

DBQ 6: European Nationalism in the Nineteenth Century

(Adapted from *Document-Based Assessment for Global History*, Walch Education)

Historical Context: Nationalism was the most powerful force in the 1800's. Beginning with the French Revolution of 1789, nationalism contributed to the unification of Italy and Germany in the nineteenth century. At the same time, ethnic unrest threatened to topple the Ottoman and the Austro-Hungarian empires. Nationalism also contributed to the outbreak of wars such as the Franco-Prussian War and World War I.

Part A: Analyze the following documents that provide information about nationalism as a force in nineteenth-century Europe and answer the questions that follow.

Document 1: This excerpt is from the Levee en Masse, French Revolution August 23, 1793. The young men shall go forth to battle; the married men will make arms and transport food; the women will make tents, uniforms, and will serve in the hospitals; the children will prepare lint from old linens; the old men will gather in public places to raise the courage of the warriors, to excite hatred of kings and to preach the unity of the Republic.

Question: What was the impact on the French of the Levee en Masse?

Document 2: The "Marseillaise," the French national anthem, arouses the emotions of the French during the revolution. They must fight for their country.

Arise, children of the fatherland,
Our day of glory has arrived.
Against us cruel tyrants
Have raised their bloody flag.
Do you hear in the countryside
Their fierce hired soldiers?
They come almost into your arms
To attack your children and your fields.
Chorus: To arms, citizens!
Form your battalions!
March on, march on,
To liberty or death!

Question: What did the national anthem urge the French to do?

Document 3: This excerpt is from Count Cavour who was named prime minister of Piedmont-Sardinia in 1852. As a diplomat, he provided the "brains" of Italian unification. We ardently wish to free Italy from foreign rule. . . . We want to drive out the foreigners not only because we want to see our country powerful and glorious, but because we want to elevate the Italian people in intelligence and moral development.

Question: What action did Cavour recommend in this excerpt?

Document 4: Giuseppe Garibaldi, the "sword" of Italian unification, added the southern Kingdom of the Two Sicilies to Italy in 1861. He describes his "Red Shirts" with these words.

Where any of our brothers are fighting for liberty, there all Italians must hasten! — such was your motto. Let him who loves his country in his heart, and not with his lips only, follow me.

Question: What is Garibaldi trying to accomplish in this speech?

Document 5: These words were spoken by Otto von Bismarck, who some people feel single-handedly unified Germany and started it on its road to greatness. He explains the process for unification of Germany.

I had shown plainly the direction in which I was going. Prussia . . . could no longer carry alone the power that Germany required for its security. That must be equally distributed over all German peoples. We would get not nearer our goal by speeches, associations, or decisions by the majority. We would not be able to avoid serious contest with Austria. This contest could only be settled by blood and iron. There is one way to guarantee our success. The deputies must place the greatest possible weight of blood and iron in the hands of the King of Prussia.

Question: Describe Bismarck's method for uniting Germany.

Document 6: The assassin of Archduke Franz Ferdinand explains his motives.

I am a nationalist. I aimed to free the Yugoslavs. For I am a Yugoslav. . . . As far as Serbia is concerned, it is her duty to free us.

Question: Why did he assassinate Archduke Franz Ferdinand?

Part B—Essay

Nationalism united people into nation-states, toppled empires composed of many ethnic minorities, and contributed to the outbreak of wars in the nineteenth century. How would you evaluate this statement?