

The Schram Academy
Social science Notes
Nationalism in Europe (Part-1)
Class: X

Introduction

- In 1848, Frederic Sorrieu, a French artist, prepared a series of four print visualizing his dream of a world made up of 'democratic and social republic, as he called them.
- Artists of the time of the French Revolution personified Liberty as a female figure.
- According to Sorrieu's utopian vision, the peoples of the world are grouped as distinct nations, identified through their flags and national costume
- 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 the place of the multi-national dynastic empires of Europe.
- A modern state, in which a centralized power exercised sovereign control over a clearly defined territory, had been developing over a long period of time in Europe.
- 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.

The French Revolution and the idea of the Nation (Sub topic 1)

- The first clear expression of nationalism came with the French Revolution in 1789.
- 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 ideas of la patrie (the fatherland) and le citoyen (the citizen) emphasized the notion of a united community enjoying equal rights under a constitution.
- The Estates General was elected by the body of the active citizens and renamed the National Assembly.
- Internal customs duties and dues were abolished and a uniform system of weights and measures was adopted.
- The revolutionaries further declared that it was the mission and the destiny of the French nation to liberate the peoples of Europe from despotism.
- Students and other members of educated middle classes began setting up Jacobin club.
- Their activities and campaigns prepared the way for the French armies which moved into Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and much of Italy in the 1790's.
- The French armies began to carry the idea of nationalism abroad.
- French became the national language

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.

- Napoleon simplified administrative divisions,
- Abolished the feudal system and freed peasants from serfdom and manorial dues.
- Transport and communication systems were improved.

Demerits of the civil code

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 the Europe

The Making of Nationalism in Europe (Sub topic -2)

- Germany, Italy and Switzerland were divided into kingdoms, duchies and cantons whose rulers had their autonomous territories.
- They did not see themselves as sharing a collective identity or a common culture.
- The Habsburg Empire ruled over Austria Hungary.
- In Hungary, half of the population spoke Magyar while the other half of the spoke a variety of dialects.
- Besides these three dominant groups, there also lived within the boundaries of the empire.
- The only tie binding these diverse groups together was a common allegiance to the emperor

The Aristocracy and the new middle class

- Socially and politically, a landed aristocracy was the dominant class on the continent.
- The members of this class were by a common way of life that cut across regional divisions.
- Their families were often connected by ties if marriages.
- This powerful aristocracy was, however, numerically a small group. The growth of towns and the emergence of commercial classes whose existence was based on production for the market.
- Industrialization began in England in the second half of the eighteenth century, but in France and parts of the German states it occurred only during the nineteenth century.
- In its wake, new social groups came into being: a working-class population, and middle classes made up of industrialists, businessmen, professional.
- It was among the educated, liberal middle classes that ideas of national unity following the abolition of aristocratic privileges gained popularity

What did Liberal Nationalism Stand for?

- In early-nineteenth-century Europe were closely allied to the ideology of liberalism.
- The term 'liberalism' derives from the Latin root liber, meaning free.
- Liberalism stood for freedom for the individual and equality of all before the law.
- It emphasized the concept of government by consent.
- A constitution and representative government through parliament.
- The right to vote and to get elected was generated exclusively to property-owning men.
- Men without property and all women were excluded from political rights.
- Women and non-propertied men and women organised opposition movements demanding equal political rights
- liberalism stood for the freedom of markets and the abolition of state-imposed restrictions on the movement of goods and capital

Zollverein

- A merchant travelling in 1833 from Hamburg to Nuremberg to sell his goods would have to pass through 11 customs barriers and pay a customs duty of about 5% at each one of them.
- Obstacles to economic exchanges and growth by the new commercial classes, who argued for the creation of a unified economic territory allowing the unhindered movement of goods, people and capital.
- In 1834, a customs union or zollverein was formed at the initiative of Prussia and joined by most of the German states.
- The union abolished tariff barriers and reduced the number of currencies from over thirty to two. The creation of a network of railways further stimulated mobility harnessing economic interests to national unification.

A New Conservatism after 1815

- Following the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, European governments were driven by a spirit of conservatism.
- Most conservatives, however, did not propose a return to the society of pre-revolutionary days.
- That modernization could in fact strengthen traditional institutions like the monarchy.
- A modern army, an efficient bureaucracy, a dynamic economy, the abolition of feudalism and serfdom could strengthen the autocratic monarchies of Europe.

Treaty of Vienna 1815

In 1815, representatives of the European powers – Britain, Russia, Prussia and Austria – who had collectively defeated Napoleon, met at Vienna to draw up a settlement for Europe.

- 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.
- German confederation of 39 states that has been set up by Napoleon was left untouched.
- A series of states were set up on the boundaries of France to prevent French expansion in future
- 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,
- Austria was given control of northern Italy
- Russia was given part of Poland
- Prussia was given a portion of Saxony

The Revolutionaries

During the years following 1815, the fear of repression drove many liberal-nationalists underground.

Revolutionary at this time meant a commitment to oppose monarchical forms and to fight for liberty and freedom.

- **Giuseppe Mazzini**, born in Genoa in 1807,
- He became a member of the secret society of the Carbonari.
- He was sent into exile in 1831 for attempting a revolution in Liguria.
- Mazzini believed that god had intended nations to be the natural units of mankind.
- Secret societies were set up in Germany, France, Switzerland and Poland.
- Metternich described him as ‘The most dangerous enemy of our social order’