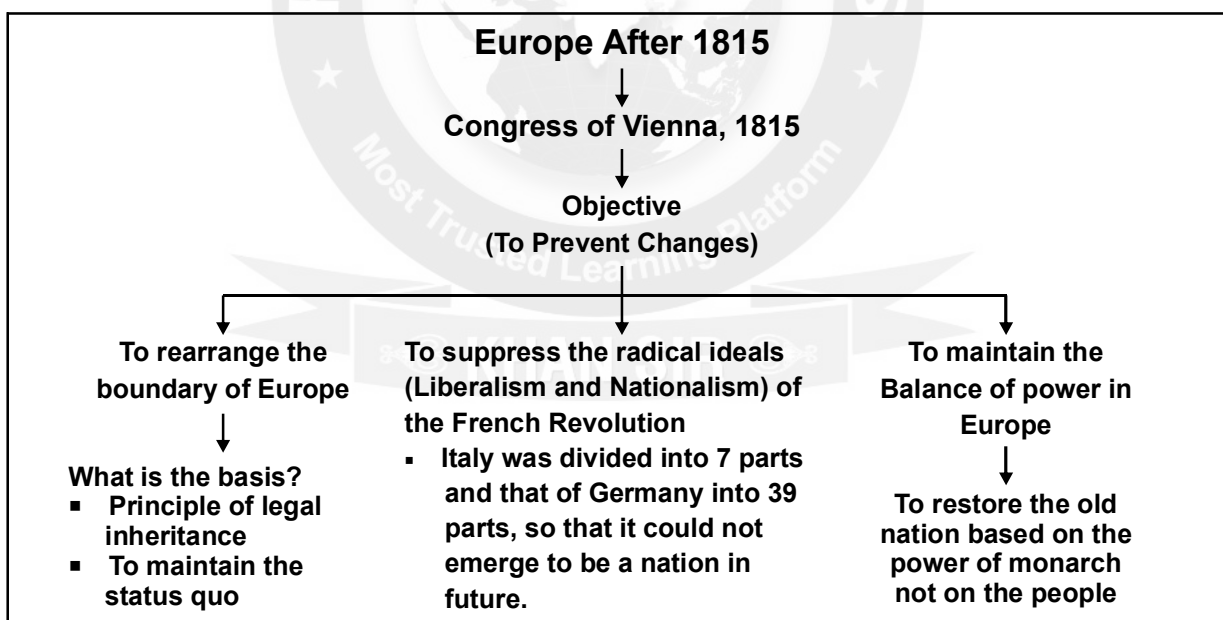


World History (Part-II)

Subpart-IV: (Europe between 1815-1850: Liberalism and Nationalism)

■ Major Issues :

- This chapter will enlighten the students about the phenomenon that how did French Revolution culminate into an all European Revolution and how did it leave its impact on European and world politics.
- 1. French revolution transformed France as well as Europe; and Napoleon was a harbinger of this Revolution in Europe. Therefore, after the decline of Napoleon, the conservative forces of Europe once again reasserted themselves with the support of the Congress of Vienna.
- 2. But the two ideologies which emerged from French Revolution, i.e. Nationalism and Liberalism gave a serious jolt to old order based on Vienna system. These ideologies encouraged the revolutionary forces and manifested themselves in the revolutions of 1830s and 1848.
- 3. Hardly did any other ideology influence the course of History as deeply as nationalism. It kept Europe busy for the next 150. Its impact can be manifested itself in following manner-
 - Nationalism worked as a pillar for the integration of western European countries.
 - In 19th century, nationalism unified the divided regions of Italy and that of Germany.
 - But on the one hand it encouraged the unification on the other hand it produced detrimental impact on old empires of central and Eastern Europe such as Habsburg Empire in Austria, the Ottoman Empire in Turkey and the Russian Empire.



■ Congress of Vienna

- After the decline of Napoleon, an all-European conference was convened at Vienna that was coined as the Congress of Vienna, as it was held in the capital of Austria, Vienna. In this Congress, the four major powers of Europe such as Britain,

Austria, Russia and Prussia dominated. But the key player was Prince Metternich, the chancellor of Austria. The main objective of the Congress of Vienna was to restore the old regime and bring the European system back to the pre-revolutionary order. So the Congress of Vienna bring the following programs -



Guardian and supervisor of the region. In Germany, there was the creation of Frankfurt parliament in which all the 39 states were given representation. Apart from that, even Austria was made a member so that she could work as a Bulwark against future change.

- Furthermore, Italy was geographically divided into 7 parts so that it should not

1. To rearrange the boundary of Europe -

- Napoleon had earlier disfigured the cartography of almost the entire Europe. So after the exit of Napoleon, the main objective of the Congress was to rearrange the geographical boundary of European countries. So, they consider the following principles -
 - **To maintain the principle of legal inheritance** - The successor of the old king had to be restored on the throne, so that the change could be hindered.
 - **To maintain the status quo in Europe**- The Congress of Vienna tried to reestablish the old order i.e. monarchy, aristocracy and the Church in Europe.

2. To suppress the radical ideals (Liberalism and Nationalism) of the French Revolution -

- To achieve this objective, Italy and Germany were divided under a well designed policy.
- Earlier, Germany was reorganized by Napoleon into 16 bigger states but the Congress of Vienna again reorganized them into 39 states and they were under the control of Prussia. But simultaneously, the Austrian Empire was made the

rise as a nation in the future. With this purpose, the region of Lombardy and Venetia in Northern Italy were placed under the control of Austrian Empire. Likewise, in Parma, Modena and Tuscany the ruler from Habsburg Dynasty came to rule. Furthermore, in southern Italy, Naples and Sicily, the king from Bourbon dynasty was placed and the middle region was under the control of the Pope. In this way, Italy was practically divided and according to Metternich it was merely a geographical expression.

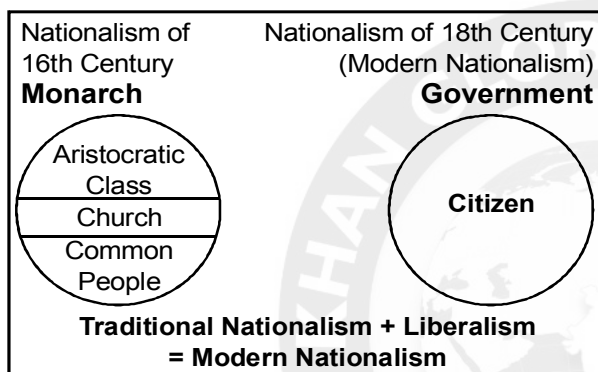
3. To maintain the balance of power in Europe-



- Right from the time of the treaty of Westphalia, the concept of balance of power had become the guiding principle in European diplomacy but the French Revolution rejected this Westphalian model of the state system. The French revolution crossed the boundary of other states in the name of liberating the people while denying the institution of monarchy. So the nation of monarchs was replaced by the nation of the people. That's why, one of the major objectives of this Congress was to restore the nation of monarchs while suppressing the popular sovereignty. So, the following decisions were taken -
 - Earlier Napoleon had removed the Holy Roman Empire and replaced it by the Confederation of Rhine. In this course he had reorganized tiny German states into bigger ones. Later Congress of Vienna replaced this Confederation of Rhine by a German Confederation which consisted of thirty nine states. Among them, Prussia was more powerful and it was offered extra territory in Rhine land and the region of Saxony so that it could have be competent enough to counter balance France on one hand and Russia on the other.
 - In order to create a powerful state in the neighbourhood of France, Belgaum was placed under the control of Holland.
 - Likewise to put a check over France from the north-east direction, Netherland was created by merging Holland and Belgium.
 - Earlier Piedmont was ruled by the 'House of Savoy' in Italy, later Sardenia and Geneva were also placed under their control.
 - **Forces of continuity established by the Congress of Vienna :**
 - The Congress of Vienna not only restored the old order but tried to sustain it. The old order or the forces of continuity were represented by monarchy, aristocracy and Church. As we have seen the old order of Europe had almost been destroyed by Napoleon. Therefore, Vienna Congress under the leadership of Austrian Chancellor Metternich was obligated to restore the old order. He was a complete reactionary (protector of old order and resistant against the change), so he had a very low estimation of popular revolution. Metternich guided a principle known as 'Metternich System' which was based on the principle of status quo and that of legitimate inheritance.
 - **The forces of change challenged by the Congress of Vienna :-**
 - Simultaneously, the forces of change became active and started to challenge the Congress of Vienna. The force of changes expressed themselves through liberalism and nationalism at ideological level and the industrial revolution at material level.
- Ideological forces:**
- **Liberalism** - Liberalism represents a middle class world view. Its basis was prepared by enlightenment first. Later it was enriched further by American Revolution and French Revolution. It gave emphasis over the various factors:-
 - In political field it emphasized limited monarchy. In other words, the power of monarchy should have been limited through an elected assembly. In the economic field it emphasized the principle of Laissez Faire or free economy, while in social field it pleaded for individual freedom. In other words, we can say that what is capitalism in economic field and individualism in social field, liberalism is

in the political field. All of the three were guided by middle-class interest.

- **Nationalism**– Theoretically, nationalism implied a community of the people who were linked to each other, were guided by the common customs and tradition and were the product of common historical forces. But this was definitely a very simplistic definition of nationalism which gradually evolved through thousands of years and its nature was bound to be more complex according to changing time and situation. The following are the two different models of nationalism -



- From 15th century onwards, with the rise of modern Europe, even nation state came to take shape under powerful and ambitious monarchs who were inclined to demarcate their national boundary through war, diplomacy and matrimonial relations. They continued to project themselves as National rulers while their region was being characterized as the nation state. Then very cleverly, they linked the interest of the nation with their dynastic interest. But upon minute observation we discover that this nation state was internally divided between privileged section and non privileged section, between unified region and semi autonomous regions etc. although the king was giving a veil of unity from above.
- But the French revolution proved to be a major game changer. Rousseau's ideas emphasized the concept of 'popular sovereignty'. So the centre of power moved from monarch to the people. Monarchy

was destroyed in France and it was followed by the establishment of a republic. In the meantime a war started between France and European countries. This war was unique in the sense that it was a war between European monarchs and the French people. Earlier all wars had been fought between monarchs, but this time it was the monarch and the people. So the concept of the popular sovereignty coupled with people's war gave a great stimulus to the ideology of modern nationalism. Later Napoleon Bonaparte, through conquest and war carried it to other parts of Europe as well.

- Between 1815 and 1848, both liberalism and nationalism had to go together while giving support to each other. The social basis of both the ideologies was prepared by the same middle class and both were the common enemy in the form of the same. It was after the revolution of 1848 that nationalism parted ways with liberalism and moved to take support from another monarchy.

Material-Economic Forces:

- **Industrial Revolution**– During the 19th century a great economic event occurred in western part of Europe which was known as the Industrial Revolution. The industrial revolution brought a change in the means of production. So, it prepared the way for social and political change as well. On one hand, this revolution strengthened the position of the middle class, it gave birth to the industrial working class on the other. Therefore, the aspirations of both the classes started to clash with the European system.
- However, the Congress of Vienna and the Concert of Europe tried to maintain the old order in Europe but in spite of their best efforts the old order could not be maintained and the forces of change continued to pose a severe challenge to the old order. It was due to this fact, a series of revolts and revolutions occurred in

Europe between 1815 and 1848.

■ **Revolts of 1820s :**

- This revolt took place in France when some revolutionaries, inspired by the romanticist approach, assassinated crown prince Duke De Berry. Then from France, this revolt expanded to other parts of Europe. So, revolts took place in the Italian region along with Spain, Belgium and in Portugal also.
- It was the time when the Spanish colony in Latin America revolted against their master (Spain). When Spain sent its army to suppress the movement even the army revolted against the Spanish government. It was the time that some of the conservative members of Concert of Europe decided to intervene in the matter of Latin America and to send their army to suppress the movement there. But this proposal was opposed by Britain. Above all, it was American President Munro who propagated his famous doctrine and gave a serious warning to European powers for not intervening in the matter of American continent. In 1823 Munro made a declaration that "Latin America is the backyard of United States of America and if any power makes an intervention into the matter, it is just like making an intervention into the internal matter of U.S.A". This doctrine is known as '**Munro Doctrine**'. It had following results-
- After this declaration, the USA gave a new direction to its foreign policy, i.e. America won't intervene in European matters and simultaneously she won't tolerate European intervention in their internal matters. In other words, USA stuck to the policy of isolationism in foreign policy.
- After that, Latin American countries practically became the colonies of the United States of America.

■ **Revolutions of 1830s :**

- This also started from France and as a result of this revolution, the government

under Charles X who was the successor of Louis XVII declined and very soon it was replaced by another monarchical government under Louis Philippe. This development was a very clear denial of the Vienna system as it had rejected the theory of legal inheritance. Furthermore, a liberation movement started in Belgium and Belgium was separated from Holland. It also was an evidence of the rupture in Vienna system as it had denied the verdict of the congress. Apart from that, the liberal movement affected different regions of Europe. While the region of Italy and Germany felt the impact of nationalist fermentation, in Italy a movement was led by Mazzini who was inclined to unify Italy under a republic. Likewise some liberals were active even in the German region. Although, this revolution was relatively more successful in western Europe but not equally successful in central and eastern Europe. Even Metternich was surprised and exclaimed that whenever France sneezes, the entire Europe catches a cold.

■ **Revolutions of 1848s :**

- Even this revolution started from France and as a result of this revolution the government of Louis Philippe declined and in its place a republic was formed in France, But when in 1848 elections were held in this Republic, Louis Napoleon III illustrious nephew of Napoleon was elected as president. But within four years, he destroyed the republic and in 1852, he declared himself to be emperor of France. So it appeared as if history repeated itself.
- The revolution affected even other regions like Spain, Portugal and Britain. In Britain, it manifested itself in relatively peaceful manner that was known as chartist movement. In Italy and Germany nationalist movements resurfaced. In Italy, on the appeal of Italian nationalist Charles Albert, the ruler of Piedmont-

Sardinia, declared war against Austria with an objective to expel Austria from Italian region but he was defeated at the hand of Austria. It worked as a major setback to Italian nationalism. Likewise in Germany, the liberal members of Frankfurt parliament presented the crown of unified Germany to Persian monarch Fredrick William IV, but Fredrick William refused to accept it as to accept the crown by elected representatives was tantamount to accepting his position as a constitutional monarch.

- **Austrian Empire**– Revolution affected the Austrian empire as well being unable to crush it, Metternich fled from his country and took refuge in Britain. Then under the pressure of revolution, Austrian monarch submitted and showed his readiness to bring constitutional reforms. But after some time, with the support of Russian army, he quelled the rebellion.
- When we evaluate the impact of the revolution of 1848, we come to realize that just like the Arab Spring of 2010, it brought changes in limited regions. But still we cannot declare it to be a complete failure. It prepared the way for changes in future Europe. After this failure, nationalism learnt a lesson that it cannot proceed to success going through the path of liberalism. So after this failure, it got dissociated from liberalism and moved to militarism and the leadership of monarchy. Hence the rise of Cavour in Italy and that of Bismarck in Germany can be explained in this context.

■ **Crimean War (1854-56)**

- Crimean war proved a landmark event as it paved the way for the destruction of European order.
- France was revived under Napoleon-III and Napoleon-III was ready to play a major role in Europe. On the other side, Britain was suspicious about the Russian expansionist policy and its ambitious

plan in Balkan region. Therefore, Britain and France supported the Ottoman empire against Russia. Thus started the Crimean war.

- This war became a landmark event in Europe. In this war the reactionary power Russia was defeated and stayed away from the active politics of Europe. Not simply that, a conflict emerged between the two reactionist powers Russia and Austria. So, this was the clear cut decline of the reactionist power in Europe. Now, Austria was sole responsible for safeguarding the European system, but she was incapable of doing so. So, we have to understand the unification of Italy and that of Germany in this context also.

■ **Impact of Modern Nationalism in 19th century Europe :**



■ Unification of Italy –



- **Obstacles in unification of Italy** - The Italian region was divided into 7 states and obviously these states had independent rulers who did not accept the unification. Apart from that, northern and southern Italy was divided economically too. Northern Italy was relatively more developed in comparison to that of southern Italy. Furthermore, in the middle Italian region, some region was given to the Pope, so that the both parts of Italy could not be unified. On the other hand, there was also a difference of opinion regarding on the basis that what could be the nature of future unification and this unification could be carried under whose leadership– whether the unification should be carried out under the leadership of the Pope, or under the leadership of the monarch of Piedmont-Sardinia, or under the leadership of republic. In addition, one of the problems in the path of unification of Italy was that no change in Italy was possible without the approval of Austria.

- **Role of various personalities in the unification of Italy and the progress of the unification–**
- The Republicanist group wanted that the unification should be carried out under the leadership of the republic, as in Italy there was a long tradition of republicanism since the days of Roman Empire. The leader of this group was Mazzini and his disciple Garibaldi. But the course of events in future carried the movement of unification naturally in favour of monarchy. The monarch of Piedmont-Sardinia Victor Emmanuel II and his Prime Minister Count Cavour played very significant role in the unification.
- In this process, Count Cavour carried reforms in agriculture, worked for the promotion of industrialization. So, economically now Piedmont-Sardinia was in a better position. After that Cavour did a lot for the reorganization of the army of Piedmont-Sardinia. So, even on the military front, Piedmont-Sardinia became a powerful state.
- After strengthening internally, Cavour set his foot in international politics and befriended French president Louis Napoleon III while promising him to give the region of Nice and Savoy under the Treaty of Plombieres of 1858. He purchased the military support of France against the Austrian Empire. Then, after a military debacle of Austria, he could secure the region of Lombardy from the Austrian empire in 1859. Having been inspired by the success of Piedmont-Sardinia, a movement for unification started even in Parma, Modena and Tuscany in favour of Piedmont-Sardinia. Then once again Cavour, through French assistance, got success in conducting a referendum in these regions, as a result of which these regions were integrated with Piedmont-Sardinia. So the integration of

Northern Italy was almost over.

- Integration of Southern states became possible due to the role of Garibaldi who was a disciple of Mazzini, a republicanist. Through organizing a popular movement in southern Italian states Naples and Sicily, Garibaldi toppled the Bourbon government there, but still discarding his Republican ideals, he submitted both the states to the ruler of Piedmont-Sardinia, Victor Emmanuel II. Thus, a unified Italy emerged up to 1859-60. Italy could regain the region of Venetia from Austria and Rome from the Pope, one decade later, with the support of Germany. In this way, the unified Italy emerged.

■ Unification of Germany–



- **Obstacles in unification of Germany–** Germany was disintegrated into 39 states by the Congress of Vienna and each state ruled by independent rulers and they were placed under the control of Prussia. On the other hand, in Germany, there was a rivalry between the two powers i.e. Austria and Prussia. Apart from that, Germany was situated in the middle region of Europe so its unification could definitely hampered the balance of power in Europe. In fact, from the Treaty of Westphalia, European powers and especially France were stringent for the unification of Germany.
- **Progress in the unification of Germany–** At the beginning of 19th century there was

progress of nationalism in Germany and some German thinkers like John Herder, Fichte, Hegel rejected the universalism of enlightenment, rather they gave emphasis over the German unification. Further, the industrial revolution played a significant role in the unification of Germany. Infact, The Congress of Vienna provided the region of Rhineland to Prussia which was enriched with iron and coal. So, at the beginning of 19th century, industrial revolution had already been started in Prussia and it spread to the other parts of Germany. It resulted into the expansion of railways in Germany. So, the German market was better integrated as a result of the development of railways. Therefore, in 1834, there was the formation of a Custom Union known as Zollverein in Germany through which other German states became economically unified with Prussia. So, the economic-industrial factor played such a significant role in the unification of Germany. Even John Maynard Keynes, who was a British economist, declared that “It was not blood and iron rather iron and coal which made the unification of Germany possible”.

- It is true, economically, Prussia was integrated with the rest of Germany and Austria was isolated on this ground. But it is equally true that in spite of the economic integration, political integration was not possible till the demise of Austria as the political power. Therefore, an attempt was made by Prussia to bring a model of unification. The whole project turned out to be a failure due to the resistance from the side of Austria. So, the point became crystal clear that no future constitutional revolution in Germany was possible without a war with Austria. It is here, the role of Bismarck and the policy of blood and iron became decisive.
- Bismarck swam like a fish in the pond of international diplomacy and with a

proper mix between diplomacy and military might, he could give a concrete shape to the idea of unification. The following steps were taken by Bismarck -

1. Firstly, he moved to purchase the neutrality of France in a possible conflict between Prussia and the Austrian Empire. In 1865, through giving a vague hint to the French emperor Louis Napoleon III towards offering some region in Rhineland, he ensured French neutrality.
2. **Battle of Sadowa (1866)** - In this battle, Prussia militarily routed the Austrian Empire. Then on the basis of the treaty of Prague in March 1866, Northern German states were integrated with Prussia. So, northern German states were integrated with Prussia.
3. **Battle of Sedan (1870)** - Now, it had almost become clear for Bismarck that till Prussia knocked out France, German unification would not be completed as southern German states had remained under the influence of France and France would never have accepted their integration with Prussia. That's why Bismarck persistently provoked France for a war and finally his machination worked and France reacted to his provocation and finally the battle of Sedan took place in 1870, in which Prussia gave a crushing defeat to France. Then, on the basis of the Treaty of Frankfurt, France was forced to surrender the territories of Alsace and Lorraine to Germany. It became a bone of contention between the two resulting in two world wars.

■ Destructive Impact of Nationalism—

- Nationalism produced both the impact, unifying as well as dividing, on Europe in 19th century. In context of Italy and Germany, it produced a unifying impact. But in the context of old empires of Europe like Ottoman Empire, Habsburg Empire and Russian Empire it produced

a destabilizing impact. All the three empires were multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-religious in their character. When the process of modernization started in Europe, these empires remained aloof from the changes and the empires of eastern Europe remained to be medieval in nature. They could not modernize themselves. So when did the challenge of modern nationalism emerge, it was very difficult for them to tackle it as every racial group tried to project itself as a separate nation. The Ottoman Empire fell as the first prey to this nationalist pressure but Habsburg empire and Russian empire succeeded to tackle the disintegration. However, after the First World War, the European powers disintegrated the Habsburg empire, while the Russian empire remained integrated till the last decade of the 20th century. Further, in 1991 Russian empire disintegrated and at that time it was known as the 'Soviet Union.'

■ What was Balkan Question and why did it remain the All European question?



- The region in southeastern Europe under Ottoman empire was known as Balkans. The situation of the Ottoman Empire was quite different from other contemporary empires. As it was a Muslim empire but there was a larger Christian population under its periphery, so it became much prone to intervention from the Christian powers of Europe in the situation of any

sort of racial tension. This had following aspects -

1. The minority group influenced by nationalism demanded a separate nation in eastern Europe of the Ottoman empire.
2. It was itself a Muslim empire but its subjects in Eastern Europe were coming from Christianity. So, apart from racial division, religious division was also existed there.
3. The policy of the Concert of Europe was to suppress the separatist forces, but in the case of the Ottoman empire, European powers were sympathised with the minority groups on religious ground.
4. But up to the beginning of 19th century, it was converted into a sick man of Europe. So, different European powers were having their longing eye over the Ottoman Empire and they were inclined to benefit from their weak position.
5. But the interests of the European power collided with each other, so, there was a big confusion in their policy towards Turkey in the Ottoman Empire. For example, Russia was a neighbouring power of the Ottoman Empire. It was having a short term and a long term objective in the Ottoman Empire. The short term objective was to have control over two straits, Dardanelles and Bosphorus. After having control over two straits, Russia could come directly to the Mediterranean Sea from the Black Sea.



- Likewise, its long-term objective was to make a complete dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire and to capture a larger chunk of it. Britain was much suspicious about the Russian move, as she was worried about the fact that if the Ottoman Empire collapsed then the balance of power in Europe could be seriously disturbed. In that eventuality, the British route to eastern empire might have been blocked. That's why Britain always opposed to dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire but simultaneously, it was inclined to take some concessions from it. On the other hand, the Pan-Slav Movement was supported by Russia in Serbia and the Slav population demanded a separate Slav nation. But in this situation, with the Ottoman empire there was a possibility of dismemberment of Habsburg empire or Austrian empire and this resulted the discontentment between Austria and Russia.

- So, the Ottoman Empire was neither permitted to survive, nor to die. It was in this duality in the approach of European power that the Eastern Question (Balkan Question) laid in that time. In this way, it was this collision of interests that made the matter more complicated. This is known as Eastern Question and Eastern Question always became an international question. In fact, this eastern question finally invited the two world wars.

■ Disintegration of Ottoman Empire and emergence of new independent states -

- From the beginning of 19th century due to the rise of modern nationalism, the Ottoman Empire faced racial tensions. Then intervention by the European powers encouraged the process of disintegration.
 1. In 1821, Greece revolted against Turkey and finally got independence in 1832.

2. In 1859, the Rum population from Ottoman Empire got separated and there was the creation of separate Romania by combining Moldavia and Wallachia in 1859.
3. In the Berlin Congress, the independence of Serbia and Montenegro were confirmed in 1878.
4. With the initiation of the Bulagan population an independent nation Bulgaria was created in 1885.
5. In reaction to the Young Turk Movement, Balkan war started and the European powers intervened in the matter and the London conference took place in 1912-13. On the basis of this London conference, this war ended and an independent nation, Albania was created.



- With continuous disintegration, the Ottoman empire hampered and supported Germany in the First World War and they were defeated in the war. Therefore, an allied nation tried to abolish the Ottoman empire. Then, Mustafa Kemal Pasha, a Military General of Turkey, revolted against allied powers, when these powers tried to impose a humiliating treaty on Turkey. So, Turkey was saved from disintegration further. Now whatever was the remaining part of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Pasha converted it into a modern nation-state.

Question:- Nationalism was, definitely, a very powerful ideology of 19th century but it produced differing impact on contemporary Europe. Comment.

Answer: Nationalism emerged to be a major challenge to old order in Europe. Earlier it had worked in tandem with liberalism but latter it, while discarding liberal methods, moved to embrace opportunism. But on different parts of Europe its impact was visibly different and some time even contradictory. We can better understand it through following examples-

1. **As a Cementing Force-** West European countries had already been shaped up as unified states but then ideas of nationalism could give them a better internal consolidation. Therefore under the impact of new ideology countries like France, Britain, Spain etc. were crystallized as a modern nation.
2. **Unifying Force-** It worked as unifying force in context to divided regions like Italy and that of Germany. Italy and Germany were divided into separate states by the Congress of Vienna. Italy was fragmented into seven separate states while Germany into thirty-nine. But it was the force of nationalism coupled with military and diplomatic factors which made Italy and Germany unified.
3. **Destructive Force-** But, simultaneously nationalism produced detrimental impact on old empires i.e. Ottoman Empire, Habsburg Empire and Russian Empire. These were medieval empires and they were multi-racial and multi-lingual in nature. Under the influence of modern nationalism different racial and linguistic groups started to demand the right to self-judgment creating the fear of the collapse of these empires. Ottoman Empire came to face more formidable challenge in this regard.

In this way nationalism produced different impact on different parts of Europe.

Question:-French Revolution failed to achieve what it intended to achieve. Do you agree?

Answer: It is undeniable that in course of the French Revolution the gulf between promises and performance remained to be unbridged but still its significance cannot be undermined.

French Revolution started with lofty democratic slogan of liberty, equality and fraternity but very soon it drifted from its course. Then firstly it fell a prey to Jacobian terror as a result of which the revolution started to devour its own children and finally the revolution was hijacked by a military Junta under Napoleon. Even in Europe what was offered in the name of the revolution was nothing but merely the ideas of the revolution.

But in spite of the limitations mentioned above we cannot underrate the extent of change brought by the revolution. In France, feudalism became a thing of the past. Declaration of Rights of Men and citizen reflected the spirit of General will of Rousseau. There started an era of popular participation in politics. Outside of France, in Europe, the revolutionary ideals of liberalism and nationalism worked as formidable forces of change. Even the Vienna order succumbed to these ideals which resurfaced in course of the revolutions of 1830s and those of 1848. Last but not the least, the unification of Italy and that of Germany was the victory of revolutionary ideas.

Therefore, we can say that although French Revolution achieved less than but not far less than what it had intended to achieve.

Question: 19th century Europe continued to fight against the legacy of French Revolution itself. Examine the statement.

Answer: It is a well known proverb that dead Ceaser is stronger than Ceaser alive. It

happened in case of French Revolution as well. Although Napoleon, the emperor, was defeated in the battle of Waterloo but Napoleon, a revolutionary, survived this defeat and just as a specter continued to haunt the Ancien regime in Europe.

French Revolution left its legacy in the form of liberalism and nationalism which the Congress of Vienna had devised to dig dipper in the earth. But the Congress of Vienna was not able to bury these revolutionary ideas nor was it able to preserve the old order and a time came when Congress itself succumbed to the revolutionary forces.

The first big challenge before the Congress of Vienna was the revolutions of 1830s and those of 1848. These revolutions presented the demand of constitutional reforms in most of the countries but simultaneously the right to self-judgment in divided regimes like Italy and Germany, Vienna system received a jolt as the result of these revolutions as these revolutions resulted into the liberation of Greece (1832), that of Belgium (1833) and in the decline of legitimate government of France (1830).

But certainly, a more formidable challenge to the Congress of Vienna came from ambitious monarchy i.e. monarchy of Piedmont-Sardinia and that of Prussia. They completely shattered Vienna system through unifying the region of Italy and that of Germany under a single monarch.

But still the process did not stop here, nationalism as a much stronger ideological force started to threaten the unity and integrity of old empires i.e. Ottoman Empire, Habsburg Empire and Russian empires. Among them Ottoman Empire was certainly most affected entity as it witnessed its gradual fragmentation till the First World War.

Thus, it does not appear to be an exaggeration to say that French evolution left its wider imprint on 19th century Europe.

Food for Thought

- Who were opposed to changes in 19th century's Europe and why?
- How did Crimean War work as a major factor of change in 19th century Europe?
- How did Industrial Revolution help to consolidate the forces of change?
- How did nationalism create a situation of crisis within Ottoman Empire?

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