

CHAPTER -1 THE RISE OF NATIONALISM IN EUROPE

HISTORY

Chapter 1 The Rise of Nationalism in Europe

Q1. Who hosted 'Vienna Congress' in 1815? Analyse the main changes brought by the 'Vienna Treaty.'

Ans. The Congress of Vienna was held in 1815. It was hosted by Austrian Chancellor Duke Metternich.

The following changes were made:

- The Bourbon dynasty, which had been deposed during the French Revolution, was restored to power.
- France had to part with most of its territories which were annexed by Napoleon.
- A large number of States were set up on the boundaries of France to prevent its further expansion. Thus, the 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, while Austria was given control of Northern Italy.
- The German Confederation of 39 states that had been set up by Napoleon was left untouched. In the east, Russia was given part of Poland while Prussia was given a portion of Saxony.

Q2. Analyse the measures and practices introduced by the French revolutionaries to create a sense of collective identity amongst the French people.

Ans.

The French revolutionaries introduced various measures and practices that created a sense of collective identity among the French people:

- i. They introduced the ideas of La Patrie (the fatherland) and Le Citoyen (the citizen) emphasizing the concept of a united community enjoying equal rights under a constitution.
- ii. They choose a new French flag, the tricolor, to replace the Royal Standard.
- iii. Estates General was elected by the body of active citizens and renamed the National Assembly.
- iv. New hymns were composed and martyrs commemorated all in the name of the nation.

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- v. A centralized system of administration was introduced, uniform laws were made for all citizens. vi. French language was spoken and written and became a common language in Paris.

Q3. Why were the years of 1830's of great hardship in Europe? Explain any five reasons.

Ans.

The decade of 1830 had brought great economic hardship or crisis in Europe due to the following reasons:

- The first half of the nineteenth century saw an increase in population, all over Europe. There was a scarcity of jobs and few employment opportunities
- Migration of rural people to the cities further made the situation worse.
- Small scale producers in towns sometimes faced with stiff competition from rural areas where production was carried out mainly in homes or small workshops. These products imported from rural areas were obviously cheaper than town-made products.
- In those parts of Europe where aristocracy was strong and enjoyed enormous powers, the peasants groaned under the burden of feudal dues and taxation.
- Due to population, the demand for food increased. It led to rise in food prices. This increased price along with a year of bad harvests led to widespread pauperism in towns and country.

Q4. How did culture play an important role in Europe in creating the idea of the nation?

Ans.

Culture played an important role in creating the idea of a nation in Europe in the following ways:

- Art, music, literature, and drama helped to express, shape and strengthen nationalist sentiments.
- Romantics like the German philosopher Johann Gottfried Herder held the view that true German culture could be discovered only among the common people, the *das Volk*.
- The glorification of reason and science was criticised by the romantic artists, rather they favoured emotions, intuitions and mystical feelings.
- Language too boosted nationalism. The Polish people opposed the

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Russian occupation and the ban on the Polish language, by using it in the Church gathering for all religious ceremonies and for religious instruction. The Polish language became a weapon of the nationalists.

- Operas and music, like that of Karol Kurpinski, kept alive the national spirit. vii. Folk dances like the polonaise and mazurka became national symbols.

Q5. Explain the 1848 revolution of the liberals. What were the political, social and economic ideas supported by the liberals?

Ans.

The 1848 revolution was led by the educated middle class along with the poor, unemployed, starving peasants and workers in many European countries for fulfilling their demands of constitutionalism with national unification.

Following were the political, social and economic ideas supported by the liberals:

i. **Political ideas:** The ideology of liberalism supported the ideas of national unity and abolition of aristocratic privileges. In German regions, a large number of political associations whose members were middle-class professionals, businessman and prosperous artisans came together in the city of Frankfurt and decided to vote for all German National Assembly.

ii. **Social ideas:** A large number of women had participated actively and formed their own political associations founded a newspaper, took part in political meetings and struggled for the right to vote. They supported freedom for the individual and the idea of equality of all before the law.

iii. **Economic ideas:** Liberalism stood for the freedom of markets and the abolition of state-imposed restrictions on the movement of goods and capital.

Q6. With reference to Scotland and Ireland, explain how British nationalism grew at the cost of other cultures.

Ans.

- Through the Act of Union (1707), England was able to impose its influence on Scotland.
- The growth of British identity in Parliament suppressed the distinctive culture of Scotland.
- The Catholic clans that inhabited the Scottish Highland suffered

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repression.

- They were forcibly driven out of their homeland.
- Ireland was deeply divided between Catholics and Protestants.
- The English helped the Protestants to establish dominance over the largely Catholic country.
- Catholics revolted against this dominance but were suppressed. Wolfe Tone and his United Irishmen led a revolt but failed.
- As the English nation grew in power and influence, Ireland's distinctive culture and language were suppressed.
- Ireland was forcibly incorporated in the UK.

Q7. How did nationalism and the idea of nation-state emerge? Describe.

Ans.

- i. Nationalism and the idea of the nation-state emerged within the culturally and regionally diverse groups of Europe.
- ii. Socially and politically, a landed aristocracy was the dominant class on the continent. The members of this class were united by a common way of life that cut across the regional division. They spoke French for the purpose of diplomacy and in high society.
- iii. Due to industrialisation and transformation of society, there emerged a middle-class consisting of businessmen, working professionals, industrialists, labourers and working-class people.
- iv. Industrialisation began in England in the second half of the 18th century but in France and German states, it occurred only during 19th century. In its wake, new social groups came into being.
- v. Out of these, the educated middle-class people thought of uniting the culturally compatible sections of people in Europe by abolishing the privileges enjoyed by the aristocracy.
- vi. It was among the educated liberal middle class that ideas of national unity and abolition of aristocratic privileges gained popularity.
- vii. Nations began to be perceived as having a definite territory and flag, together with a Parliament which was elected by property-owning men of the middle class.
- viii. This led to nationalism and emergence of the idea of the nation-state.

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Q8. Describe the process of Unification of Britain.

Ans. In Britain, the formation of a nation-state was not the result of a sudden upheaval, revolution or national struggle but of a long drawn out parliamentary process.

The process of unification of Britain is as follows:

- i) Britain was not a nation-state prior to 18th century. England had people of many ethnic groups such as English, Welsh, Scot and Irish with their own cultural and political traditions.
- ii) The English nation steadily grew in importance, wealth and power and extended her influence over other nations of the island.
- iii) In 1688, England established as a nation-state. English parliament seized power from the monarchy.
- iv) In 1707 the Act of Union between England and Scotland led to the formation of the 'United Kingdom of Great Britain'.
- v) England dominated Scotland and Ireland in all spheres. British Parliament was dominated by English members.
- vi) Ireland was forcibly taken by the British after the failed revolution led by Wolfe and his United Irishmen (1798) and a new "British Nation" was formed.

Q9. "Napoleon had destroyed democracy in France but in the administrative field, he had incorporated revolutionary principles in order to make the whole system more rational and efficient." Analyse the statement with arguments.

Ans.

- Napoleon had destroyed democracy in France but in the administrative field, he had incorporated revolutionary principles in order to make the whole system more rational and efficient. Revolutionary principles of administration by Napoleon are as follows:
- The Napoleonic Code of 1804 removed privileges by birth. Everyone was equal before the law and got the right to property. The code was

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used in regions under French control.

- Simplified administrative divisions.
- Feudal system was abolished and freed peasants from serfdom and manorial dues.
- Guild restrictions were removed in towns. Artisan, peasants, businessmen, and workers found new freedom for doing their work.
- Uniform laws, standardized weights, and measures along with a common currency made exchange and movement of goods far easier.
- Transport and communication systems were improved.

Q 10. Describe the explosive conditions that prevailed in Balkans after 1871 in Europe.

Ans.

The most serious source of nationalist tension in Europe after 1871 was the area called the Balkans.

- i. The Balkans was a region of geographical and ethnic variation comprising modern days Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, and Macedonia whose inhabitants were broadly known as Slavs.
- ii. A large part of Balkans was under the control of the Ottoman Empire.
- iii. The spread of ideas of Romantic Nationalism in the Balkans together with the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire made this region explosive.
- iv. All throughout the 19th century, the Ottoman Empire had sought to strengthen itself.
- v. The Balkan people based their claims for independence or political rights on nationality and used history for their claim. Balkan also became the scene of rivalry among big powers.

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