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① Nationalism and Liberalism were key forces in shaping 19<sup>th</sup>-century Europe. Examine how these ideologies contributed to both unity and division in European societies during this period.

Ans: Introduction:- The ideals of Nationalism and Liberalism greatly shaped the European societies which were previously divided on the basis of religious ideologies and demarcations made by powerful Empires. From the peace of Westphalia in 1648, religion and politics were dealt separately and the role of religion in the affairs of the state was curtailed. Still there remains great influence of church in the role of European societies in an empire. However, the dawn of 'Enlightenment Era' from the dusk of 'Scientific Revolution' saw a paradigm shift in the old ideals of the European societies. The 'Age of Reason' which fuelled directly by the writings

of writings of Enlightenment era philosophers like John Locke, Immanuel Kant, Montesquieu, Rousseau and Voltaire etc, saw the acknowledgement of people, their rights and the importance of 'reasoning' in aspects of life increased manifold. This led to the ideals of Nationalism and Liberalism which saw Europeans started differentiating themselves on the basis of ideas, culture and shared values rather than that of religion and demarcated boundaries of empires. One of the greatest events of the world history 'The French Revolution (1789)', has been seen as the first result of the paradigm shift of the European ideologies. Thus, Nationalism and Liberalism greatly contributed in both unity and disintegration of the European societies. Events and happenings are enumerated as follows:-

## 2. Contribution of Nationalism and Liberalism in Unity of Europe:

The contribution of Nationalism and Liberalism in the unity of Europe are evident from following events and happenings:-

a. Unity of Germany: Since the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, the central Europe was divided among various empires. One of these empires, was the 'Holy Roman Empire' which was actually a cluster of sovereign states and are divided over the distinction of their respective rulers. The era of Napoleon saw a major shift as the ideals of French Revolution reached these states as well. All these states especially Prussia, were all actually German speaking states. People of these states had shared values, culture and norms. With the rise of ~~(Russia)~~ Prussian power in the aftermath of Napoleonic rule, Prussian believed

in the need for establishment of a 'German Empire' which represents all the German people. The revolutions against settlements of Congress of Vienna (1815) and the Metternich onslaught saw a greater demand in these small German confederates for a union. Luckily for them, the brilliance of Otto von Bismarck, the Prime Minister of Prussia, played the pivotal role in uniting the Germany. War with Austria in 1866 and then with France in 1870-71 resulted in formation of a united 'German Empire' in 1871.

b. Unity of Italy:- The nineteenth century saw the exchange of ideals throughout the Europe. When the ideals of Nationalism and Liberalism reached Italy through the French annexation of Italy, a rise in nationalistic tendency was seen in the Italian peninsula. These

rising nationalistic tendencies were fuelled by many secret societies which were formed on the basis of ideas of liberty and equality. With the popular writings by Giuseppe Mazzini and eventful actions by Giuseppe Garibaldi combined with the brilliance of Count Cavour, the Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia, the Italian Unification finally achieved. Although, the unification did not come easy and the country went through serious revolts in 1818, 1830 and of course 1848 (the year of revolutions across Europe). Thus, the ideas of nationalism and liberalism played the key role in the unification of the Italian people under Piedmont-Sardinia.

c. Independence of Greece. Although greatly contributed by the weakening of the Ottoman Empire and intentional

support by Russia empire (which had other objectives), the independence of Greece from the Ottoman was in actual the result of Greece nationalism and pousseance of liberty from the harsh Ottoman rule.

d. Achievement of Civil Rights: The ideas of Liberalism are mainly based on equality of right of man and its free will. The eighteenth century European societies saw greater tendency of demanding legitimate civil rights under the ideals of nationalism and liberalism. This saw a greater shift in how the empires controlled their subjects in the past. As a result, serfdom was abolished in many societies and people achieved their legitimate political civil rights.

e. Increasing Industrialization: With the growing nationalism, the European societies saw a major tendency towards

industrialization in their societies. Their pursuance of economic greatness based on their nationalistic norms are evident from their approaches like 'Zollverein' in terms of Germany (Prussia). Further, increasing colonization for maximizing the ~~consist~~ stocks of resources in Africa and other newly discovered lands were the direct result of achieving nationalistic greatness.

### 3. Contribution of Nationalism and Liberalism in division of Europe:

The division caused in Europe due to Nationalism and Liberalism is as follows:-

#### a. Powerful Empires Disintegrated:-

The extreme rise of nationalism and liberalism saw the demise of powerful empires of the past disintegrated into small states. First of all, French Empire itself went through a period of violence and terror until 1815. Second, the serious suppression

of Austrians by Metternich especially against nationalistic and liberal ideas. Later rise in Italian peninsula against Austrian rule, Polish rebellion against Russia (although suppressed brutally) and independence movements in the Balkan region, all saw the serious concerns for powerful empires like French Empire, Austrian Empire, Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire.

b. Ultra Nationalism led to Wars and Rebellions. The greater

tendency towards nationalism and liberalism saw a number of Wars, rebellions and conflicts in the Europe. The Napoleonic Wars (1799-1815), the rebellions of 1818 and 1830, then 1848 (the year of revolution), Prussian-Austrian War (1866) and Franco-Prussian War (1870-71) were the direct result of increased nationalistic ideals.



### c. Nationalism and Liberalism Preceded Religious Tendency in European Society:

Although great role was played in the separation of religion and politics by Peace of Westphalia (1648). However, many empires and states obtained decree of church of their respective beliefs (Catholic and Protestants or Orthodox) even until nineteenth century. But with rise of liberal ideas, role of church (clergy) was seen as exploitative because clergy consumed much of the resources of my states which actually belonged to the people. The influence of clergy in French Empire because of their land owning and tax exemptions is one such example. The revolution saw confiscation of such lands by the revolutionaries. Also the liberal ideals are about giving 'choice to people' which is directly against conservative beliefs due to which it saw direct opposition

from proponents of nationalism and liberalism.

d. Formation of Alliances on the basis of similar nationalistic and liberal beliefs:

The nineteenth-century Europe saw alliances on the basis of their respective interpretation of Nationalism and Liberalism. For example, the formation of 'Triple alliance' between Germany, Italy and Austro-Hungarian empire eventually became logic as all three empires were not absolute monarchies rather also not constitutional monarchies. On the other hand, France became a republic and Britain was a constitutional monarchy which made their alliance against 'Triple alliance' natural.

All these developments were the major causes of World War I.

4. Conclusion:- Although the basic ideals of nationalism and liberalism remain to be civil rights and liberty but

the radical changes in Europe during the nineteenth century saw great human and material losses.

No doubt, that ideas of nationalism and liberalism shaped the unity of Europe in the nineteenth century but the cost of this unity remains to be very high and could have been avoided if the power politics element taken aback the will of the Europeans.

Was there any resistance to liberalism and nationalism? Write a paragraph on it.