Period of hunger and hardships: Population increased, food shortage, machine led to unemployment)

July Revolution: (France)
(a) Bourbon king was overthrown.
(b) Constitutional monarchy was setup.
(c) Louis Philippe- Head

Revolution of Brussels: Belgium got separated from United kingdom of Netherlands.

Greek war of independence:
(a) Struggle for independence started in 1821 in Greece.
(b) During the greek war public got support from greeks, western Europe, artist and poets.
(c) Treaty of constantinopole was signed in 1832.
(d) Greece was declared as independent nation.

Romanticism:
(a) A cultural movement that rejected nationalism by science and reasons.
(b) It introduced nationalism through art, science and love.

The making of Germany and Italy and Britain

As you have seen, nationalist feelings were widespread among middle-class Germans, who in 1848 tried to unite the different regions of the German confederation into a nation-state governed by an elected parliament. This liberal initiative to nation-building was, however, repressed by the combined forces of the monarchy and the military, supported by the large landowners (called Junkers) of Prussia. From then on, Prussia took on the leadership of the movement for national unification.

Its chief minister, Otto von Bismarck, was the architect of this process carried out with the help of the Prussian army and bureaucracy. Three wars over seven years – with Austria, Denmark and France – ended in Prussian victory and completed the process of unification. In January 1871, the Prussian king, William I, was proclaimed German Emperor in a ceremony held at Versailles.

The nation-building process in Germany had demonstrated the dominance of Prussian state power. The new state placed a strong emphasis on modernising the currency, banking, legal
and judicial systems in Germany. Prussian measures and practices often became a model for the rest of Germany.

**3 wars 7 years by Bismarck:-**
- (a) Danish-Prussian war – 1864
- (b) Austro-Prussian war – 1866
- (c) Franco–Prussian war – 1870-71

**Unification of Germany:-**
- Movement under otto von Bismarck.
- 7 year war (with Austria, Denmark and France)
- In 1871, William I was proclaimed as German Emperor
- Process of nation building

![Map of Italy before unification, 1858.](image_url)

**Unification of Italy:-** Italy was divided into 7 different states.
- (a) Piedmont and Sardinia
- (b) Lombardy
- (c) Venetia
- (d) Parma and Modena
- (e) Tuscany
- (f) Papal state
- (g) Kingdom of two siciles

**Italians were scattered:-**
- (a) Sardinia-Piedmont ruled by Italian states
- (b) North ruled by Austria and Habsburg
- (c) Centre by the Pope
- (d) Southern region by Bourbon kingdom of Spain

The Italian language had not acquired one common form and still many regional and local variations.
Chief Minister Cavour who led the movement to unify the regions of Italy was neither a revolutionary nor a democrat. Like many other wealthy and educated members of the Italian elite, he spoke French much better than he did Italian. Through a tactful diplomatic alliance with France engineered by Cavour, Sardinia-Piedmont succeeded in defeating the Austrian forces in 1859.

Apart from regular troops, a large number of armed volunteers under the leadership of Giuseppe Garibaldi joined the fray. In 1860, they marched into South Italy and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies and succeeded in winning the support of the local peasants in order to drive out the Spanish rulers. In 1861 Victor Emmanuel II was proclaimed king of united Italy.

However, much of the Italian population, among whom rates of illiteracy were very high, remained blissfully unaware of liberal-nationalist ideology.

The peasant masses who had supported Garibaldi in southern Italy had never heard of Italia, and believed that ‘La Talia’ was Victor Emmanuel’s wife!

**Unification of Italy:**
- Giuseppe Mazzini: Formed secret society “Young Italy”
- Tried to put Italy together in 1831 and 1848.
- After his failures responsibility fell on the shoulders of Victor Emmanuel II
- Cavour: Architect of unification of Italy.
- Giuseppe Garibaldi: Local peasant helped Cavour with his army “Red Shirt”.

**Unification of Britain:**
The strange case of Britain:
- The model of the nation or the nation-state, some scholars have argued, is Great Britain.
- In Britain the formation of the nation-state was not the result of a sudden upheaval or revolution. It was the result of a long-drawn-out process. There was no British nation prior to the eighteenth century. The primary identities of the people who inhabited the British
Isles were ethnic ones – such as English, Welsh, Scot or Irish. All of these ethnic groups had their own cultural and political traditions.

- But as the English nation steadily grew in wealth, importance and power, it was able to extend its influence over the other nations of the islands. The English parliament, which had seized power from the monarchy in 1688 at the end of a protracted conflict, was the instrument through which a nation-state, with England at its centre, came to be forged.

**Act of union 1707:**

**Scotland**

- They were suppressed.
- Convinced to join hands
- Were not allowed to speak their language.
- Not allowed to wear national dress of Scotland.

**Ireland**

- Divided into two – Catholics and Protestants
- English supported minority to suppress the Catholics
- Wolfe Tone tried to stop but failed in 1798
- Ireland was forcibly incorporated into united kingdom in 1801

A new ‘British nation’ was forged through the propagation of a dominant English culture. The symbols of the new Britain – the British flag (Union Jack), the national anthem (God Save Our Noble King), the English language – were actively promoted and the older nations survived only as subordinate partners in this union.

**Unification of Britain**

- British empire consisted of English, scotish and irish community
- Industrial revolution brought economic prosperity
- Act of union(1707) merged England and Scotland and united kingdom was formed. Later Ireland was also merged to form great Britain.

**Visualising the nation**

Allegory – When an abstract idea (for instance, greed, envy, freedom, liberty) is expressed through a person or a thing. An allegorical story has two meanings, one literal and one symbolic.

In France she was christened Marianne, a popular Christian name, which underlined the idea of a people’s nation.

Similarly, Germania became the allegory of the German nation. In visual representations, Germania wears a crown of oak leaves, as the German oak stands for heroism.

**Meanings of the symbols**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Significance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broken chains</td>
<td>Being freed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breastplate with eagle</td>
<td>Symbol of the German empire - strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown of oak leaves</td>
<td>Heroism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sword</td>
<td>Readiness to fight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olive branch around the sword</td>
<td>Willingness to make peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black, Red and gold tricolor of the German states</td>
<td>Flag of the liberal – nationalists in 1848, banned by the Dukes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rays of the rising Sun</td>
<td>Beginning of a new era</td>
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Nationalism and Imperialism

- During the end of 19th century Nationalism started converting into Imperialism.
- The policy of expanding countries power by use of military or other means is called Imperialism.
- Nationalist tension started in Balkan area after 1871.
- The Balkans was a region of geographical and ethnic variation comprising modern-day Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro.
- A large part of the Balkans was under the control of the Ottoman Empire.
- As the Ottoman empire started weakening one by one states broke away and started declaring their independence.
- The Balkan states were fiercely jealous of each other and each hoped to gain more territory at the expense of the others, the Balkan area became an area of intense conflict.
- Matters were further complicated when powers like – Russia, Germany, England, Austro-Hungary jumped into the scene, which finally led to 1st world war.

Antiimperial movement started which further led to independence of many countries.

Some important terminology:-

- Nationalism:-(Patriotism) a feeling of love or pride for own country.
- NATION STATE- The one in which citizen share a sense of common identity.(History, Culture, Language, Tradition)
- ABSOLUTIST - A Government or System of rule that has no restraints on the power exercised. e.g. Monarchy
- UTOPIAN - A vision of a society that is so ideal that it is unlikely to actually exist.
- SUFFRAGE-The right to vote
- CONSERVATISM - A political philosophy that stressed the importance of tradition, established institutions and customs, and preferred gradual development.
- FEMINIST - Awareness of women's rights and interests based on the belief of the social, economic and political equality of the genders.
- IDEOLOGY-System of ideas reflecting a particular social and political vision.
- ETHNIC-Relates to a common racial, tribal, or cultural origin or background that a community identifies with or claims.
- ALLEGORY-When an abstract idea (for instance, greed, envy, freedom, liberty) is expressed through a person or a thing.

Important characters:-

- FREDRIC SORRIEU:- A FRENCH ARTIST WHO VISUALISED HIS DREAM OF A WORLD MADE UP OF DEMOCRATIC & SOCIAL REPUBLIC.
- NAPOLEON BONAPARTE:- FRENCH DICTATOR WHO DEMOLISHED DEMOCRACY.
- LOUIS PHILLIPE:- HE WAS MADE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH OF FRANCE AFTER JULY REVOLUTION (1830)
- KAISER WILHELM 1:- WAS PROCLAIMED GERMAN EMPEROR AFTER UNIFICATION.(1871)
- GIUSEPPE MAZZINI:- ESTABLISHED YOUNG EUROPE AND YOUNG ITALY(1831)-SOUL
- GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI:- LED ARMED VOLUNTEERS.-BISMARCK OF ITALY-SWORD
- COUNT CAMILLO DE CAVOUR:- LED THE MOVEMENT TO UNITE ITALY-P.M.-BRAIN
- VICTOR EMMANUEL II:- BECAME KING OF ITALY 1861
¬ ØTTO VON BISMARCK: HE FOUGHT TO UNIFY GERMANY

Some important dates:-
¬ FRENCH REVOLUTION-1789
¬ CIVIL CODE-1804
¬ TREATY OF VIENNA-1815
¬ GREAT ECONOMIC HARDSHIP-1830
¬ TREATY OF CONSTANTINOPLE-1832
¬ ZOLLVERIEN-CUSTOM UNION-1834
¬ FRANKFURT PARLIAMENT-1848
¬ DANISH-PRUSSIAN WAR-1864
¬ AUSTRO-PRUSSIAN WAR-1866
¬ FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR-1870-71
¬ Nationalism in Britain- 1688-1801
¬ Nationalism in France – 1830-48
¬ Unification of Italy- 1859-61
¬ Unification of Germany- 1866-71
¬ Nationalism in Balkans – 1871-1914