

## **Polish Nationalism**

Nationalism in Poland started from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century and some scholars reference nationalism back to 13<sup>th</sup> century and others to 16<sup>th</sup> century in this country. Early polish nationalism that was also called protonationalism was related to the polish-Lithuanian identity and was presented by polish nobility Szlachta. Modern polish nationalism arose as a movement in the 18<sup>th</sup> and the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Polish nationalism is a form of nationalism which assert that poles are a nation and promotes the cultural unity of the Poland. The post-World War 2 human migration from 1945, with the resultant demographic and territorial changes of Poland that drastically reduced the number of ethnic minorities in Poland, played a major role in the creation of the modern Polish state and nationality. The old polish proto-nationalism was based on its population and was multi ethnic and multi religious with the majority of Roman Catholic religion. The nationalist ideology which developed right after the partitions was free of any kind of ethnic nationalism. It was a romantic movement which sought the restoration of the polish sovereign state. Polish romantic nationalism was described by Maurycy Mochnacki as “the essence of the nation” no longer defined by borders but by ideas, feelings, and thoughts resulting from the past. The birth of modern nationalism under foreign rule was coincided with the November Uprising of 1830 and the subsequent Spring of Nations. However, the defeat suffered by the Poles also broke the Polish revolutionary spirit. Many intellectual turned to social Darwinism of Herbert Spencer blaming the Romantic philosophy for the loss of their property, mass destruction, and ultimately the lose of the nation. With the advent of positivism between 1860 and 1890 Polish nationalism

became an elitist cause. Because the partitioning powers could not have identified themselves with the Polish nation, the ideology became more restrictive in terms of ethnicity and religion. <sup>1</sup>

At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Poland was invaded by great powers such as Russia, Prussia, and Austria and Poland didn't exist as an independent territory. By this time national feelings were kept alive through music and language. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish\\_nationalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_nationalism)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.toppr.com/ask/question/in-Poland-national-feelings>