

The Rise of Nationalism in Europe



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1. Introduction to Nationalism

- Nationalism is the feeling of love, pride, and loyalty towards one's nation.
- In the 18th and 19th centuries, nationalism emerged as a powerful force in shaping modern nation-states.
- Europe saw intense political and social changes, especially after the French Revolution



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Introduction to Nationalism – Detailed Explanation

What is Nationalism?

- **Nationalism** refers to a strong sense of attachment, loyalty, and pride in one's nation, its culture, and its values.
- It encourages people to see themselves as part of a shared identity—based on language, history, territory, traditions, or political ideals.
- It often leads to demands for **self-governance, freedom from foreign control**, and the creation of **nation-states**

Emergence in the 18th and 19th Centuries

- Before nationalism, Europe was dominated by **monarchies and empires** with diverse populations, ruled by royal families with little regard for people's cultural or linguistic identities.
- **The French Revolution (1789)** played a crucial role in spreading the ideas of **liberty, equality, and fraternity**.
- People began to believe that sovereignty should lie with the citizens—not kings—and that they should have a say in how they are governed.
- The growing influence of **liberalism and democracy** encouraged people across Europe to seek national unity and political participation.

Widespread Social and Political Changes



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- The Revolution challenged the old feudal structure and stimulated ideas of **citizenship and national** belonging.
- Napoleon Bonaparte's conquests spread revolutionary ideals but also led to **resistance**, as people began to develop their own sense of national identity, especially when threatened by foreign rule.
- There was an explosion of **revolutionary movements**, particularly in the 1830s and 1848, as various ethnic and cultural groups sought **independence and self-determination**.



Key Ideas Driving Nationalism

| Idea | Meaning | Influence |
|------------|--|--|
| Liberty | Freedom from oppression, both political and economic | Empowered people to challenge monarchs |
| Equality | Equal rights for all citizens, no feudal privileges | Inspired social reform movements |
| Fraternity | Unity and brotherhood among citizens | Strengthened the call for national unity |



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Visual Summary

Imagine a map of Europe in the early 1800s: full of empires (like the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires), where people spoke different languages and followed unique customs—but had no national government representing their shared identity. Nationalism turned that patchwork into a canvas of modern nation-states.

2. Impact of the French Revolution (1789)

- Introduced **liberty, equality, fraternity** – key ideas of nationalism.
- Ended monarchy and feudal privileges in France.
- Inspired people across Europe to fight for freedom and national identity.
- Napoleon carried these ideas through Europe but later became authoritarian, leading to resistance.

Napoleon's Role in Spreading Nationalism – Detailed Explanation



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1. Napoleon as a Torchbearer of Revolutionary Ideals

- After the French Revolution, Napoleon rose to power promising to uphold the values of **liberty, equality, and fraternity**.
- **He introduced the Napoleonic Code (1804)** in conquered territories:
 - Abolished feudal privileges and established legal equality.
 - Promoted property rights, meritocracy, and freedom of religion.
 - Streamlined administrative systems and modernized governance.
- These reforms were initially welcomed—especially by middle class liberals and reformists in regions like Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands.

2. Shift Toward Authoritarian Rule

- Napoleon crowned himself **Emperor of France in 1804**, signaling the return of **centralized autocracy**.
- His governance became increasingly **militaristic and expansionist**.
 - Used force to **annex territories** and impose French dominance.
 - Curbed political dissent, censored the press, and limited civil liberties.
- People realized that while Napoleon brought **modern reforms**, he also acted like a **foreign ruler imposing control**.



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3. Growing Resistance Across Europe

- Conquered regions started to see Napoleon not as a liberator, but as a **conqueror**:
- Local populations resented the **heavy taxation** and **forced conscription** into French armies.
- Nationalist leaders and thinkers encouraged **rebellion** against French dominance.
- **Spain, Germany, Italy, and Russia** saw uprisings and **guerrilla warfare**.

4. Napoleon's Downfall and Legacy

- The failed invasion of **Russia in 1812** marked a turning point—massive losses and weakening of French power
- A coalition of European powers defeated Napoleon in 1815 at the **Battle of Waterloo**.
- His fall led to the **Congress of Vienna**, which aimed to restore monarchies and suppress nationalist movements.
- Ironically, his rule planted the **seeds of nationalism** that would later drive the **unification of Germany and Italy**, and inspire independence struggles.



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Summary Table

| Stage | Actions | Reaction |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Initial Reforms | Abolished feudalism, promoted merit | Welcomed by reformers and liberals |
| Authoritarian Rule | Expansionism, censorship, conscription | Resentment and resistance grew |
| Fall & Impact | Defeated by European powers | Spread of nationalist ideas remained |

3. The Napoleonic Code (1804)

- Abolished feudal privileges and promoted equality before law.
- Encouraged merit-based society and simplified administrative systems.
- Despite reforms, Napoleon's conquests were seen as imperialism, sparking nationalist uprisings.

4. Congress of Vienna (1815)

- Held after Napoleon's defeat to restore old monarchies.
- Aimed to suppress revolutionary and nationalist movements.
- Re-established conservative regimes in Europe.



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Congress of Vienna (1815) – Detailed Explanation

1. Historical Context

- After years of revolutionary upheaval and **Napoleon's military campaigns**, Europe was politically unstable.
- Napoleon was finally defeated at the **Battle of Waterloo** in 1815.
- European monarchies wanted to ensure **political stability**, restore their power, and prevent future revolutions.

2. Main Objectives of the Congress

| Objective | Description |
|--|--|
| ✓ Restore Old Monarchies | Reinstall royal families removed by Napoleon (e.g., Bourbon dynasty in France). |
| ✗ Suppress Nationalism & Revolution | Limit the spread of democratic and nationalist ideals introduced by the French Revolution. |
| ↔ Redraw Europe's Political Boundaries | Reorganize territories to balance power and prevent domination by any one state. |
| 🔒 Maintain Conservative Order | Strengthen traditional monarchies and social hierarchies. |



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3. Key Participants

The major powers that dominated the Congress were:

- **At Austria** – represented by **Prince Klemens von Metternich** (a strong opponent of liberal ideas)
- **RU Russia** – represented by **Tsar Alexander I.**
- **GB Britain** – represented by **Lord Castlereagh.**
- **FR France** – surprisingly allowed to participate, represented by **Talleyrand.**
- **PR Prussia** – focused on strengthening its position in central Europe.

4. Major Outcomes

Territorial Adjustments

- **France's borders** were reduced to pre-Napoleon levels.
- **Austria** gained control over northern Italy.
- **Russia** got Poland and Finland.
- **Prussia** expanded its territory in western Germany.
- **The German Confederation** replaced the old Holy Roman Empire—though it was still weak. **Restoration of Monarchies**
- Monarchs returned to power in **France, Spain**, and various Italian states.
- The idea was to ensure that **legitimate rulers** (those of royal blood) governed their rightful territories. **Suppression of Nationalism**
- Nationalist demands in regions like **Italy, Germany**, and **Poland** were ignored.
- **Censorship, surveillance**, and **repression** became tools to suppress liberal movements.
- **Metternich's system** relied on alliances and spies to prevent revolutions.



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5. Conservative Reaction

- The Congress marked the beginning of a "**Conservative Era**" in Europe (1815–1848).
- Governments focused on preserving monarchy, religion, and aristocracy.
- Rebellions and demands for democracy and national unity were often crushed by force.

Summary Table

| Element | Details |
|---------------------|--|
| When & Where | 1815, Vienna, Austria |
| Purpose | Restore old order and contain revolutionary ideals |
| Element | Details |
| Key Powers Involved | Austria, Russia, Britain, France, Prussia |
| Political Result | Monarchy reinstated, liberalism suppressed |
| Long-term Effect | Rise of suppressed nationalism leading to future revolutions |



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5. Revolutionary Movements (1830 & 1848)

1830 Uprisings:

- Belgium broke away from Netherlands.
- Greek War of Independence (against Ottoman Empire).
- French July Revolution led to constitutional monarchy. 1848 Revolution:
- Known as the “**Spring of Nations.**”
- Demanded democratic governance and national unification.
- Although mostly suppressed, it sowed seeds for future change.

Revolutionary Movements of 1830 – Detailed Explanation

1. Backdrop of 1830 Revolutions

- **The Congress of Vienna** (1815) restored old monarchies and suppressed liberal ideas.
- But the spirit of **nationalism**, **liberalism**, and **republicanism** kept growing beneath the surface.
- These ideals sparked revolts across Europe, especially among ethnic groups and middle-class liberals.

2. BE Belgium's Independence from the Netherlands

- Belgium was forced to unite with the Dutch under the **Kingdom of the Netherlands** (1815), despite having different:
 - Language (Belgian spoke French, Dutch spoke Dutch),
 - Religion (Belgium was Catholic, Dutch were Protestant),
 - Economies (Belgium was industrial, Dutch were trade focused).



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- In 1830, protests turned into a full-scale revolution:
- With the support of France and Britain, Belgium declared independence.
- It became a constitutional monarchy, and Leopold I was made king.

3. GR Greek War of Independence (1821–1832)

(Note: began earlier but climaxed around 1830)

- Greece had been under **Ottoman rule** for centuries.
- Inspired by:
 - The **French Revolution**,
 - Support from Romantic thinkers in Europe who saw Greece as the cradle of Western civilization.
- Greek nationalists launched a rebellion in 1821:
 - It gained support from **Britain, France, and Russia**.
 - Famous figures like **Lord Byron** even fought alongside Greek rebels.
- By 1832, Greece was recognized as an **independent nation** through the Treaty of Constantinople.

4. 🇫🇷 French July Revolution (1830)

- After the fall of Napoleon, the **Bourbon monarchy** was restored in France.
- King **Charles X**, a conservative ruler, tried to reverse revolutionary gains:
 - He dissolved parliament,
 - Censored the press,
 - Limited voting rights
- This triggered massive protests in July 1830:
- Charles X was forced to abdicate.



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- A more **liberal monarchy** was established under **Louis Philippe**, known as the “Citizen King”.
- Though still a monarchy, it was **constitutional**—with some civil liberties and representation

Summary Table

| Region | Cause | Outcome |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Belgium | Cultural, religious & economic divide | Became independent in 1830 |
| Greece | Nationalism & foreign support | Independence recognized in 1832 |
| France | Reaction against conservative rule | Louis Philippe's constitutional monarchy |

6. Role of Liberal Nationalists

- Mostly middle-class educated Europeans.
- Believed in constitutional governance, freedom of press, and equality before law.
- Advocated economic freedom and national unification.

Role of Liberal Nationalists – Detailed Explanation



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1. Who Were the Liberal Nationalists?

- Mostly **middle-class Europeans**: lawyers, teachers, merchants, writers, and government officials.
- Educated and influenced by Enlightenment thinkers and the legacy of the **French Revolution**.
- Often members of secret societies like **Young Europe**, pushing for political change behind the scenes.

2. Core Beliefs & Ideologies

Constitutional Governance

- Favoured **written constitutions** and **representative parliaments**.
- Wanted to end absolute monarchies and promote **people's sovereignty**.
- Believed governments should protect civil liberties and be accountable to citizens.

Freedom of Press & Expression

- Demanded **free press**, independent journalism, and unrestricted access to information.
- Believed censorship was a tool of oppressive regimes.
- Considered **political debate** essential for national progress.

Equality Before Law

- Opposed **feudal privileges** and **aristocratic dominance**.
- Supported **uniform legal codes** that applied to all citizens regardless of birth or class.
- Promoted **merit-based systems** over hereditary rights.



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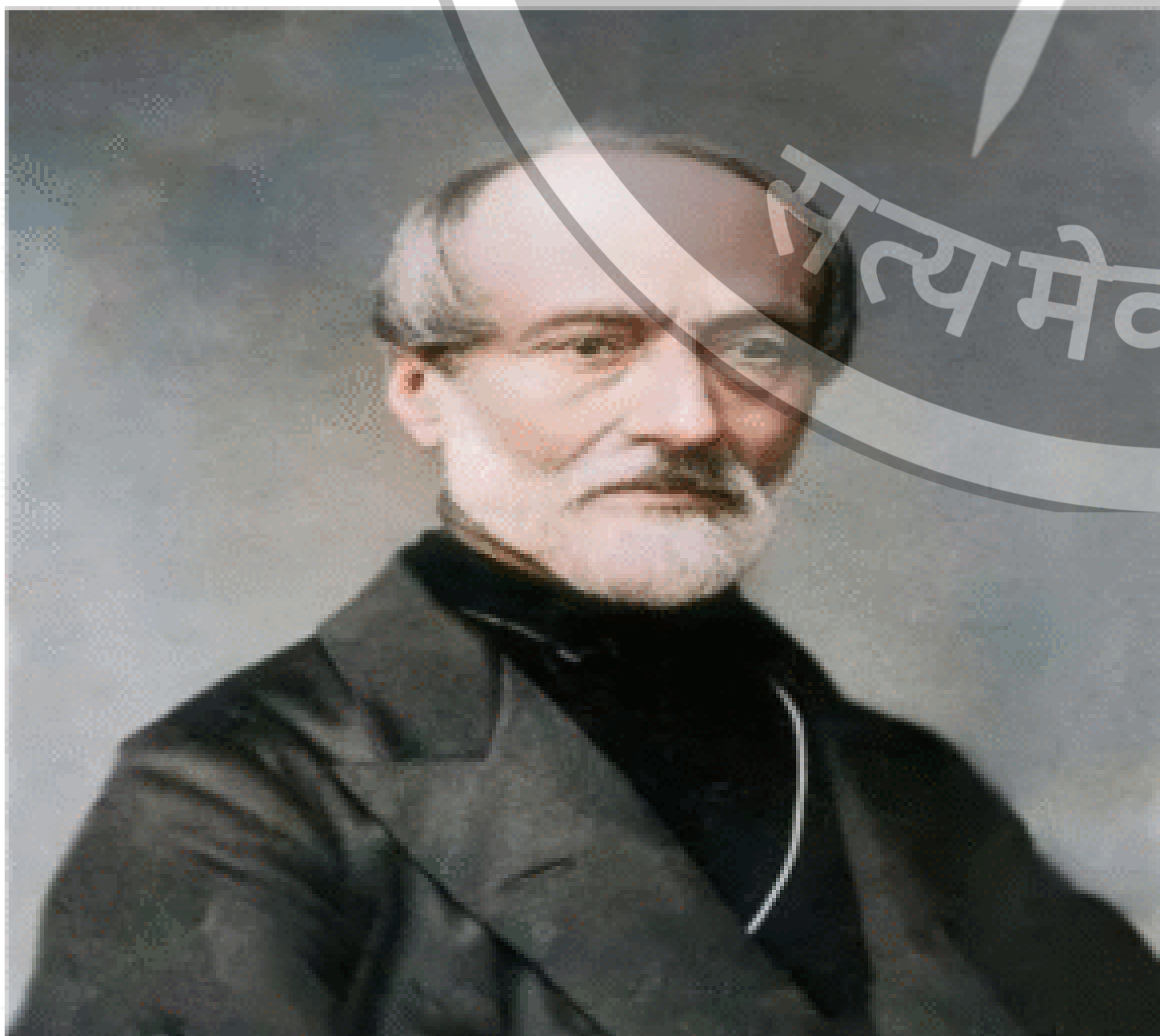
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3. Economic Aspirations

- Supported the creation of **national markets**: removal of internal customs, trade barriers, and fragmented taxes.
- Believed economic unity would strengthen national identity and power.
- Wanted to encourage **entrepreneurship, industrialization, and free trade** across regions.

4. Push for National Unification

- Opposed politically fragmented regions ruled by foreign powers (e.g., Austria controlling Italian and German states).
- Championed the idea of **nation-states**: territories united by common language, culture, and history.
- Inspired major unification movements:
- In **Italy**: Giuseppe Mazzini's Young Italy promoted republican nationalism.



Giuseppe Mazzini



count cavour



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Garibaldi

- In **Germany**: Intellectuals and reformers pushed for unity under constitutional leadership.

5. Challenges Faced

- Faced harsh repression from conservative regimes that feared revolutions.
- Secret societies were often **banned**, members **arrested or exiled**.
- Many revolts failed initially, but laid the **ideological foundation** for future success.

Summary Table

| Aspect | Liberal Nationalist Position |
|---------------|--|
| Government | Constitutional rule, representative assemblies |
| Civil Rights | Free press, speech, legal equality |
| Economy | Unified markets, industrial growth, trade liberalization |
| National Goal | Formation of cohesive, independent nation-states |



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7. Unification of Italy

- Divided into kingdoms and controlled by foreign powers (e.g., Austria).
- Key leaders:
 - **Giuseppe Mazzini:** The soul – founded Young Italy.
 - **Count Cavour:** The brain – formed strategic alliances.
 - **Giuseppe Garibaldi:** The sword – led military campaigns.
- United by 1870 under King Victor Emmanuel II.

Unification of Italy – Detailed Explanation

1. Background

- Before the 19th century, Italy was **not one unified country**. It was a patchwork of kingdoms, duchies, and foreign-controlled territories.
- Key regions:
 - **Lombardy and Venetia** – under Austrian rule
 - **Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont** – independent and progressive
 - **Papal States** – under the Pope's authority
 - **Kingdom of the Two Sicilies** – ruled by the Spanish Bourbons



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2 Key Figures in Unification

| Leader | Role & Contribution |
|-------------------------|---|
| Giuseppe Mazzini | The “Soul” – inspired revolutionary nationalism through Young Italy |
| Count Camillo di Cavour | The “Brain” – strategic diplomat and PM of Sardinia-Piedmont |
| Giuseppe Garibaldi | The “Sword” – military leader who liberated southern Italy |
| Victor Emmanuel II | King of Sardinia-Piedmont and later united Italy’s monarch |

3. Role of Giuseppe Mazzini

- Founded **Young Italy** in 1831 to promote national unity and republican ideals.
- Believed in a **united, democratic Italy**, free from foreign rule.
- Though most uprisings he inspired failed, he **ignited the fire of nationalism** across Italian states.



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4. Diplomatic Moves by Count Cavour

- Prime Minister of Sardinia-Piedmont (1852).
- Strengthened the kingdom's **economy, military, and infrastructure.**
- Formed an alliance with **France (Napoleon III)** against Austria.
- In **1859**, after war with Austria:
- Sardinia gained **Lombardy**
- Sparked revolts in other northern states wanting to join Sardinia

5. Giuseppe Garibaldi's Military Campaigns

- Led the famous **Expedition of the Thousand** in 1860:
 - With his volunteer army (the **Red Shirts**), he sailed to Sicily and **defeated Bourbon** forces.
 - Liberated **Southern Italy**—Sicily and Naples.
- Instead of ruling independently, Garibaldi handed over the **territory to Victor Emmanuel II**, favoring national unity.

6. Unification Milestones

| Year | Event |
|------|--|
| 1859 | Sardinia-Piedmont gains Lombardy from Austria |
| 1860 | Garibaldi liberates southern Italy |
| 1861 | Kingdom of Italy proclaimed under Victor Emmanuel II |
| 1866 | Venetia added after war against Austria |
| 1870 | Rome annexed after France withdrew troops (due to Franco-Prussian War) |



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7. Final Shape of Italy

- With the capture of **Rome in 1870**, Italy's unification was complete.
- Rome became the **capital of unified Italy**.
- The Pope retained only the Vatican, and the rest of the Papal States joined the nation. **Summary Points**
- Italy united through nationalist inspiration, smart diplomacy, and military conquest.
- Despite differences in vision (Mazzini's republicanism vs. Cavour's constitutional monarchy), leaders joined forces.

Summary Points

- Italy united through **nationalist inspiration, smart diplomacy, and military conquest**.
- Despite differences in vision (Mazzini's republicanism vs. Cavour's constitutional monarchy), leaders **joined forces**.
- The movement ended centuries of division and foreign domination.

8. Unification of Germany

- Led by **Otto von Bismarck**, the Prussian Chancellor.
- Used "**Blood and Iron**" policy – wars with Denmark, Austria, and France.

Unified by 1871 under



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• Kaiser Wilhelm I.



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Unification of Germany – Detailed Explanation

Pre-unification German states



1. Germany Before Unification

- In the early 19th century, "Germany" referred to over **39 independent states** under the **German Confederation**.
- Dominant powers: **Austria** and **Prussia**.
- These states shared **language, culture, and history**, but lacked political unity.
- Austria opposed unification to maintain control; **Prussia emerged as the strongest force pushing for unity**.



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2. Role of Otto von Bismarck

- **Bismarck**, the **Prime Minister of Prussia** (appointed in 1862), was the chief architect of unification.
- Famous for his “**Blood and Iron**” policy: believed that **military power and diplomacy**, not speeches and majority votes, would unify Germany.
- He used strategic wars to achieve unification step by step.

3. Three Wars of Unification

| War | Year | Outcome |
|---------------------|---------|--|
| Danish War | 1864 | Prussia + Austria defeated Denmark, gaining Schleswig & Holstein |
| Austro-Prussian War | 1866 | Prussia defeated Austria, dissolved German Confederation, formed the North German Confederation |
| Franco-Prussian War | 1870–71 | Prussia defeated France, united German states; led to the proclamation of the German Empire |



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4. Key Events Leading to Unification

Danish War (1864)

- Denmark tried to incorporate **Schleswig and Holstein**, provoking conflict.
- Bismarck allied with Austria to defeat Denmark.
- After the war, tensions grew over the control of the annexed territories.

Austro-Prussian War (1866)

- Bismarck deliberately provoked Austria over Schleswig–Holstein.
- War lasted only 7 weeks (also called the **Seven Weeks' War**).
- Result: Austria was defeated and **excluded from German affairs**.
- Prussia formed the **North German Confederation** under its leadership.

Franco-Prussian War (1870–71)

- Bismarck manipulated tensions between **France and Prussia** to spark war.
- Southern German states, feeling threatened by France, **joined Prussia**.
- French Emperor **Napoleon III** was captured.
- Victory stirred nationalist pride and united southern states with the North German Confederation.



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5. Proclamation of the German Empire

- On **January 18, 1871**, the **German Empire** was declared in the **Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, France**.
- **King Wilhelm I of Prussia** became **Kaiser (Emperor)** of unified Germany.
- Bismarck became the **first Chancellor**.

6. Aftermath & Legacy

- Germany emerged as a **powerful and industrialized empire**, rivaling Britain and France.
- Unification shifted **power balance in Europe**, leading to new alliances and tensions.
- The new empire was **conservative**, dominated by Prussian elites and military power.
- Nationalism remained strong, but **minorities like Poles and Danes were suppressed**.



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Summary Table

| Element | Details |
|---------------|---|
| Key Leader | Otto von Bismarck |
| Strategy | Blood and Iron (warfare + diplomacy) |
| Wars Involved | Danish War, Austro-Prussian War, Franco-Prussian War |
| Final Result | German Empire formed in 1871 |
| Kaiser | Wilhelm I |



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The Strange Case of Britain – Detailed Explanation



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1. Why Is It Called 'Strange'?

- Most European countries became unified nation-states through **revolutions, armed uprisings, or diplomatic conflicts**.
- Britain, however, **gradually** transformed into a nation **without any widespread bloodshed** or civil war.
- The process was largely **internal and parliamentary**, not driven by popular movements or militant nationalism.

2. Historical Background

- The British Isles included **England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland**, each with distinct cultures, languages, and traditions.
- Political unification was achieved through **acts of union**, rather than popular revolution.

3 Steps Toward British Nation-State

| Year | Event | Result |
|------|---|---|
| 1536 | Act of Union with Wales | Wales annexed into England legally |
| 1707 | Act of Union between England and Scotland | Formed the United Kingdom of Great Britain |
| 1801 | Ireland added to form UK of Great Britain and Ireland | Ireland became part of the UK (until 1922) |



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4. Nature of British Nationalism

- The **English culture** became dominant:
 - English language was promoted in schools and administration.
 - British Parliament and law were largely controlled by English elites.
 - Symbols like the **Union Jack (flag)**, **national anthem**, and **British monarchy** reflected English traditions.
- Other cultures like Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, and Irish Catholic identity were suppressed or marginalized.

5. Resistance in Ireland

- Ireland posed the **biggest challenge** to British unification.
- Majority of Irish population was **Catholic**, while ruling British elites were **Protestant**.
- Ireland witnessed **revolts**, especially during the **Great Irish Famine (1845–1849)**.
- Irish nationalists demanded **self-rule**, leading eventually to:
 - The creation of **Irish Free State** in 1922 (today, Republic of Ireland).
 - Northern Ireland remained a part of the UK.



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6 Why Britain's Case Is 'Strange'

Typical European Pattern

Nationalism from revolutionary movements

Violent conflicts and uprisings

Cultural blending after unification

Britain's Path

Nationalism through parliamentary acts

Peaceful legal incorporation

Cultural domination and suppression

Summary

- Britain did not experience **mass revolutions or wars** for national unification.
- It used **legal acts and parliamentary decisions** to incorporate neighboring territories.
- But this process led to **cultural domination** rather than true national integration—especially visible in the Irish resistance.

9. Austro-Hungarian Empire & Ottoman Empire

- Home to diverse ethnic groups like Slavs, Czechs, Croats, Serbs.
- Nationalism led to conflicts within these multi-ethnic empires.
- People sought independence and separate nationhood.



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10. Cultural and Intellectual Contributions

- Romanticism glorified national identity through art, literature, and folklore.
- Language, songs, and traditions became symbols of unity and pride.
- German philosopher **Johann Gottfried Herder** promoted the idea of “Volk” or common people.

Summary

Key Theme

French Revolution

Napoleon's rule

1830 & 1848 Revolutions Sparked nationalistic uprisings

Italy & Germany

Impact

Spread nationalism, liberal ideas

Reforms + imperial resistance

Unified through leadership and warfare

THE END



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