

Ch 1 - The Rise of Nationalism in Europe

1 Write a short note on :

(a) Giuseppe Mazzini

Ans in Giuseppe Mazzini (1807-1872) was an Italian politician, journalist and activist for the unification of Italy and spearhead the Italian revolutionary movement. His efforts helped bring about the independent and unified Italy in place of several separate states, many dominated by foreign powers.

(i) He also helped define the modern European movement for popular democracy in a republican state.

(ii) Mazzini was a fervent advocate of republicanism and envisioned a united, free and independent Italy.

(iii) Unlike his contemporary Garibaldi, who was also a republican, Mazzini never compromised his republican ideas and refused to swear an oath of allegiance to the house of Savoy.

(iv) Mazzini was the spiritual force of the Italian resurrection. He joined the Carbonari, a revolutionary organisation and was arrested in 1830. He was sent into exile in 1831 for attempting a revolution in Liguria. He subsequently founded two more underground societies, first - Young Italy in Marseille and then Young Europe in Bern, whose members were like-minded young men from Poland, France, Italy and the German states.

(v) 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. Mazzini was in favour of a republic because he thought sovereignty resides essentially in the people and can only completely express itself in that form. 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'.

(vii) (iv) Young Italy attempted many insurrections but were unsuccessful. Mazzini failed his objects because ~~his~~ he himself lacked some of the qualities of practical leadership. He underestimated the strength of the opposition. But in spite of these drawbacks he is one of the chief makers of Italy. He was responsible for the growth of patriotism for a country that existed as yet only in the imagination.

(b) Count Camillo de Cavour.

Ans (i) Cavour was a great realist who practiced realistic politics. He allied with France when necessary.

(ii) Cavour used international power to achieve his domestic goals. He devoted himself to the liberation of northern Italy from Austrian domination. A brilliant and steadfast diplomat, he played a leading role in the unification of Italy.

(iii) He was ~~helpful~~ distrustful of the reactionary politics in force throughout Europe, particularly this manifestation in the repressive rule of Austria over the large area of Italy.

(iv) He became Chief Minister of Piedmont in 1852. He reorganized its army and it achieved rapid growth in

material prosperity. Through a tactful diplomatic alliance with France, Sardinia - Piedmont succeeded in defeating the Austrian forces in 1869.

- (v) Apart from regular troops, a large number of armed volunteers under the leadership of Giuseppe Garibaldi joined the fight. In 1860, they marched into South Italy and the Kingdom of Two Sicilies and with the support of the local peasants drove out the Spanish rulers. Thus, Cavour was ultimately successful in the unification of Italy under King Victor Emmanuel II. He, however, died on June 6, 1861, before the completion of the unification of Italy in 1870. Although Cavour was neither a revolutionary nor a democrat, he played an important role in the unification of Italy.

(c) The Greek war of Independence.

Ans (i) The Greek War of independence, also known as the Greek Revolution was a successful war of independence waged by the Greek revolutionaries between 1821 and 1832 against the Ottoman Empire.

(ii) The Greeks were later assisted by the Russian Empire, Great Britain, France and several other European powers, while the Ottomans were aided by Vassals, Egypt, Algeria, etc.

(iii) Events: Greece had been a part of Ottoman Empire since the 15th Century. The growth of revolutionary nationalism in Europe sparked off a struggle for independence amongst the Greeks which began in 1821.

- (vi) The object of the struggle was to expel Turks from Europe and to establish the old Greek eastern empire.
- (v) Nationalists in Greece were supported by other Greeks living in exile and many West European countries.
- (vii) Poets and artists lauded Greece as the cradle of European civilisation. They mobilised public opinion to support to its struggle against a Muslim empire. The Empire poet Lord Byron organized funds and later went to fight in the war.
- ### Ultimately, the Treaty of Constantinople of 1832 recognised Greece as an independent nation. Its independence was guaranteed by Russia, England and France.

(d) Frankfurt Parliament

Ans (i) Frankfurt Parliament (1848-49) was convened at Frankfurt on May 18, 1848 as a result of the liberal revolution that swept the German states early in 1848.

- (ii) The Parliament was called by a preliminary assembly of German liberals in March 1848 and its members were elected by the direct manhood suffrage. They represented the entire political spectrum and included the foremost German figures of that time. Its purpose was to plan the unification of Germany.
- (iii) The conflict among the traditionally separate German states, notably Austria and Prussia, made progress difficult.

(iv) In March 1849 the parliament adopted a federal constitution of German states, excluding Austria, with a parliamentary government and a hereditary emperor. Frederick William IV of Prussia was chosen emperor but he refused to accept the crown from a popularly elected assembly and the entire scheme failed.

(v) Most of the representatives withdrew and the remainder were dispersed. The parliament, therefore, accomplished nothing as troops were called and the assembly was forced to disband.

(e) The role of women in nationalist struggles.

A(ii) Women played a very important role in nationalist struggles all over the world. They participated equally mostly in every moment. They faced torture of police but still they stood by their male counterparts.

(ii) A large number of women participated actively in political matters over the years. Sometimes they led the movement also, formed many political associations, founded newspapers and took part in political meetings and demonstrations. The most famous example is the French revolution where women participated equally as men.

(iii) Liberty is personified as a woman and also liberal nationalism proposed the idea of universal suffrage, leading to women's active participation in nationalist movements in Europe. So, on 18th May 1848, when the Constitution was drafted in the Frankfurt Parliament the controversial issue of extending

political rights to women was raised.

- (iv) Still women were deprived of suffrage during the election of the assembly and they were admitted in the Frankfurt Parliament Assembly only as spectators. But this did not diminish their contribution to the national struggle.
- (v) Delphine De Girardin, an educated woman, criticized by saying that if servants doing the household work were ~~gained~~ granted the right to vote then why not women who are mothers, housewives, managing everything at home. Women were given little or no political rights, rights to vote, etc. till the end of 19th Century.

3.

2. What steps did the French revolutionaries take to create a sense of collective identity among the French people?

Ans: (i) From the very beginning, the French revolutionaries introduced various measures and practices that could create a sense of collective identity amongst the French people.

(ii) 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.

(iii) A new French flag, the tricolour, was chosen to replace the former royal standard.

(iv) The Estates General was elected by the body of active citizens and renamed the National Assembly.

(v) New hymns were composed, oaths taken and martyrs commemorated, all in the name of the nation.

- (vi) A centralised administrative system was put in place and it formulated uniform laws for all citizens within its territory.
- (vii) Internal customs duties & and dues were abolished and a uniform system of weights and ~~measures~~ was adopted.
- (viii) Regional dialects were discouraged and French, as it was spoken and written in Paris, became the common language of the nation.

3. Who were Marianne and Germania? What was the importance of the way in which they were portrayed?

Ans (i) In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, artists represented the country as if it were a person. Nations were portrayed as female figures that sought to give the abstract idea of the nation a concrete ~~for~~ form.

(ii) The female form that was chosen to personify the nation did not stand for any particular women in real life. Thus, in France, she was christened Marianne, a popular Christian name, which underlined the idea of people's nation.

(iii) Her characteristics were drawn from those of liberty and the Republic - the red cap, the tricolor, the cockade.

(iv) Statues of Marianne were installed in public squares to remind the public of the national symbols of unity and to persuade them to identify

with it. Marianne images were marked on coins and stamps too.

- (iv) Similarly, Germania became the allegatory of the German nation. In visual representations, Germania wears a crown of oak leaves, because the German oak stands for heroism. The importance of the way in which they were portrayed was to remind the public of their national symbols of unity and to persuade them to identify with them.

4. Briefly trace the process of German unification.

Ans (i) Nationalist feelings were widespread among middle class Germans, who in 1848 tried to unite the different regions of the German confederation into a nationalist state governed by an elected parliament. This liberal initiative to nation-building was, however, repressed by the combined forces of the monarchy and the military, supported by the large landowners (called junkers) of Prussia.

(ii) From then on, Prussia took on the leadership of the movement for the national unification. Its chief ministers, Otto von Bismarck, was the architect of this process carried out with help of the Prussian army and bureaucracy.

(iii) 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.

Discuss

1 Explain what is meant by the 1848 revolution of liberals. What were the political, social and economic ideas supported by the liberals?

Ans i) 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. The memory of the French Revolution nonetheless continued to inspire liberals.

(ii) One of the major issues taken up by the liberal - nationalists, who criticised the new conservative order, was freedom of press.

(iii) Parallel to the revolts of the poor, unemployed and starving peasants and workers in many European countries in the year 1848, a revolution led by the educated middle classes was under way.

(iv) Events of February 1848 in France had brought about the abdication of the monarch and a republic based on universal male suffrage had been proclaimed. In other parts of Europe where independent nation - states did not exist - such as Germany, Italy, Poland, the Austro - Hungarian Empire - men and women of the liberal middle classes combined their demands for constitutionalism with national unification.

v) They took advantage of growing population unrest to push their demands for the creation of a

nation - state on parliamentary principles - a constitution, freedom of the press and freedom of association.

2. How was the history of nationalism in Britain unlike the rest of Europe?

A(i) In Britain, the formation of the nation states was not the result of a sudden upheaval or revolution. It was the result of a long-drawn-out process. There was not a British nation prior to the eighteenth century.

(ii) The primary identities of the peoples 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.

(iii) The English Parliament, which had seized power from the monarchy in 1688 at the end of a protracted conflict, was the instrument through which a nation-state, with England at its centre, came to be forged.

(iv) 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.

(v) 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.

3. Why did nationalist tension emerge in the Balkans?

- A (i) The most serious source of nationalist tension in Europe after 1871 was the area called the Balkans. The Balkans was a region of geographical and ethnic variation comprising modern-day Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia - Herzegovina, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro whose inhabitants broadly known as the Slavs.
- (ii) A large part of the Balkans was under control of the Ottoman Empire. The spread of the ideas of romantic nationalism in the Balkans together with the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire made this region very explosive.
- (iii) All through the nineteenth century the Ottoman Empire had sought to strengthen itself through modernisation and internal reforms but with very little success.
- (iv) One by one, its European subject nationalities broke away from its control and declared independence. The Balkan peoples based their claims for independence or political rights on subsequently been subjugated by foreign powers.
- ⇒ Hence the rebellious nationalities in the Balkans thought of their struggles as attempts to win back their long-lost independence.