

## 10<sup>th</sup> – The Rise of Nationalism in Europe II



**1848 The Revolution of the Liberals:** In other parts of Europe like Germany, Italy, Poland, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, men and women of the liberal middle classes combined their demands for creation of a nation-state. This demand was based on Constitution, freedom of press and freedom of association.

**May Revolution:** On 18th May, 1848, 831 elected representatives marched in a festive procession to take their places in the Frankfurt Parliament convened in the church of St Paul. They drafted a Constitution for a German nation to be headed by a monarchy subject to a Parliament. When the deputies offered the crown on these terms to Friedrich Wilhelm IV, King of Prussia, he rejected it and joined other monarchs to oppose the elected assembly.

**Suppression of May Revolution:** The opposition of the aristocracy and military became stronger and the social basis of Parliament eroded. The Parliament was dominated by the middle classes, who resisted the demands of workers and artisans and consequently lost their support. In the end, troops were called in and the assembly was forced to disband.

**Issue of Political Rights to Women:** The issue of extending political rights to women was a controversial one within the liberal movement, in which large numbers of women had participated actively over the years. Women had formed their own political associations, founded newspapers and had taken part in political meetings and demonstrations. Despite this, they were denied the suffrage rights during the election of the assembly.

**Serfdom and Bonded Labour Abolished:** Conservative forces were able to suppress liberal movements in 1848, but could not restore the old order. Monarchs were beginning to realise that the cycles of revolution and repression could only be ended by granting concessions to the liberal-nationalist revolutionaries. Thus, serfdom and bonded labour were abolished both in the Habsburg dominions and in Russia. The Habsburg rulers granted more autonomy to the Hungarians in 1867.

**The Making of German and Italy: Germany: Can the Army be the Architect of a Nation?** After 1848, nationalist sentiments often were promoted by conservative for capturing state power and political domination over Europe. In Germany, nationalist feelings were widespread among middle-class, 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 repressed by the monarch and military, supported by large landowners (Junkers) of Prussia. The first step towards unification of Germany was unconsciously taken by Prussia, when Prussia established Zollverein or Customs Union, joined li' most German states. Prussia took on the leadership of the movement for national unification. Prussia's Chief Minister Otto von Bismarck was the architect of this process with the help of Prussian army and bureaucracy.

The major events that occurred at the time of unification of Germany were:

- The war with Austria, Denmark and France running over 7 years ended with 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.
- On 18 January, 1871, an assembly comprising the princes of the German states, representatives of the army, important Prussian ministers including the Chief Minister Otto von Bismarck, proclaimed the new German Empire headed by Kaiser William I of Prussia.



## 10<sup>th</sup> – The Rise of Nationalism in Europe II



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

**Italy Unified:** During the middle of the 19th century, Italy was divided into seven states. Out of which only one state, Sardinia - Piedmont was ruled by an Italian Princely House. The North was under Austrian Habsburgs, the centre was ruled by the Pope. The Southern regions were under the domination of the Bourbon kings of Spain. Even, the Italian language had many regional and local variations.

**The Contribution of Famous Personalities:** Famous personalities involved in unification of Italy were

(i) **Giuseppe Mazzini:** During the 1830s, Giuseppe Mazzini had sought to put together a coherent programme for a Unitary Italian Republic. He formed two underground societies, first, young Italy in Marseilles and second, young Europe in Berne. He believed that God had intended nations to be the natural units of mankind. So, Italy could not continue to be a patchwork of small states and kingdoms. It had to be forged into a single unified republic within a wider alliance of nations. Metternich described him as 'the most dangerous enemy of our social order'.

(ii) **Count Camillo de Cavour:** The unification of Italy owed much to the diplomacy of the Chief Minister Cavour, who became the Prime Minister of Piedmont from 1852 to 1860. Through a tactful diplomatic alliance with France engineered by Cavour, Sardinia-Piedmont succeeded in defeating the Austrian forces in 1859.

(iii) **Giuseppe Garibaldi:** He was a central figure in the unification of Italy, since he personally commanded and fought in many military campaigns that led eventually to the formation of a unified Italy. He has been called the Hero of Two Worlds, because of his military enterprises in South America and Europe. In 1833 he met Mazzini and joined the young Italy movement. He participated in a republican uprising in Piedmont in 1834. When the uprising was suppressed Garibaldi went to South America and stayed there till 1848. In 1854 he supported Victor Emmanuel II for his effort to unify the Italian states. In 1860 he led the famous expedition of the thousand to South Italy with his 'Red Shirt' army. In 1867 he led the army to Rome to fight for Papal states where a French garrison was stationed. In 1870 France withdrew its troops and Papal states were finally joined to Italy.

**Major Event Led to the Unification:**

**Proclamation of United Italy:** In 1860, the army (regular troops and armed volunteers) 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. The states of Tuscany, Modena, Parma and the Papal joined hands with Sardinia. By March 1860, the entire Central Italian states were unanimously united with Piedmont. Rome became a part of Sardinia and in this way, the final unification of Italy, was also achieved in 1871. The growth of Great Britain as nation-state can be understood sequentially with the points given below.

- As the English nation steadily grew in wealth, importance and power, it was able to extend its influence over the other nations of islands.
- The English Parliament, which has seized power from the monarchy in 1688 at

## 10<sup>th</sup> – The Rise of Nationalism in Europe II



the end of a protracted conflict, was the instrument through which a nation-state, with England at its centre came to be forged.

Incorporation of Scotland in United Kingdom: The Act of Union (1707) between England and Scotland resulted in the formation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain. It meant that England was able to impose its influence on Scotland. Hence, the British Parliament was dominated by its English members. The Catholic clans of Scottish Highlands suffered terrible repression whenever they attempted to assert their independence. They were forbidden to speak their Gaelic language or wear their national dress and large numbers were forcibly driven out of their homeland.

Incorporation of Ireland in United Kingdom: Ireland was treated in a similar way as was Scotland. It was a country divided into Catholics and Protestants. The English supported the Protestants of Ireland to establish their dominance over a largely Catholic country. The revolt raised by Catholics was suppressed. After a failed revolt led by Wolfe Tone and his United Irishmen (1798), Ireland was forcibly incorporated into the United Kingdom of Britain in 1801. A new 'British' nation was forged through the propagation of a dominant English culture. The symbols of the New Britain were the British flag (Union Jack), the National Anthem (God Save Our Noble King) and the English language.

Visualising The Nation: Artists in the 18th and 19th century found a way out by personifying nation. Nations were then portrayed as female figures. The female form that was chosen to personify the nation did not stand for any particular woman in real life. But it sought to give the abstract idea of the nation in a concrete form. The female figure became an allegory of the nation. In France, the female allegory was christened Marianne. Her characteristics were drawn from those of Liberty and the Republic—the red cap, the tricolour, the cockade. Germania became the allegory of the German nation. Germania wears a crown of oak leaves, as the German oak stands for heroism.

Nationalism and Imperialism: By the last quarter of the 19th century, the nationalism no longer retained its idealistic liberal democratic sentiment. During this period nationalist groups became increasingly intolerant with each other and were ready to start war.

Balkans : The Source of Nationalist Tension in Europe: 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, whose inhabitants were broadly known as the Slavs. A large part of the Balkans was under the control of the Ottoman Empire. The spread of the ideas of romantic nationalism in the Balkans together with the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire made this region very explosive. The Balkan area became an area of intense conflict. The Balkan states were fiercely jealous of each other and each hoped to gain more territory from the others.

Leading to First World War : Each power—Russia, Germany, England, Austro - Hungary was keen on countering the hold of other powers over the Balkans and extending its control over the area. This led to a series of wars in the region and finally the First World War. Nationalism, aligned with imperialism, led Europe to disaster in 1914. The anti-imperial movements that developed everywhere were nationalist, because they all struggled to form independent nation-states. People everywhere developed their own specific variety of nationalism. The idea that



## 10<sup>th</sup> – The Rise of Nationalism in Europe II



societies should be organised into 'nation states' was accepted by the people as natural and universal.

### Exercise :

- 1 By which name the 'Civil Code of 1804' of France is generally known with?
- 2 What did the ideas of la Patrie and le Citoyen signify in the French Revolution?
- 3 Among the social and political class, which was dominant in Europe in the mid-18th century?
4. What is Zollverein?
- 5 Fill in the blanks
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ was the measure of cloth, which was in each region of Europe stood for a different length.
  - b) The Vienna Congress was hosted by the Austrian chancellor \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c) German confederation of \_\_\_\_\_ states that had been set up by Napoleon was left untouched by the Treaty of Vienna.
  - d) \_\_\_\_\_ established uniform laws, standardised weights and measures and common national currency.
6. The independence of which country was recognized by the Treaty of Constantinople of 1832?
7. Why was the decade of 1830's known as great economic hardship in Europe?
8. What is the significance of the year 1848 for France?
9. Who was Friedrich Wilhelm IV?
10. State True or False
  - 1) Independence movement in Greece started in 1830.
  - 2) According to Karol Kurpinski, true German culture was to be discovered among the common people of Germany.
  - 3) The first upheaval in France took place in July 1932.
  - 4) The use of Polish language came to be seen as a symbol of the struggle against German dominance.
11. Fill in the blanks
  - 1) In \_\_\_\_\_ weavers of Silesia village had led a revolt against contractors who supplied them raw materials.
  - 2) The Frankfurt Parliament was dominated by the \_\_\_\_\_ who resisted the demands of workers and artisans and consequently lost their support.
  - 3) King of Prussia \_\_\_\_\_ rejected the crown and joined other monarches to oppose the elected assembly.
  - 4) The Habsburg rulers granted more autonomy to the Hungarians in \_\_\_\_\_
12. How did the 18th and 19th century artists begin personifying a nation in an allegory?
13. What does the crown of oak leaves worn by Germania stand for?
14. Identify the countries which comprised the Balkan peninsula.
15. Who were the inhabitants of Balkan region? CBSE 2012
16. State True or False
  - (i) During the middle of the 19th century, Italy was divided into ten states.
  - (ii) The large landowners of Prussia were known as Junkers.
  - (iii) Count Camillo de Cavour the Prime Minister of Piedmont from 1865 to 1870.
  - (iv) The Balkan states were very friendly to each other but wanted freedom from Ottoman Empire.

