

NCERT CLASS 10

History Notes

Chapter – 1. The Rise of Nationalism in Europe

This chapter tries to explain the meaning of nationalism and how nationalism evolved in mankind's history. Starting with French Revolution the nationalism spread to other parts of Europe and later on paved the way for development of modern democratic nations across the world.

Meaning of nationalism:

Nationalism is the idea of a sense of common identity and a sense of belongingness to a particular geographical area. Apart from this it is also a sense of attachment to a particular culture. It should be kept in mind that culture encompasses a variety of factors, like language, cuisine, costumes, folklores, etc.

The rise of Nationalism in Europe:

The concept and practices of a modern state had been developing over a long period of time in Europe. The state in which, a centralised power exercised sovereign control over a clearly defined territory. But a nation-state was one in which the majority of its citizens, and not only its rulers, came to develop a sense of common identity and shared history or descent. This commonness did not exist from time immemorial. Rather it was forged through struggles, through the actions of leaders and the common people. During the nineteenth century, 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 the nation-state in place of the multi-national dynastic empires of Europe.

The theme of Frederic Sorrieu's painting:

- (i) The first print of the series, shows the people of Europe and America - men and women of all ages and social classes - marching in a long train and offering homage to the statue of Liberty as they pass by it.
- (ii) A female figure was shown with the torch of Enlightenment in one hand and the Charter of the Rights of Man in the other.
- (iii) On the earth in the foreground of the image lie the shattered remains of the symbols of absolutist institutions.
- (iv) In Sorrieu's utopian vision, the peoples of the world are grouped as distinct nations, identified through their flags and national costume.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND THE IDEA OF THE NATION

The first clear expression of nationalism came with the French Revolution in 1789. France was a full-fledged territorial state in 1789 under the rule of an absolute monarch. The political and constitutional changes that came in the wake of the French Revolution led to the transfer of sovereignty from the monarchy to a body of French citizens. The revolution proclaimed that it was the people who would henceforth constitute the nation and shape its destiny.

From the very beginning, the French revolutionaries introduced various measures and practices that could create a sense of collective identity amongst the French people. The ideas of *la patrie* (the fatherland) and *le citoyen* (the citizen) emphasized the notion of a united community enjoying equal rights under a constitution. A new French flag, the tricolour, was chosen to replace the former royal standard. The Estates General was elected by the body of active citizens and renamed the National Assembly. New hymns were composed, oaths taken and martyrs commemorated, all in the name of the nation. A centralised administrative system was put in place and it formulated uniform laws for all citizens within its territory. Internal customs duties and dues were abolished and a uniform system of weights and measures was adopted.

Regional dialects were discouraged and French, as it was spoken and written in Paris, became the common language of the nation. 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.



THE COVER OF A GERMAN ALMANAC DESIGNED BY THE JOURNALIST ANDREAS REBMANN IN 1798.

THE IMAGE OF THE FRENCH BASTILLE BEING STORMED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY CROWD HAS BEEN PLACED NEXT TO A SIMILAR FORTRESS MEANT TO REPRESENT THE BASTION OF DESPOTIC RULE IN THE GERMAN PROVINCE OF KASSEL.

ACCOMPANYING THE ILLUSTRATION IS THE SLOGAN: 'THE PEOPLE MUST SEIZE THEIR OWN FREEDOM!' REBMANN LIVED IN THE CITY OF MAINZ AND WAS A MEMBER OF A GERMAN JACOBIN GROUP.

THE MAKING OF NATIONALISM IN EUROPE

In the mid-eighteenth century Germany, Italy and Switzerland were divided into kingdoms, duchies and cantons whose rulers had their autonomous territories of diverse peoples. They did not see themselves as sharing common identity. They spoke different languages and belonged to different ethnic groups. Such differences did not easily promote a sense of political unity. The only tie binding these diverse groups together was a common allegiance to the emperor.

The Aristocracy and the New Middle Class:

In terms of society and politics, the continent was primarily dominated by a landed aristocracy. This class shared a common lifestyle that transcended regional divisions. Their families often intermarried, strengthening their connections. Although powerful, this aristocracy represented a small portion of the population. The growth of cities and the rise of commercial classes, who relied on market-based production, challenged their dominance. Industrialization initially took root in England in the latter half of the 18th century, while it occurred in France and some parts of the German states only in the 19th century. Consequently, new social groups emerged, including a working-class population and middle classes comprised of industrialists, businessmen, and professionals. It was primarily among the educated and liberal middle classes that the idea of national unity gained popularity after the abolition of aristocratic privileges.

Views of Liberals:

- The term 'liberalism' derives from the Latin root 'liber', meaning free. For the new middle classes liberalism stood for freedom for the individual and equality of all before the law.
- Since the French Revolution, liberalism had stood for the end of autocracy and clerical privileges, a constitution and representative government through parliament. Nineteenth-century liberals also stressed the inviolability of private property.
- Equality before the law did not necessarily stand for universal suffrage. The right to vote and to get elected was granted exclusively to property-owning men. Men without property and all women were excluded from political rights. Only for a brief period under the Jacobins did all adult males enjoy suffrage.
- Napoleonic code went back to limited suffrage and reduced women to the status of a minor, subject to the authority of fathers and husbands.
- Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries women and non-propertied men organised opposition movements demanding equal political rights.
- In the economic sphere, liberalism stood for the freedom of markets and the abolition of state-imposed restrictions on the movement of goods and capital. During the nineteenth century this was a strong demand of the emerging middle classes.

A New Conservatism After 1815:

After Napoleon's defeat in 1815, European governments embraced a conservative ideology. However, most conservatives did not advocate a return to pre-revolutionary society. They believed that modernization could actually strengthen traditional institutions such as the monarchy. Measures like establishing a modern army, efficient bureaucracy, dynamic economy, and abolishing feudalism and serfdom were seen as ways to reinforce the autocratic monarchies in Europe. In 1815, representatives of

major European powers - Britain, Russia, Prussia, and Austria - gathered in Vienna to negotiate a settlement for Europe, having collectively defeated Napoleon. The Bourbon dynasty, which had been overthrown during the French Revolution, was restored to power, and France lost the territories it had acquired under Napoleon. The German confederation, consisting of 39 states established by Napoleon, remained intact. Autocratic rulers did not tolerate criticism or dissent, and they sought to suppress activities that questioned their legitimacy.

The Revolutionaries

- During the years following 1815, the fear of repression drove many liberal-nationalists underground.
- Secret societies sprang up in many European states to train revolutionaries and spread their ideas.
- To be revolutionary at this time meant a commitment to oppose monarchical forms that had been established after the Vienna Congress and to fight for liberty and freedom.

Contribution of Mazzini:

- One such individual was the Italian revolutionary Giuseppe Mazzini. Born in Genoa in 1807, he became a member of the secret society of the Carbonari.
- As a young man of 24, he was sent into exile in 1831 for attempting a revolution in Liguria.
- He subsequently founded two more underground societies, first, Young Italy in Marseilles and then, Young Europe in Berne, whose members were like-minded young men from Poland, France, Italy and the German states.
- Mazzini 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.
- This unification alone could be the basis of Italian liberty. Secret societies were set up in Germany, France, Switzerland and Poland.
- Mazzini's relentless opposition to monarchy and his vision of democratic republics frightened the conservatives. Metternich described him as 'the most dangerous enemy of our social order'.

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, schoolteachers, 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.

The Romantic Imagination and National Feeling

The emergence of nationalism was not solely driven by wars and territorial expansions. Culture played a significant role in shaping the concept of the nation, with art, poetry, stories, and music expressing and influencing nationalist sentiments. Let's explore Romanticism, a cultural movement that aimed to foster a distinct form of nationalist feelings. Romantic artists and poets often criticized the exaltation of reason and science, focusing instead on emotions, traditions, and mystical experiences. Some romantics believed that the true spirit of the nation resided in folk songs, folk poetry, and folk dances. Music and language played crucial roles in keeping national sentiments alive. Karol Kurpinski, a renowned composer, celebrated national struggles through his operas and music, elevating folk dances like the polonaise and mazurka into symbols of nationalism. Language also played a vital role in nurturing nationalist sentiments. The Russian language was imposed widely in various regions. Many members of the clergy in Poland began to use language as a tool of national resistance. Consequently, numerous priests and bishops were imprisoned or sent to Siberia by the Russian authorities as punishment for refusing to preach in Russian.

Hunger, Hardship, and Popular Revolt

- The 1830s were marked by severe economic difficulties throughout Europe.
- The first half of the 19th century witnessed a significant population increase.
- In most countries, there were more people seeking jobs than available employment opportunities.
- The rural population migrated to cities, leading to overcrowded slums.
- Food scarcity and widespread unemployment triggered protests in the streets of Paris.
- The National Assembly declared a republic, granted suffrage to all adult males above 21, and ensured the right to work.
- In 1845, weavers in Silesia initiated a revolt against contractors who provided them with raw materials and gave them orders for finished textiles.
- On June 4th, at 2 p.m., a large group of weavers left their homes and marched together to the residences of their contractors, demanding higher wages.
- The contractors fled with their families to a neighboring village, but they were refused shelter.
- The contractors returned after 24 hours, accompanied by the army, which they had requisitioned.
- During the ensuing confrontation, eleven weavers were shot.

1848: The Revolution of the Liberals

- In the year 1848, a revolution led by the educated middle classes took place in several European countries, driven by the plight of impoverished, unemployed, and starving peasant middle classes joined forces, combining their demands for constitutionalism with the goal of national unification.
- They drafted a constitution for a German nation, envisioning a monarchy that would be accountable to a parliament.
- However, King Wilhelm IV of Prussia rejected the constitution and allied with other monarchs to oppose the elected assembly.
- As the opposition from the aristocracy and military grew stronger, the social support for the parliament began to dwindle.
- Within the liberal movement, the question of granting political rights to women was a matter of debate and controversy.

- Women formed their own political associations, established newspapers, and actively participated in political meetings and demonstrations.
- However, women were only permitted to observe from the visitors' gallery and were not granted full participation.
- Monarchs started to realize that the cycles of revolution and repression could be quelled by granting concessions to the liberal-nationalist revolutionaries.

THE MAKING OF GERMANY AND ITALY

Germany - Can the Army be the Architect of a Nation ?

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.

Prussia took on the leadership of the movement for national unification. its Chief minister, Otto von Bismarck (followed the policy of Blood and Iron), 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. On 18 January 1871, an assembly gathered in the unheated Hall of mirrors in the Palace of Versailles to proclaim the new German Empire headed by Kaiser William I of Prussia.

The new state placed a strong emphasis on modernising the currency, banking, legal and judicial systems in Germany.

Unification of Germany

1. It started with the liberal Nationalist movement of 1848 with the formation of the Frankfurt Parliament but efforts failed.
2. The move was then taken by Prussia and the responsibility shifted to Prime Minister Otto Von Bismarck.
3. Bismarck led three wars over a period of seven years with Austria, Denmark and France culminating in a Prussian victory.
4. Finally, Germany unified in January 1871.
5. The king of Prussia, William I, was proclaimed emperor of Germany at a ceremony held in Versailles.

Italy Unified

During the middle of the nineteenth century, Italy was divided into seven states, of which only one, Sardinia-Piedmont, was ruled by an Italian princely house. Even the Italian language had not acquired one common form and still had many regional and local variations.

During the 1830s, Giuseppe Mazzini had sought to put together a coherent programme for a unitary Italian Republic. He formed a secret society called Young Italy for the dissemination of his goals. The failure of

revolutionary uprisings both in 1831 and 1848 meant that the mantle now fell on Sardinia Piedmont under its ruler King Victor Emmanuel II to unify the Italian states through war

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.

Political Situation of Italy before Unification

1. Like Germany, Italy also has a long history of division.
2. The Italians are scattered in several powerful provinces and the Habsburg State.
3. In the middle of the nineteenth century, Italy was divided into seven provinces — one Sardinia-Piedmont — dominated by the Italian Prince House.
4. The North was under Austrian Habsburg, the center was under papal rule and the southern states were under Bourbon kings in Spain.
5. Even the Italian language did not find one common language and still had many regional and local variations.

The Strange Case Of 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, was the instrument through which a nation-state, with England at its centre, came to be forged.

The Act of Union (1707) between England and Scotland that resulted in the formation of the 'United Kingdom of Great Britain' meant, in effect, that England was able to impose its influence on Scotland. The British parliament was henceforth dominated by its English members. The growth of a British identity meant that Scotland's distinctive culture and political institutions were systematically suppressed. The Catholic clans that inhabited the Scottish Highlands suffered terrible repression whenever they attempted to assert their independence. The Scottish Highlanders were forbidden to speak their Gaelic language or wear their national dress, and large numbers were forcibly driven out of their homeland.

Ireland suffered a similar fate. It was a country deeply divided between Catholics and Protestants. The English helped the Protestants of Ireland to establish their dominance over a largely Catholic country. Catholic revolts against British dominance were suppressed. After a failed revolt led by Wolfe Tone and his United Irishmen (1798), Ireland was forcibly incorporated into the 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.

VISUALISING THE NATION:

- Artists in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries found a way out by personifying a nation.
- In other words, they represented a country as if it were a person. 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; rather it sought to give stand for any particular woman in real life; rather it sought to give the abstract idea of the nation a concrete form.
- That is, the female figure became an allegory of the nation.
- The ideas of liberty, justice and the republic during the French revolution were represented by the artists as female allegory.
- These ideals were represented through specific objects or symbols.
- The nations were represented by a female allegories invented by artists during the 19th century.

Marianne Its Significance

- Marianne is a popular Christian name. This name was given to the imaginary figure that was chosen to represent France as a nation. In other words, Marianne, as a female figure, was an allegory for France, a nation.
- Characteristics of Marianne were symbolic of Liberty and the Republic. These were represented by such symbols as the red cap, the tricolour and the cockade. Statues of Marianne were erected in public squares to remind the public of the national symbol of unity.

Germania:

- Germania was an imaginary female figure. It was chosen as an allegory for the German nation.
- Germania wears a crown of oak leaves, as the German oak stands for heroism.

NATIONALISM AND IMPERIALISM:

- By the mid-19th century, nationalism had shifted from its earlier idealistic and liberal-democratic sentiment to a more limited and narrow ideology.
- The Balkans emerged as the primary source of nationalist tensions in Europe after 1871.
- The Balkans were characterized by geographical and ethnic diversity.
- Successively, the different nationalities within the region sought independence and broke away from centralized control.
- The Balkan region became a hotbed of intense conflicts.
- The Balkan states harbored mutual jealousy and sought to expand their territories at the expense of one another.
- However, the concept of organizing societies into "nation-states" came to be widely accepted as a natural and universal idea.

The idea that societies should be organised into 'nation-states' came to be accepted as natural and universal.