

Abigail Cesar

Prof. O'Hara

HIS114

2 Mar 2023

### German Nationalism in the 19th Century

As a relatively young college student with minute ancestral ties to Germany, researching their 19th-century nationalist movement was an interesting experience. I've never thought to research Germany outside of Adolf Hitler; people tend to only remember Germans as Nazis who were inhumane brutes - not saying they weren't -, however, at this time, there was more to being German than meets the eye.

According to the German Historical Institute, the 19th century saw the emergence of a strong nationalist movement in Germany. This emergence was aimed to join the various German-speaking states under one government or power. This movement was fueled by a deep sense of pride in German culture, language, and history and sought to create a nation that was based on these ideals.

One of the key influences in the German nationalist movement was Johann Gottfried Herder. He believed that every nation had a unique cultural identity that should be celebrated and preserved. Herder's ideas about the importance of culture and language influenced many German

nationalists, who sought to promote the use of the German language and the study of German history.

Another important aspect of the German nationalist movement was the idea of a shared national identity that transcended regional differences. This was reflected in the creation of national symbols such as the black, red, and gold flag, which represented the unity of the German-speaking states.

Overall, the ideals of the 19th-century German nationalist movement centered around the celebration of German culture, language, and history, and the creation of a united German nation that was based on these shared ideals.

Sources:

- "German Nationalism and the Rise of Nazism" by German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.
- "Johann Gottfried Herder" by Encyclopedia Britannica.