

MODULE 2

HISTORY

The Rise of Nationalism in Europe

The Age of Revolutions: 1830-1848

- Revolutionaries were educated middle class elite, professors, school teachers, clerks and commercial middle classes.
- France upheaval in 1830- Bourbon kings restored to power were overthrown by liberal Louis Phillippe.
- Metternich said `When France sneezes, the rest of Europe catches cold`.
- July Revolution sparked uprising in Brussels that led to Belgium breaking away from UK of Netherlands.

Greek war of independence –

- Greece was part of Ottoman Empire since 15th century and struggle began in 1821.
- Nationalist in Greece got support from Greece living in exile.
- Lord Byron organised funds and later went to fight in the war, where he died of fever in 1824.
- Treaty of Constantinople of 1832 recognized Greece as an independent nation.

Imagination and National Feeling

- Nationalism came across by idea of culture (poetry, story and music) along with wars and territorial expansion.
- Romanticism- criticized glorification of reason and science and focused on emotions, intuition and mystical feelings.
- Idea was to share collective heritage common cultural past and basis of nation.
- French painter Delacroix- incident where 20,000 Greeks were said to have been killed by Turks on the island of Chios.
- Johann Gottfried Herder, German discover German culture among common man (das volk)- by folk songs and dances spirit of nation (volksgeist) was popularized.

- Collection of vernacular language and folklore to carry message to illiterate audience.
- Poland was partitioned by Great Powers (Russia, Britain and Austria) and feelings kept alive by music and language.
- Polish language was forced out and Russian became the common language.
- Members of the Clergy in Poland began to use language as a weapon of national resistance.
- Polish was used for Church gatherings and seen as symbol of struggle against Russian dominance.
- Karol Kurpinski celebrated the national struggle through his operas and music, turning folk dances like the polonaise and mazurka into nationalist symbols.
- Grimm's Fairy Tales by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm who published 1st tales in 1812 and later published 33 volume dictionary of German language.
- French domination was considered a threat to German culture and their folktales were useful in building nationalistic feelings.

Hunger, Hardship and Popular Revolt

1830s – years of economic hardships in Europe

1st half of 19th century- increasing in population in Europe Population migration to urban areas and increasing shows

Stiff competition from cheap machine-made imports.

Peasants struggled under burden of feudal dues and obligations where aristocracy was in power.

Rise of food prices and years of bad harvest aggravated the issue.

1848 – Widespread food shortage, unemployment in Paris and Louis Phillippe was forced to flee.

National Assembly proclaimed a republic and granted suffrage to all men above 21 yrs. and guaranteed right to work.

1845 - Weavers in Silesia led revolt against contractors who supplied them raw material and gave orders for finished product but drastically reduced payments.

1848: The Revolution of the Liberals

- Brought abdication of monarch and republic based on universal male suffrage.
- Germany, Italy, Poland, the Austro-Hungarian Empire- men and women of the liberal middle classes combined their demands for constitutionalism with national unification- constitution, freedom of press and freedom of association.
- In Germany, German National Assembly was formed on 18th May, 1848 with 831 elected representatives.
- They drafted a constitution for German nations to be headed by monarchy.
- Friedrich Wilhelm IV, king of Prussia, rejected it and joined other monarchs to oppose the elected assembly.
- Parliament was dominated by middle class who resisted workers' demands.
- Assembly was disbanded and troops were called in.
- Women formed political associations, founded newspapers and took part in political meetings but were denied suffrage rights.
- In Frankfurt parliament in the church of St. Paul, women were admitted only as observers to stand in the visitors' gallery.
- Louise Otto-Peters (1819-95) was a political activist who founded a women's journal and subsequently a feminist political association (awareness of women rights and interests)
- Monarchs realized that the cycles of revolution and repression could only be ended by granting concessions to the liberal- nationalist revolutionaries.
- After 1848, the autocratic monarchies of Central and Eastern Europe began to introduce the changes that had already taken place in Western Europe before 1815.
- Thus, serfdom and bonded labour were abolished both in Habsburg dominions and in Russia.
- Habsburg rulers granted more autonomy to the Hungarians in 1867.

Useful Links:

<http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?jess3=1-5>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TL7x15py6yg&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjVvqyyrWSc>

Self-Assessment Questions

1. "Culture played an important role in creating the idea of the nation in Europe." Support the statement with examples.
2. Why were 1830s called the years of great economic hardship in Europe?
Give any 3 reasons.
3. Name the Treaty of 1832 that recognised Greece as an independent nation.
4. When was National Assembly formed in Germany?
5. What was the main aim of revolutionaries of Europe during the years following 1815?