Chap 1. The Rise of Nationalism in Europe

1. Write notes on the measures introduced by the French revolutionaries to create a sense of collective identity among the French people.

The French revolutionaries took the following steps:

• Ideas of la patrie (the fatherland) and le citoyen (the citizen) were popularised, conveying the idea of a united community enjoying equal rights under a constitution.

• A new tricolour French flag replaced the former royal standard.

• The 'Estates General' was renamed the 'National Assembly' and was elected by a body of active citizens.

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

• Uniform weights and measures were adopted. Customs duties were abolished.

• French, as spoken in Paris, became the common national language.

2. Highlight the role of Otto von Bismarck in the making of Germany.

• After the failure of the liberal Frankfurt Parliament in 1848, the leadership of German unification passed to Prussia, whose Chief Minister was Otto von Bismarck.

• He followed a policy of realpolitik — practical politics rather than idealism — declaring that unification would come not through speeches and majority resolutions but through 'blood and iron'.

• He used the Prussian army and bureaucracy as his chief instruments.

• He fought three wars in seven years — with Denmark, Austria (1866) and France (1870–71) — ending in Prussian victory.
• The process was completed when the Prussian king William I was proclaimed German Emperor in 1871.

3. What were the achievements of Napoleon as an administrator?
• Napoleon destroyed democracy in France, but in the administrative field he incorporated revolutionary principles to make the system more rational and efficient.
• The Civil Code of 1804, known as the 'Napoleonic Code', abolished all privileges based on birth and established equality before the law and the right to property.
• In the territories he controlled, he abolished the feudal system and freed peasants from serfdom and manorial dues.
• In the towns, guild restrictions were removed.
• Transport and communication systems were improved.
• Peasants, artisans, workers and businessmen enjoyed a new-found freedom, and uniform laws, standardised weights and measures and a common national currency facilitated the movement of goods.

4. Write notes on the Treaty of Vienna of 1815.
• After defeating Napoleon, representatives of Britain, Russia, Prussia and Austria drew up the Treaty of Vienna in 1815.
• The main objective was to restore the monarchies overthrown by Napoleon and create a new conservative order in Europe.
• The Bourbon dynasty was restored to power in France.
• France lost the territories it had annexed under Napoleon.

• A series of nation states were set up on the boundaries of France to prevent French expansion in future.
• The German Confederation of 39 states created by Napoleon was retained, keeping Germany divided.

5. Write a short note: The Treaty of Vienna depicted the spirit of conservatism.
• Conservatives believed that established traditional institutions — monarchy, the Church, social hierarchies, property and the family — should be preserved. The Treaty of Vienna reflected this.
• Monarchies overthrown by Napoleon were restored, most notably the Bourbon dynasty in France.
• The powers agreed to preserve the old social order and resist any attempt to revive the revolution.
• Autocratic regimes set up across Europe did not tolerate criticism or dissent, and imposed censorship laws to control what was said in newspapers, books, plays and songs.
• The German Confederation of 39 states created by Napoleon was retained, keeping Germany divided.
• However, the conservatives did not return to a pre-revolutionary society — they retained the useful changes Napoleon had introduced, such as efficient bureaucracy and a modern legal system.

6. Romanticism, a cultural movement, developed a particular form of nationalist sentiment. Explain.
• Romantic artists and poets generally criticised the glorification of reason and science and focused instead on emotions, intuition and mystical feelings.

• They tried to create a sense of a shared collective heritage and a common cultural past.
• Gottfried claimed that true German culture was to be discovered among the common people (das Volk) and that the national spirit was popularised through folk songs, folk poetry and folk dances.
• Collecting and recording the folk culture was essential to the project of nation-building.
• Language too played an important role. In Poland, after Russian occupation, the Polish language was used for Church gatherings and religious instruction as a weapon of national resistance.
• Karol Kurpinski celebrated the national struggle through his operas and music, turning folk dances into nationalist symbols.

7. Write notes on the formation of nation-state in Britain.
• Before the eighteenth century there was no British nation.
• English, Welsh, Scot and Irish — each with its own cultural and political tradition formed the British Isles.
• As the English nation steadily grew in wealth and power, it extended its influence over the other nations of the islands.
• The English Parliament, which seized power from the monarchy in 1688, was instrumental in forming the nation-state.
• The Act of Union (1707) between England and Scotland resulted in the formation of the 'United Kingdom of Great Britain', meaning that England could impose its influence on Scotland.
• Scotland's distinctive culture and political institutions were systematically suppressed. The Catholic clans were forbidden to speak their language and wear their traditional dress.
• Ireland was forcibly incorporated in 1801 after a failed revolt.

• The symbols of the new Britain — the British flag, the national anthem and the language — were all English in origin.

8. Write notes on the political fragmentation of Italy.

• During the middle of the nineteenth century, Italy was divided into seven states.
• The north was under Austrian Habsburg rule, the centre was ruled by the Pope, and the south was under the Bourbon kings of Spain.
• Even the Italian language had many regional variations.
• Giuseppe Mazzini tried to unite Italy through his secret society 'Young Italy', but his revolutionary uprisings of 1831 and 1848 failed.
• Cavour used diplomacy and a French alliance to defeat Austria in 1859.
• Garibaldi's Red Shirts conquered the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in 1860.
• In 1861, Victor Emmanuel II was proclaimed King of united Italy.