

The Rise of Nationalism in Europe

Class 10 Social Science - Complete Study Notes

Chapter Overview

This chapter examines how nationalism emerged as a powerful force in 19th century Europe, leading to the formation of modern nation-states and reshaping the political map of Europe.

Key Terms and Definitions

Nationalism: A feeling of deep loyalty and devotion towards one's country; belief that people sharing common history, culture, and language should form independent nations.

Nation-State: A sovereign state whose citizens or subjects share a common nationality, culture, language, and history.

Absolutism: A system of government where the ruler holds absolute power over the state and its people.

Liberalism: Political philosophy advocating individual freedom, constitutional government, and parliamentary democracy.

Conservatism: Political philosophy favoring traditional institutions and opposing radical changes.

Plebiscite: A direct vote by citizens on an important political question.

1. The French Revolution and the Idea of the Nation (1789-1799)

Background

- Before the Revolution, France was an absolute monarchy under Louis XVI
- Society was divided into three estates: clergy, nobility, and common people
- Economic crisis and social inequality led to revolutionary fervor

Revolutionary Changes

- **Declaration of Rights:** Proclaimed that sovereignty resided in the people, not the monarch
- **Abolition of Feudalism:** Ended the feudal system and privileges of nobility
- **National Symbols:** Introduction of tricolor flag, national anthem (La Marseillaise), and motto "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity"
- **Administrative Reforms:** Uniform laws, standardized weights and measures, common currency

Impact on Nationalism

- Created the concept of a nation of equal citizens under a common constitution
 - Replaced loyalty to the king with loyalty to the nation
 - Spread revolutionary ideas across Europe through Napoleon's conquests
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2. The Making of Nationalism in Europe

Civil Code of 1804 (Napoleonic Code)

- Abolished privileges based on birth
- Established equality before law
- Secured property rights
- Abolished feudal system in conquered territories

Napoleon's Impact

Positive Effects:

- Simplified administrative divisions
- Abolished feudalism and serfdom
- Introduced uniform laws and standardized weights/measures
- Religious tolerance

Negative Effects:

- Political freedom was restricted
- Censorship was imposed
- Heavy taxation for French wars
- Forced recruitment into French armies

Growing Opposition

- Initial liberation turned into oppression
 - Increased taxation and censorship sparked resistance
 - Local populations developed anti-French sentiment
 - Seeds of nationalism were sown in conquered territories
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3. The Age of Revolutions (1830-1848)

Conservatives vs Liberals vs Radicals

Conservatives:

- Believed in preserving traditional institutions
- Supported monarchy and aristocracy
- Opposed to democratic changes

Liberals:

- Wanted constitutional monarchies
- Supported individual rights and parliamentary government
- Represented educated middle classes

Radicals:

- Demanded democratic governments with universal suffrage
- Represented workers and peasants
- Wanted complete transformation of society

Revolution of 1830

- Bourbon monarchy overthrown in France
- Liberal revolution inspired uprisings in Belgium, Poland, and Italy
- Growth of secret societies like Carbonari in Italy and Young Europe

Revolution of 1848

- Known as the "Spring of Peoples"
 - Revolutions across Europe demanding constitutional governments
 - Frankfurt Parliament in Germany attempted to create unified German nation
 - Though largely unsuccessful, it strengthened nationalist sentiments
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4. The Making of Germany and Italy

German Unification

Background:

- German Confederation consisted of 39 independent states
- Austria and Prussia were the most powerful German states

- Growing economic integration through Zollverein (customs union)

Key Figures:

- **Otto von Bismarck:** Prussian Chancellor, architect of German unification
- **Wilhelm I:** Prussian King who became German Emperor

Process of Unification:

- **1864:** Danish War - Prussia and Austria vs Denmark
- **1866:** Austro-Prussian War - Prussia's victory established its dominance
- **1870-71:** Franco-Prussian War - Prussian victory completed unification
- **January 18, 1871:** German Empire proclaimed at Versailles

Methods Used:

- "Blood and Iron" policy of Bismarck
- Diplomatic alliances and military strength
- Exclusion of Austria from German affairs

Italian Unification (Risorgimento)

Background:

- Italy was divided into multiple kingdoms and papal states
- Austrian control over northern Italy
- Influence of various European powers

Key Figures:

- **Giuseppe Mazzini:** Founded Young Italy movement, promoted republican ideas
- **Count Camillo di Cavour:** Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia, diplomatic mastermind
- **Giuseppe Garibaldi:** Military leader, conquered southern Italy with his "Red Shirts"
- **Victor Emmanuel II:** King of Piedmont-Sardinia, became first king of united Italy

Process of Unification:

- **1850s:** Cavour's diplomatic efforts and modernization of Piedmont
- **1859:** Franco-Austrian War - France and Piedmont vs Austria
- **1860:** Garibaldi's expedition conquered Kingdom of Two Sicilies
- **1861:** Kingdom of Italy proclaimed with Victor Emmanuel II as king
- **1866:** Venetia added after Austro-Prussian War
- **1870:** Papal States incorporated, Rome became capital

5. Visualizing the Nation

Symbols and Personifications

- **Germania:** Female figure representing German nation
- **Marianne:** Symbol of French nation and Republic
- **Britannia:** Personification of Britain
- **Italia:** Representation of Italian nation

Common Nationalist Symbols

- Flags and national colors
- National anthems and songs
- National monuments and memorials
- Maps showing national boundaries
- Currency and stamps with national symbols

Role of Artists and Writers

- Romantic artists and poets glorified national history and culture
- Folk tales and legends were collected and promoted
- Language and literature became tools of national identity
- Music and opera celebrated national themes

6. Nationalism and Imperialism

Imperial Expansion

- Unified European nations began colonial expansion
- Nationalism at home often led to imperialism abroad
- Competition for colonies created tensions between European powers

Impact on Non-European Peoples

- European nationalism often suppressed local cultures in colonies
 - Imposed European languages and customs
 - Economic exploitation of colonized territories
 - Seeds of anti-colonial nationalism were planted
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Important Dates Timeline

- **1789-1799:** French Revolution
 - **1804:** Napoleon's Civil Code
 - **1815:** Congress of Vienna
 - **1821:** Greek struggle for independence begins
 - **1830:** July Revolution in France
 - **1848:** Revolutions across Europe
 - **1859:** Piedmont-France vs Austria
 - **1860:** Garibaldi's expedition to Sicily
 - **1861:** Proclamation of Kingdom of Italy
 - **1866:** Austro-Prussian War
 - **1870:** Franco-Prussian War
 - **1871:** Unification of Germany
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Case Studies

Greek War of Independence (1821-1829)

- First successful nationalist revolution against Ottoman Empire
- Supported by European powers (Britain, France, Russia)
- Inspired by French Revolutionary ideals
- Showed growing support for nationalist movements

Balkan Nationalism

- Ottoman Empire's decline in southeastern Europe
 - Multiple ethnic groups sought independence
 - Series of wars and conflicts throughout 19th century
 - Created the "Eastern Question" in European diplomacy
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Impact and Significance

Positive Outcomes

- Formation of modern democratic nation-states
- End of feudalism and absolute monarchy

- Growth of constitutional governments
- Economic development and modernization
- Cultural renaissance and national literatures

Negative Consequences

- Aggressive nationalism and militarism
 - Suppression of minority groups within nations
 - Imperial expansion and colonialism
 - Seeds of future conflicts and world wars
 - Ethnic tensions and conflicts
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Key Questions for Examination

1. **Explain the role of French Revolution in spreading nationalist ideas.**
 2. **How did Napoleon's conquests spread nationalism across Europe?**
 3. **Compare the methods of unification used in Germany and Italy.**
 4. **Analyze the role of culture in creating nationalist feelings.**
 5. **Discuss the impact of nationalism on European politics in the 19th century.**
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Important Maps to Remember

- Political map of Europe in 1815 (Congress of Vienna)
 - German states before unification
 - Italian states before unification
 - Europe after German and Italian unification
 - Growth of nationalist movements across Europe
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Conclusion

The rise of nationalism in 19th century Europe fundamentally transformed the political landscape, leading to the formation of modern nation-states and setting the stage for both democratic development and future conflicts. Understanding this period is crucial for comprehending modern European history and the ongoing influence of nationalist movements worldwide.