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Nationalism is a want of a people to live independently from the rule or influence of other nations. Nationalism reached a high of popularity in the 19th century, especially in countries like Germany. The growth of nationalism can come from economic and cultural factors, which are some of the most important ones. Two other factors that specifically grew nationalism in Germany were the role of liberals and the 1848 revolutions and the military weaknesses and effects of the French revolution.

Before the Napoleon Campaigns, Germany comprised hundreds of independent states and cities. By technicality, all of them were Germanic. However, there was little to no sense of national identity. With Emperor Napoleon of France and his strong military, He participated in an outbreak of war near the end of the 18th century. Napoleon, through his strong forces, took control of many parts of mainland Europe, including many different German states. Napoleon reorganized Germany into 39 states, which were much larger in size than before the new control. Napoleon was also responsible for the Confederation of the Rhine, a league comprised of 16 German states. This decision allowed for more unification of Germany. Nevertheless, Napoleon would be defeated in two battles, leading to the downfall of the Confederation of Rhine.

After Napoleon took control of Germany, German states realized that being small and divided by political views was a point of vulnerability to neighboring countries with bad intentions. Upon realizing this, the states felt they needed each other to sustain a common defense. The German princes tried to encourage nationalism in Germany so that there would be

people willing to join a German army against Napoleon's forces which remained in Germany still. Nationalist societies were also formed in German universities to help further. The battle of Leipzig in 1813 was one of the victories that were made possible through the German army coming together within the states. The victory created a sense of national identity in Germany.

After dissolving the Confederation of the Rhine to erase the memory of the prior French control, the German states formed the German Confederation, otherwise known as the Bund. The intention of the German Confederation was to protect its members and to allow for said members to have a heard voice in Europe. The German Confederation also had a Parliament; despite that, decisions had to be unanimous to be implemented. Under the German Confederation, the country had massive industrialization and demographic changes. Such things were brought about mostly from the wealth formed from raw materials in Germany. Something else that helped was the development of railways, which aided in interstate trade and communication. Tariffs, however, were a significant blockade that stood in the German state's way. Prussia pushed for a lack of tariffs within its own territory and also lowered import rates, which would lead other German states to join in. This was called the Zollverein. This economic alliance was a big success that further led to German unification and the German sense of nationalism.

In terms of German culture, the German states began to see their similarities during the 19th century. This concept of similarity made many Germans begin to think about political unity. The French occupation of Germany before 1815 resulted in immense resentment towards outside forces. Such feelings served as a reason for many Germans to go against both French ideas and culture. German romanticism flourished rather than French Rationalism. This drove smaller parts of German culture to revolve around ideas of togetherness and a national spirit that was inhibited by the control of Napoleon. Many Germans still encouraged others to reconsider their

identity and roots. The German states had a common language, a common culture full of similar tastes in both literature and music, and even a common interest in folklore. Such commonalities served to present the idea of unification in Germany.

Under Napoleon's rule, Germans were introduced to liberalization and political change brought about by the French Revolution. Many of the German States wanted such a process to continue. The decline of Austrian influence and events occurring in Prussia led to increased liberalism and nationalism. Liberalism promoted ideas of an elected parliament that could pass laws and run the country. This was something that opposed absolute monarchs. Some of the German states wanted to introduce freedom of speech and an end to the prior censorship. The Austrians opposed liberalism and suppressed it while liberalism was flourishing in Prussia. After the 1848 revolution, Germany would eventually be pushed by liberals and nationalists for political change. There was an especially wanted change in the amount of censorship.

"The Role of the Liberals - Growth of Nationalism in Germany, 1815-1850 - Higher History Revision - BBC Bitesize." *BBC Bitesize*, bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zqyrcdm/revision/6.